

# TEHRAN TIMES



Jaber Ansari meets Hezbollah chief in Beirut

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## New Cold War would not be productive for anyone: Robert Hunter

**EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW**  
By Javad Heirani

**TEHRAN** — Robert E. Hunter, the former U.S. ambassador to NATO, says a new Cold War between the West and Russia would not benefit any side.

"A new Cold War would not be productive for anyone," Hunter tells the Tehran Times as NATO staged its largest war game in Eastern Europe since the end of the Cold War earlier this month.

The 10-day military exercise involved 31,000 troops and thousands of vehicles from 24 countries including Germany.

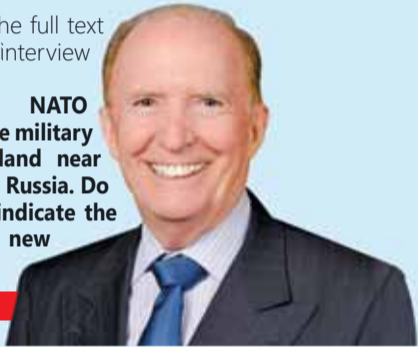
German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier has broken ranks with NATO allies, accusing the alliance of "warmongering" against Russia. In his interview with Bild am Sonntag newspaper, Steinmeier said, "The one thing we shouldn't do now is inflame the situation with loud sabre-rattling and warmongering."

The statement by the chief German diplomat shows serious differences with the alliance.

Hunter says, "Given that there are some differences of view within the Alliance underscores the importance of NATO's striking a balance in regard to policies toward Russia and also seeing if a revival of diplomacy is possible anytime soon."

Following is the full text of the exclusive interview with Hunter:

Recently NATO staged large scale military exercises in Poland near the borders with Russia. Do the war games indicate the emergence of a new Cold War?



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## Academic lauds Imam Khomeini's Quds Day initiative

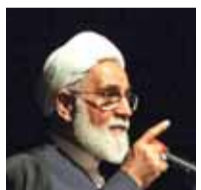
**TEHRAN** — A Lebanese academic has hailed the late founder of the Islamic Republic Imam Khomeini for declaring the last Friday of the holy month of Ramadan as International Quds Day, saying the initiative stymied plans by some countries for normalization of relations with Israel.

In an interview with the Tasnim published on Tuesday, Mohammad Tai, a professor at the University of Beirut, said Imam Khomeini's historical move made it difficult for certain parties that sought to establish normal ties with the Zionist regime of Israel.



## Natiq Nouri asks Rouhani to appear tough on inflated salaries

**TEHRAN** — Head of the Supreme Leader's Special Inspection Office has asked President Hassan Rouhani to appear tough on the case of inflated salaries.



Speaking on Sunday evening, Ali Akbar Natiq Nouri said however that such cases of corruption are not something new, citing examples in previous governments too, the Javan daily newspaper reported.

On another front, some decisive action is being taken to tackle the corruption.

The Majlis Research Center, General Inspection Organization, Supreme Audit Court, and Majlis Article 90 Committee held a meeting on Monday to address the case. First Vice President Es'haq Jahangiri the same day said salaries should be first confirmed by the Council on Wages and Salaries.

## Tycoon's death would mean loss of black box: oil minister

**TEHRAN** — The Iranian oil minister has made an analogy between death of oil tycoon Babak Zanjani and a missing airplane black box.

"He is like a black box. We are not looking for him to be put to death because that would mean the black box will be lost," Bijan Zanganeh said on Monday, the Etemad daily newspaper reported.

## Rouhani praises Judiciary for maintaining security

**TEHRAN** — President Hassan Rouhani said on Tuesday that the efforts being made by the Judiciary to maintain security in the country is praiseworthy.

"Security will not be maintained in any country unless the people are under the shelter of an impartial and efficient judiciary," Rouhani told a gathering held to commemorate the Judiciary

week. He also called on the judicial and executive bodies to expand cooperation in line with boosting the economy.

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## Leader names new chief of staff



Leader.ir

**TEHRAN** — Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei on Tuesday officially named Major General Mohammad Hossein Baqeri as the new Armed Forces chief of staff.

Baqeri replaced Major General Hassan Firouzabadi who had held the position since 1989. Hereafter Firouzabadi

will be serving as advisor to the Leader.

According to the Iranian constitution, the post is deiced upon by the Leader, commander-in-chief of the Iranian Armed Forces.

The younger brother of Martyr Hassan Baqeri, Hossein Baqeri joined the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) in 1981, when riots in Kurdistan, western Iran, broke out, posing a major threat

to the fledging 1979 Islamic Revolution.

Initially accepted into an engineering program at the University of Tehran, soon Baqeri joined Iranian armed forces resisting the invading Saddam Army. His brother had already formed the first ever operation intelligence unit in the battleground.

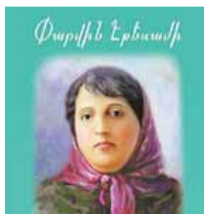
Previously, Baqeri served as deputy chief of staff.

## Audio version of Parvin Etesami's divan released in Armenia

**TEHRAN** — An audio version of the divan of Iranian poet Parvin Etesami (1907-1940) has recently been released in Armenia.

Recited in the Armenian language by famous reciter Aida Asaturian, the audiobook contains a selection of Etesami's poetry published by Iran's Cultural Office in Armenia in collaboration with the Mehr, an Iranian-Armenian Cultural Club.

The producers believe that the audiobook helps Armenian scholars to become more familiar with Persian culture and civilization and get to know the deep culture of Iran. Parvin Etesami was one of the most prominent Persian poets of the 20th century. Her first anthology of poems was published in 1935. Her poetry is themed upon social, humanitarian and mystical concepts, and contains no allusions to romantic love or feminine sentiments. She died from Typhoid fever in 1940 in Tehran and was buried near her father in Qom.



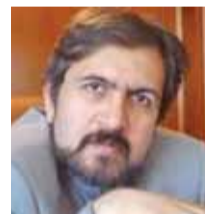
## Iran condemns suicide attacks in Lebanon

**TEHRAN** — Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Qasemi on Tuesday strongly condemned suicide attacks by the Takfiri terrorist groups in Lebanon.

"Once again, the Islamic Republic of Iran highlights the necessity of awareness and unity by the regional governments and people to fight terrorism," Qasemi said in the statement.

He added, "Iran is on the belief that the international community must be more serious in fighting terrorism and its supporters."

The official also said Iran supports the Lebanese government and people in fighting terrorism. According to the Guardian, eight suicide bombers attacked a Christian village in Lebanon on the border with Syria on Monday which left five people killed and almost 30 people injured. There has been no claim of responsibility, but suspicion has fallen on the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant.



## India's Essar May oil imports from Iran jump 50% y/y

India's Essar Oil, the top Indian buyer of Iranian crude, imported 49.7 percent more Iranian oil in May compared with a year ago, according to tanker arrival data obtained from trade sources and ship-tracking services on the Thomson Reuters terminal.

Essar shipped in about 187,300 barrels

per day (bpd) of oil from Iran last month, an increase of about 4.6 percent from April, the data showed.

Essar's oil imports from Iran averaged at about 149,500 bpd in the first five months of 2016 compared with 76,000 bpd of a year ago, when the private refiner had to cut imports un-

der pressure from western sanctions against Iran's nuclear program, the data showed.

Iran's share in overall imports by Essar Oil in the January-May period rose to 41 percent from about 23 percent in the year-ago period.

(Source: Reuters)

## Iran, Russia security officials discuss Syria, bilateral ties

A senior Iranian security official has met with high-ranking Russian authorities in Moscow, discussing developments in Syria and the Middle East as well as bilateral cooperation.

Ali Shamkhani, the secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC), met with Russia's Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu in Moscow late on Monday, when the two officials

exchanged viewpoints about developments in Syria and bilateral cooperation for a political solution to the foreign-sponsored crisis in the Arab country.

Shamkhani also held a separate meeting with Nikolai Patrushev, the secretary of the Security Council of the Russian Federation (SCRF), discussing with him regional devel-

opments and cooperation and the exchange of information between SNSC and SCRF.

Additionally, the top Iranian official met with Russia's special envoy on Syria, Alexander Lavrentiev. The two discussed the status quo in Syria, potential future developments there and strategies to resolve the Syrian crisis.

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## Iran's quarterly exports of gas condensate up 57% yr/yr

**TEHRAN** — Iran's Pars Especial Economic Energy Zone (PSEEZ) exported \$1.687 billion of gas condensate in the first quarter of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-June 20, 2016), showing a 57 percent growth compared to the same time last year, the CEO of the PSEEZ organization Mehdi Yousefi told Shana news agency on Tuesday.

According to him, PSEEZ exported 4.178 million tons of gas condensate in the said time, which registers 107 percent rise, compared to the same period in the previous year.

The official expressed hope that the country will witness a hike in its exports of gas condensate after getting new development phases of South Pars gas field as well as those of different petrochemical complexes operational.

PSEEZ is located in the port city of Assaluyeh, southwestern Bushehr Province. The petrochemical complexes in the zone receive gas and gas condensate feedstock from South Pars gas field, which Iran shares with Qatar in the Persian Gulf.

The giant gas field is estimated to contain a significant amount of natural gas, accounting for about eight percent of the world's reserves, and approximately 18 billion barrels of condensate.



**PERSPECTIVE**  
By Heydar Soheylif Eshahani  
political analyst

## The one who always said 'No'... is gone!

Last week, one of British networks had a discussion with three Britons regarding 'Yes' or 'No' vote to stay in the European Union, better known as Brexit.

The comments of one of the participants revolved on the outcomes that the EU had for Britain as an EU member state and not the quality of the membership. But the other two mainly focused on the quality and the advantages of EU membership for London and were keen to stay in the European Union.

Subconsciously, I realized that the emotional aspect of the pro-EU membership discussion was forced on the logic of it.

However, now that 52 percent of Britons voted to leave the EU, Europe is shocked that suddenly the balance went in favor of the emotional aspect versus logic.

The opposition insists that in the new situation, new opportunities will arise for Britain and the way will be paved for its development. They believe that the freedom of British people to vote and decide for more effective policies as well as a decrease of Britain's commitments and responsibilities regarding the crises plaguing countries in Europe will bring them back the EU membership fee.

Despite the right or wrong side of the decision to leave the EU, it seems that the early economic signals has made economic analysts to think the majority vote to leave the EU was a catastrophe, at least for the British economy.

Therefore one should be hopeful that the decision will be fruitful in political domain and worth the scratch.

One of the first outcomes was the reaction of the Scots. The little majority of keeping Britain and Scotland integrated had proven that the logic behind the vote won over the emotional aspect and the negative consequences were avoided even amid the ethnic tendencies.

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**MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS**



**Larjani pays tribute to Sardasht chemical attack victims**

**TEHRAN** — The Majlis speaker has paid homage to the victims of a 1987 chemical bombing on the northwestern city of Sardasht by the Iraqi army under former dictator Saddam Hussein, saying it marked one of the most catastrophic chemical attacks in history.

In a message on Monday, Ali Larjani said the "inhumane offensive" against the defenseless people of Sardasht was one of the most catastrophic and tragic chemical attacks that left a permanent scar on the city's psyche, Nasim reported.



**Iran's armed forces reaffirm support for Palestine**

**TEHRAN** — On Tuesday, the Iranian Armed Forces released a statement on the occasion of International Quds Day, emphasizing that support for Palestine and the Palestinian Intifada will remain on Iran's agenda.

"The Islamic Republic's support for Palestine, the Intifada discourse and the Islamic resistance is based upon the values and beliefs... and is in line with rationality and the Islamic world's national interests," the statement said.



**Iran chair NAM monthly meeting in New York**

**TEHRAN** — Iran's Ambassador to the United Nations Gholamali Khoshroo on Monday chaired a monthly meeting of the Coordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Movement (CoB-NAM) in New York, which focused on the past and future activities of the movement.

During the meeting held at the UN headquarters in New York, Khoshroo briefed the participants on his activities over the past month, including his efforts to reflect NAM's positions in various international meetings, IRNA reported.

# Jaberi Ansari meets Hezbollah chief in Beirut

**POLITICAL TEHRAN** — Hossein Jaber Ansari met on Tuesday in Beirut with Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, the first by the Iranian official in his capacity as deputy foreign minister for Arab and African affairs.

The two sides discussed the latest regional developments with a focus on the Syrian crisis, according to Al-Manar.

Hezbollah has been backing President Bashar al-Assad ever since the Syrian crisis broke out in 2011, losing forces in the Syrian battleground.

Only in June, 26 Hezbollah resistance fighters were martyred as well as one missing and one taken captive, Nasrallah said in an address on Monday.

Nasrallah called it a psycho war that his forces have suffered heavy losses fighting alongside Syrian government forces against insurgent groups.

"The defense of Aleppo is the defense of the rest of Syria, it is the defense of Damascus, it is also the defense of Lebanon, and of Iraq," he was quoted as saying.

The meeting came two weeks after the

blocking of one hundred bank accounts linked to Hezbollah members and legislators influenced by the U.S. threats that it would impose sanctions on banks or financial institutions that do business with Hezbollah.

In December, the U.S. Congress voted to impose sanctions on banks that deal with Hezbollah.

Dismissing the financial restrictions as unimportant, Hezbollah said it won't be hurt by the financial restrictions, citing financial backing by Tehran.

"We are open about the fact that Hezbollah's budget, its income, its expenses, everything it eats and drinks, its weapons and rockets, are from the Islamic Republic of Iran," Nasrallah said on Monday.

"As long as Iran has money, we have money... Just as we receive the rockets that we use to threaten Israel, we are receiving our money. No law will prevent us from receiving it," Nasrallah added.

Also on Monday, Jaber Ansari met Lebanese Foreign Minister Gebran Bassil in Beirut, exchanging views on developments in Syria and Lebanon.



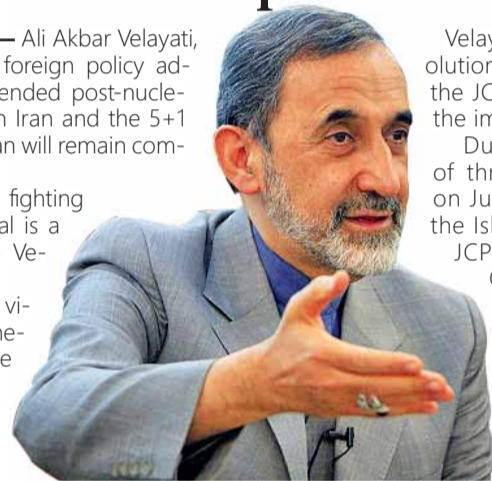
The meeting took place as a group of suicide bombers detonated their explosives' vests in a northeastern Lebanese village near the border with Syria on Monday, killing five people and wounding at least 15. Jaber Ansari also held separate meetings on Monday with Lebanese Prime Minister Tammam Salam and Nabih Berri, the Lebanese parliament speaker. Coupled with the recent visit to Moscow by ranking Ali Shamkhani, the meetings in Lebanon seem to be an attempt by Tehran to adopt a more harmonious policy toward the Syrian crisis.

## Velayati defends post-deal negotiations between Iran and 5+1

**POLITICAL TEHRAN** — Ali Akbar Velayati, the senior foreign policy advisor to the Leader, has defended post-nuclear deal negotiations between Iran and the 5+1 group, highlighting that Tehran will remain committed to the pact.

That the other side starts fighting shy of implementing the deal is a different story, according to Velayati.

"For our part, we won't violate the agreement, and negotiations to implement the JCPOA should continue," said Velayati in an interview with the Iran newspaper published on Tuesday.



Velayati said Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has asked the JCPOA monitoring committee police the implementation of the deal.

During a meeting with the heads of three branches of the government on June 14, the Leader said, "Primarily, the Islamic Republic will not violate the JCPOA because keeping pledges is a Quranic instruction, but if the U.S. presidential candidates' threat to tear up the JCPOA materializes, the Islamic Republic will torch the JCPOA. It is again a Quranic instruction about mutual disloyalty."

Ayatollah Khamenei went on

to cite instances of the U.S. refusal to fulfill its obligations, saying, "The opposite side's task was to lift the sanctions, but it has not fulfilled this duty. Some sanctions have been lifted in some way, but in practice the sanctions have not been [generally] lifted."

While expecting to gain benefits from the deal, Tehran seems to have grown more unsatisfied, citing that removal of sanctions has been more of "word on paper".

Particularly, Tehran has complained that international banks are reluctant to resume or establish correspondent banking relationships with it, linking the hesitance to fearing foul of fines by the U.S. over deals with Iranian partners.

The banking issue appears as a major blow to Iran's post-deal expectations, a possible source of future grievances if the two sides fail to fix it.



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Maximum until dated 13.August.2016 (95/5/23)
- **Time of opening of technical offers:**  
Maximum Three week after deadline submitting offer
- **Validity period of financial offers:**  
The offers must be valid for ninety days after 13.August.2016 (95/5/23)
- The offers no sign, conditional, altered and the offers that submit after the expiration of the period of bid submission will be considered as null and void.
- Tender Holder reserves the rights to reject some or all of the offers.
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## IRGC smashes terrorist group in western Iran

**POLITICAL TEHRAN** — A top IRGC commander said on Tuesday that an anti-revolutionary group has been smashed in Sarvabad County in the Western province of Kurdistan.

The IRGC identified and killed 11 members of the anti-revolutionary group, Mohammad Hossein Rajabi, commander of the IRGC in Kurdistan province, told Tasnim news agency on Tuesday.

The members of the terrorist group were killed in an operation after 10 days of manhunt, he said.

He also said that three local members of the IRGC in Kurdistan were martyred in the operation.

Western and eastern borders of Iran have been a hotbed for terrorist

activities, mainly influenced by weak border monitoring of neighboring countries, including Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Iraq.

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

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

Intelligence Ministry issued a statement on June 20 announcing it has foiled one of the "biggest terrorist plots of Takfiri-Wahhabi groups" in Tehran and some other cities.

Supreme National Security Council Secretary Ali Shamkhani said on June

19 that some suicide attacks had been foiled in Tehran during the holy month of Ramadan.



## Rouhani praises Judiciary for maintaining security

The president said the Iranian and foreign investors do economic activities in the country by trusting the Judiciary, he said.

The more the people trust in the judicial system, the more security will be established in the society, he stated.

The president also said the people are waiting to see how the judiciary will deal with those who illegally "ordered" and "carried out" attacks on the Saudi embassy in Tehran.

Elsewhere, he said that the government has sought to improve the economic situation by holding nuclear negotiations which its result was the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, adding that support of the judicial and the executive bodies are required to help his administration to flourish the economy.

Iran and the 5+1 group - the United States, Britain, France, China and Russia plus Germany - finalized the text of the JCPOA in Vienna in July 2015. The nuclear agreement went into effect in January 2016.

**Crises in Middle East will not be settled in short time: Larjani**

Speaking at the same ceremony, Ali Larjani, the head of the legislature, said crises in the Middle East region will not be settled in a short time.

Larjani also said the terrorist movements cannot be defeated through the "current mechanisms".

He also said that the Judicial and the security bodies should pay attention to the fact that the terrorist groups are seeking to undermine Iran's security.

Larjani also said that the Judiciary is following a "positive" path and is resisting against the pressures. Such an approach will lead to a strengthening of nation-



al power, the scholar-turned politician pointed out.

Elsewhere, he said that the U.S. has been seeks to prevent the rise of Iran as a powerful nation while it has been supporting the Saudis.

The parliament speaker also said the U.S. is not taking any action to alleviate the tension between Iran and Saudi Arabia.

**Judiciary chief says Iran and the West have different views on human rights**

Judiciary Chief Ayatollah Sadeq Amoli Larjani also told the forum that Iran and the Western countries have different standards in regard to human rights, saying Iran's basis for upholding human rights is Islam.

Elsewhere, he said that some have turned into "opposition" groups and "disappoint" the people.

"There are some shortcomings, but some make the people disappointed," the top judge remarked.



# Lebanon cabinet declares state of alert after Al-Qaa attacks

The Cabinet Tuesday said it will remain in a heightened state of vigilance; one day after multiple suicide attacks hit the northeastern border village of Al-Qaa.

"The Cabinet considers itself in a constant state of alert to deal with any security situation and announces that all state agencies will remain on full alert," Information Minister Ramzi Joreige said as he briefed reporters after a special session held at the Grand Serail.

Ministers renewed their support to the Lebanese Army and security forces "that are carrying out their national duty by protecting its security and preserving stability."

"The attack on the national security and the unprecedented way announce the beginning of a new stage of confrontation between the state and terrorism," Joreige read.

The multiple attacks on the village of Al-Qaa, involving eight suicide bombers, were the latest in the bloody spillover of the 5-year war in Syria into Lebanon, and revived fears of a return to suicide blasts that had targeted the Lebanese Army and Hezbollah areas in the past.

Four suicide bombers struck Al-Qaa Monday night, wounding 13 people, 18 hours after four suicide bombings killed five people and wounded 19 others in the same village, security and military sources said.

Ministers stood for a moment of silence for the victims of the attacks at the beginning of the session.

The Cabinet was set to discuss Lebanon's finances during Tuesday's special session, but security concerns following multiple suicide attacks the day before topped the agenda.

Discussions on the financial situation and state budget were later announced postponed.

Prime Minister Tammam Salam said at the session that the attacks in Al-Qaa

"came as no surprise as security forces were anticipating a new terror attack, but the surprise was the " calling for a general mobilization that isn't sectarian.

"Terrorism doesn't differentiate between a sect and another or an area and another," the PM said at the beginning of the session.

Soon after the second wave of bombing in Al-Qaa Monday night, mayor Bashir Mattar called on residents to take up arms and defend their village.

Al-Qaa residents were seen Tuesday morning holding rifles, calling on the government to help defend the Christian village.

"Al-Qaa is a Christian area and was targeted today, but we have seen other Muslim areas under attack," Salam said, adding that people should deal with the suicide attacks in a unified national manner rather than sectarian.

The PM said that the series of attacks on the village were unprecedented, and could be indicative of a change of tactics by extremists.

"What is new about the bombings is the way the criminal act was carried out and the number of the terrorists (involved)," he said. "Maybe this is an indicator of a new and different wave of terror attacks."

Salam stressed that investigations are ongoing, revealing that initial information has been obtained on the identity of the terrorists.

Interior Minister Nouhad Machnouk and Defense Minister Samir Moqbel didn't attend the meeting as they were in Yarze for a security meeting with Army Commander Gen. Jean Kahwagi, General Security chief Maj. Gen. Abbas Ibrahim, Internal Security Forces chief Maj. Gen. Ibrahim Basbous and head of the Central Security Council Brig. Gen. Elias Khoury.

The Interior Ministry is beefing up security with additional concrete blocks on



side streets facing its entrances.

Several ministers told reporters as they arrived at the Grand Serail that the Cabinet is compelled to discuss Monday's suicide attacks.

"The government cannot meet without tackling the security situation," Telecommunications Minister Boutros Harb said earlier as he entered the meeting chaired by Salam.

The minister's remarks were echoed by State Minister Nabil de Freij, who said state security is a "priority."

"We are required to increase our security measures, unity and conviction such that we are in a state of war with terrorism," Industry Minister Hussein Hajj Hasan told reporters.

Labor Minister Sejaan Azzi called on the state to return Syrian refugees to their homeland and to control their "random spread" throughout the country.

Minister for the Displaced Alice Shabtini said that Lebanon should demand the presence of international forces along its border with Syria.

"They are targeting Lebanon's various... areas. What happened is a barbaric

act," State Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Mohammad Fneish said, holding "the states that support terrorists" responsible for the attacks.

Some 1.1 million Syrian refugees are registered in Lebanon, but the government estimates the total number to be over 1.5 million.

Security forces upped their measures against militant cells across Lebanon after double suicide bombings ripped through Beirut's southern suburb of Burj al-Barajneh. Those measures are expected to be increased after Monday's attacks. More than 100 suspects have already been detained in raids on Syrian refugee camps in northeastern Lebanon.

Meanwhile, the director general at the Ministry of Finance, Alain Biffani, who arrived at the Grand Serail to discuss country's financial situation, left shortly after security developments were prioritized.

Salam said last week that the Cabinet, in addition to normal sessions, will hold "regular extraordinary sessions to discuss emergency matters that need quick solutions."

(Source: The Daily Star)

## NEWS

### Turkey denies apology to Russia over downed jet

Prime Minister Binali Yildirim says Turkey has only expressed regrets to Russia over a downed jet in Syria, denying reports of an apology.

Yildirim also reversed an earlier offer of compensation to Russia for shooting down one of Moscow's military jets in November, Turkish media reported on Tuesday.

"Compensating Russia is not on the table, we have only expressed our regrets," CNN-Turk cited him as saying, hours after he said Ankara was ready to offer compensation for the incident.

The Kremlin said on Monday that Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan had apologized to Russian leader Vladimir Putin in a letter.

Erdogan's spokesman confirmed the letter, but said the Turkish president had only expressed regret and asked the family of the pilot killed after the downing to "excuse us."

The denial came just as the Kremlin said on Tuesday that President Putin will hold a phone conversation with Erdogan on Wednesday.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov, however, told a conference call with journalists that Russia did not expect strained relations with Turkey would mend in a few days.

Putin has said an apology from Erdogan is the condition for repairing relations between the two countries, which were shattered when the Russian jet was shot down by Turkey at the Syrian border.

Ankara said it shot down the plane because it entered Turkish airspace, an allegation Moscow denies. The Russian pilot ejected from the plane but was killed by gunfire from militants on the ground in Syria as he parachuted down to earth.

Yildirim also told reporters in parliament that legal proceedings were underway against an individual allegedly responsible for the killing of the Russian pilot.

Moscow, which imposed economic sanctions on Ankara over the downed plane, had said that apart from official apologies it also wanted Turkey to pay compensation for the incident.

After writing to Putin to voice his regret over the incident, Erdogan said he now believed that Ankara would normalize relations with Moscow "rapidly" but the Kremlin advised caution on Tuesday.

"One should not think it possible to normalize everything within a few days, but work in this direction will continue," Peskov said.

(Source: Press TV)

## Kerry raises harassment of U.S. diplomats in Moscow with Putin

Russian harassment and surveillance of U.S. diplomats in Moscow has increased significantly and U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry raised the issue recently with Russian President Vladimir Putin, the State Department said.

Kerry last raised the matter with Putin on March 24 this year, a State Department official said.

"He has raised it with President Putin," State Department spokeswoman Elizabeth Trudeau told a news briefing earlier, adding: "We see an increase and we take it seriously."

Trudeau said harassment by Russian security agents and traffic police had been an issue over the past two years, but did not give details of incidents nor why it was raised with Putin.

Other Western embassies had reported the same behavior toward their diplomats stationed in Moscow, Trudeau added.



Washington stripped five of the six Russian honorary consuls of credentials in January to retaliate for harassment of its diplomats in Moscow. In response, Russia's Foreign Ministry accused the United States

of provoking Russian diplomats in the United States and elsewhere.

Honorary consuls are typically U.S. citizens or green card holders who perform consular services on behalf of a foreign government, a U.S. official said, saying the five were located in California, Florida, Minnesota, Utah and Puerto Rico.

Asked whether harassment of U.S. diplomats occurred only in Moscow, Trudeau said: "We can't rule out such harassment that could occur elsewhere. I just don't have specifics on other countries."

Despite cooperation between Moscow and Washington on the Iran nuclear deal, tensions between the two countries have escalated since Russia annexed the Crimean Peninsula from Ukraine in 2014 and Moscow's increasing backing for Syrian President Bashar al-Assad. (Source: Reuters)

## Brexit: Increase in racist attacks after EU referendum

Britain "will not tolerate intolerance", the office of Prime Minister David Cameron has said, after a series of racist incidents were reported following its decision to leave the European Union.

Number 10 Downing Street came out on Monday with the warning, less than a week after the country voted to leave the EU in a referendum.

"We should be absolutely clear that this government will not tolerate intolerance ... intimidating migrants, telling them they need to go home," Cameron's spokeswoman told journalists.

The Polish Embassy in London earlier said it was "shocked and deeply concerned" by incidents of abuse directed at Poles and other eastern Europeans living in England.

They include the posting of laminated cards reading "Leave the EU - no more Polish vermin" to members of the Polish community in Huntingdon, near the eastern city of Cambridge, on Saturday.

There were also reports of racist graffiti scrawled on a Polish community centre in Hammersmith, west London. The Metropolitan Police Service said it was investigating the claim.

"We would like to thank people for all the messages of support and solidarity with the Polish community expressed by the British public," the embassy said.

London mayor Sadiq Khan on Monday placed the city's police force on alert following the incidents.

Khan said he took "seriously my responsibility to defend London's fantastic

mix of diversity and tolerance.

"I've asked our police to be extra vigilant for any rise in cases of hate crime, and I'm calling on all Londoners to pull together and rally behind this great city."

Mark Hamilton, the head of the National Police Chiefs' Council, said: "We are seeing an increase in reports of hate crime incidents to True Vision, the police online hate crime reporting site."

"This is similar to the trends following other major national or international events. In previous instances, crime levels returned to normal relatively quickly but we are monitoring the situation closely."

### 90 incidents

Other incidents were reported on social media. Many used the #postrefracism tag and account to call out examples of intolerance, both to EU citizens living in England and non-white Britons.

One Twitter user, Ben Zen, wrote that two Britons waved an English flag towards him and, having heard him speak in Romanian, said: "We voted you out. Go home you f\*\*\*\*\*g immigrants."

Another, Carlos from London, posted images of a Polish father and son who had been severely beaten, reporting that the family members had said Englishmen were behind the attack.

On Facebook, Ai Sha shared a video showing members of the far-right English Defence League gathering outside a mosque in Birmingham waving a flag that read: "Rapefugees Not Welcome", as they shouted "f\*\*\*\*\*g p\*\*dos" and "Allah,



Allah, who the f\*\*\* is Allah?". Police later made two arrests.

John O'Connell, from anti-racism group Far Right Watch, said they had recorded more than 90 incidents in the past three days, ranging from "verbal abuse up to physical violence."

Rights groups called on people to report incidents as they promised action.

"Now we are witnessing the shocking extent of this with reports around the country of hate speech and minorities being targeted," said Shuja Shafi, secretary general of the Muslim Council of Britain. "I will be writing to the Home Secretary to ask what measures are being taken to step up security and policing in areas where such incidences have been reported."

Human Rights Watch said authorities "should take strong action to curb xenophobic attacks and abuse in the United Kingdom in the wake of the referendum", as it encouraged people to report xenophobic acts to the police.

"A failure by the authorities and political leaders to address - and be seen to address - these initial attacks risks creating a permissive climate for further attacks and exacerbating divisions within society," the group warned.

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)

## Israeli siege on Gaza hurts people: UN

United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has condemned the Israeli blockade on the Gaza Strip, saying the siege inflicts pain on people and damages the economy of the Palestinian coastal enclave.

Ban made the criticism on Tuesday during his trip to Gaza in a press conference at the al-Zaytoon school run by the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

Tel Aviv's blockade of Gaza "suffocates its people, stifles its economy, and impedes construction," he said, warning that the siege fuels tensions between the Palestinians and Israelis.

The UN chief further highlighted the UN support for the people of Gaza, saying that the world body "will always be with you."

The Gaza Strip has been under an Israeli siege since June 2007. The blockade has caused a decline in the standards of living as well as unprecedented levels of unemployment and unrelenting poverty.

Meanwhile, UNRWA Commissioner-General Pierre Krahenbuhl, who accompanied Ban in his trip to Gaza, stressed that the visit "comes at a time of deep despair in Gaza," calling on the world community "to pay far more attention" to the situation in the blockaded coastal sliver.

The pair are expected to visit a UN-run center for reconstruction works in the Gaza Strip.

Ban is also scheduled to speak at a news conference in the Tel al-Hawa neighborhood of Gaza City and meet with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in the West bank city of Ramallah.

Israel has waged three wars on Gaza since 2008, including the 2014 offensive, which left more than 2,200 Palestinians dead and over 11,100 others injured.

Ban had visited the Gaza Strip in late 2014 in the wake of the deadly Israeli onslaught.

In a relevant development on Tuesday, a senior official of the resistance movement of Hamas and deputy speaker of the Palestinian parliament released a statement, urging Ban and the UN to "work seriously" towards ending the decade-long siege imposed on Gaza.

Ahmad Bahar criticized Ban's visit as "part of the ongoing efforts to resume negotiations to reach a compromise that serves occupation and to contain the Al-Aqsa Intifada."

The UN has "remained silent towards the Gaza siege crime for ten years" by trying to "treat the victim and the executioner evenly," he added.

The occupied territories have also witnessed heightened tensions since August 2015, when Israel imposed restrictions on the entry of Palestinian worshippers into the al-Aqsa Mosque compound in East al-Quds (Jerusalem) in an alleged bid to change the status quo of the holy Muslim site.

Nearly 220 Palestinians have lost their lives at the hands of Israeli forces in what is regarded as the third Palestinian Intifada (uprising) since the beginning of last October. (Source: Press TV)



NEWS

**NFC to launch Iran services on July 28**

Oman's National Ferries Company (NFC) announced on Monday that it will start operations to Bandar Abbas and Qeshm Island in Iran from July 28.



Mehdi bin Mohammed al Abdawani, CEO of NFC said that the launch will be held to mark sultanate's celebrations of the Renaissance Day. Abdawani said that the service will start from the Port of Khasab in the Governorate of Musandam to Bahonar Port in Bandar Abbas via the Port of Bahman in Qeshm Island, twice a week for six months as an experiment.

He added that the said date was approved for the regional line between the sultanate's and Iranian ports following a meeting of all interested parties and official bodies in Oman and Iran. Abdawani said that the executive management of NFC is working to ensure that all concerned parties fully coordinate with various government agencies to facilitate the travel of citizens and residents to Iran.

Abdawani said that people can travel visa free to the Qeshm Island while a visa is required from the Iranian Embassy in Oman for visits to the city of Bandar Abbas.

He said that talks are on with Iran's Hormozgan Province for issuing visas to Omani visitors upon their arrival at Bandar Abbas port. Abdawani said that the journey from Khasab to Qeshm Island takes an hour and a half while it takes two hours to reach Bandar Abbas.

He said that the ferries will only carry passengers and goods until the completion of the construction of a bridge for vehicle shipment in some Iranian ports. (Source: Muscat Daily)

**Italy said to seek opening to fund lenders with \$44b**

Italy, which failed to gain European Union approval for a bad bank just months ago, is considering ways to inject funds into some of its lenders after the UK's vote to leave the trade bloc sparked a fresh selloff, according to people with knowledge of the talks.

The government is weighing measures that may add as much as 40 billion euros (\$44 billion), said one person, asking not to be identified because the talks are private. The government may support lenders by providing capital or pledging guarantees, said the person. The amount is still under discussion and no final decision has been taken, according to the people.

Italy's government earlier this year was forced to water down plans for a publicly funded bad bank on EU resistance, instead creating a smaller fund backed by lenders and investors to help stabilize the financial system and speed up consolidation. Governments are able to provide funds directly to banks under exceptional circumstances of systemic stress without breaching state-aid rules, a scenario that may apply to Brexit, the people said.

Prime Minister Matteo Renzi has been pushing a package of reforms to modernize Italy and spur growth since he took office in February 2014. He has pressed lenders to become joint-stock companies, encouraging mergers to help reduce duplication and boost profitability and pushed the creation of Atlante, which can invest in bank capital and their bad loans and reduce bad debt.

(Source: Bloomberg)

**Oil prices rise on looming Norway strike, but Brexit still weighs**

Oil prices rose on Tuesday as a looming strike in Norway threatened to cut output in western Europe's biggest producer, although Britain's vote to leave the European Union was still weighing on markets.

About 755 Norwegian workers on seven oil and gas fields could go on strike from Saturday, hitting output from the North Sea's top producer, if a new wage deal is not agreed before a Friday deadline.

A final round of mandatory talks will be hosted by a state mediator on June 30 and July 1 in an effort to avoid disruption that could start the following day.

The affected fields account for nearly 18 percent of Norway's oil output and a little more than 17 percent of its natural gas, Reuters calculations show.

Combined oil output was about 285,000 barrels per day in the first four months of the year, with natural gas output at 48.5 million cubic meters (mcm) per day.

London Brent crude futures were trading up around 1.5 percent, or 70 cents, at 0651 GMT at \$47.86 per barrel.

U.S. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) futures were up 78 cents, or 1.68 percent, at \$47.11 a barrel.

But the price rises came after oil fell to 7-week lows in the previous session on the back of market turmoil over Britain's vote to leave the EU, reducing investor appetite for volatile commodities like oil.

"Crude oil led the sector lower as investors continued to dump risky assets," ANZ bank said on Monday.

Consultancy Energy Aspects said Brent was "under pressure as timespreads continued to weaken amidst a complete collapse in bids for crude".

It added that refinery run cuts in Asia, which use physical crude oil as their main feedstock and crude futures for hedging purposes, were also dragging on markets.

Markets were also weighed by news that a successful ceasefire in Nigeria had allowed repairs to oil pipelines that had restricted the country's ability to export oil, ANZ Bank said.

(Source: Reuters)

**Negotiation with Georgia, Armenia to export oil products priority for Iran**

**ECONOMY TEHRAN** — Holding talks with Georgia and Armenia is among top priorities of Iranian Oil Products Distribution Company (NIOPDC) to increase exports of the country's oil products, an official in the company told Shana news agency on Monday.

Amir Vakizadeh, the manager of exports and imports department of NIOPDC, noted that Georgia, which stands among the customers of Iranian oil, can be Iran's gateway to European market. He added that negotiations with Armenia to enter the Georgian market are underway.

Vakizadeh said that NIOPDC seeks new markets for its products, while preserving the market of its neighboring countries.

Exports of gasoil, as Iran's strategic oil



product, to neighboring countries and the Middle East region has been put on the agenda.

According to NIOPDC Managing Director Seyed Naser Sajjadi, replacing more gasoil with natural gas as the feedstock of power plants and industrial units, due to upsurge in the country's natural gas output, and also implementation of fuel consumption management programs count for the upturn in the exports of gasoil, Mehr news agency reported in late April.

"Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Pakistan, Iraq, Iraqi Kurdistan, and some countries in Central Asia and the Caucasus are among the buyers of Iran's gasoil", the senior official said adding, "Moreover, several shipments of gasoil have been sailed to international markets."

**U.S. extends ZTE reprieve for alleged Iran sanctions violations**

The U.S. government has extended through August 30 a reprieve to ZTE Corp on tough export restrictions imposed on the Chinese smartphone maker in March for allegedly breaking sanctions against Iran, the Commerce Department said on Monday.

The renewed Commerce Department license allows ZTE to continue exporting equipment containing U.S. technology. The agency said in March that its first reprieve could be extended if the company cooperated with the

government.

Experts had said U.S. export restrictions were some of the toughest ever applied and would have caused disruption across ZTE's sprawling global supply chain.

The restrictions would have banned U.S. companies from exporting to ZTE any technology, software or equipment such as chips and processors made in the United States. The decision would also have prevented software makers from selling typical office applications

like Microsoft Windows - or even providing updates.

But soon after imposing the restrictions in March, the agency offered the company a three-month relief from the restrictions, which was set to expire June 30. The Commerce Department announced the extension in a notice posted Monday.

In an emailed statement, ZTE Chairman Zhao Xianming said the extension shows that the company is improving its compliance and cooperating with

the government's investigation. The reprieve will allow ZTE to maintain its "relationships with hundreds of American companies and our continued investment in the U.S.," he said.

The Commerce Department investigated ZTE for alleged export-control violations following Reuters reports in 2012 that the company had signed contracts to ship millions of dollars worth of American-made hardware and software to Iran's largest telecoms carrier.

(Source: Reuters)

**Doubts grow over Airbus A380 sale to Iran: sources**

As Western plane-makers seek to finalize lucrative deals to sell some 200 jets to Iran, doubts are growing over the sale of a dozen Airbus A380 superjumbo jets to the country's national flag carrier, several people familiar with deal said.

Iran's return to the international market for new aircraft after decades making do with an antiquated fleet is one of the biggest business opportunities opened by the lifting of sanctions after a deal to rein in its nuclear program.

The order for the double-decker superjumbo jetliners grabbed attention in January as part of a provisional deal for 118 Airbus jets worth \$27 billion signed in Paris in the presence of Iranian President Hassan Rouhani.

The inclusion of the world's largest jetliner was hailed as a symbol of thawing relations and a sign of Iran's determination to compete economically with political rivals on the Arab side of the Persian Gulf that fly the jet.

The order also threw a lifeline to the A380 itself, following a slump in orders that has left the future of one of Europe's highest profile industrial projects in doubt.

But people familiar with the deal say there are increasing signs that Tehran is having second thoughts about whether to take delivery.

"We always made clear this is an option," an Iranian official told Reuters, asking not to be identified. "It is possible to switch to other models," he added.

An industry source familiar with the region said Iran was committed to the rest of the order, but was



less interested in taking the A380s, ordered in part for political reasons.

Another Iranian official said main obstacles to completing the full order were remaining U.S. financial sanctions.

Others said the A380 part of the order, worth \$5.2 billion at list prices, can be canceled or amended without penalty under the contract before Airbus starts building the jets.

One industry source acknowledged "the A380 part is less solid" than the remaining 106 aircraft, despite the fact that Airbus had pressed Tehran to include the slow-selling model.

**Financing questions**

Before any of the deal can be completed, Airbus must obtain U.S. export licenses due to U.S. technology on board its jets.

Problems in financing must also be resolved as some banks have shied away from financing either the Airbus deal or a similar order for Boeing to sell or

lease 109 jets to Iran Air.

Those uncertainties have also raised questions over the timing of the payment of deposits to Airbus on the wider order.

"Following the preliminary agreement for 118 aircraft signed in January with Iran Air, negotiations are progressing, and as with all agreements, it takes time for them to be firmed up and finalized," an Airbus spokesman said.

Iran Air was not immediately available for comment.

Discussing the Airbus order in February, its chairman told Reuters the A380 would not arrive for another five years and that the airline would in the meantime monitor the expansion of Tehran's Imam Khomeini airport.

While Airbus faces uncertainty over the A380 part of the deal, Boeing appears to have won a slight reprieve for the latest version of its 747 jumbo.

A person familiar with Boeing's own provisional deal with Iran Air said it included four 747-8s.

Both the A380 and 747-8 have seen production cuts as airlines switch to smaller two-engined models like the Airbus A350 or Boeing 777.

But regional sources say Boeing's 747 has a more naturally receptive audience in Iran given the experience of its pilots and engineers in keeping old 747s flying during sanctions.

Eager to prepare for projected transport growth post-sanctions, Iran has ordered a total of seven different types of Airbus and Boeing jet.

(Source: Reuters)

**World stocks, sterling fight back after Brexit beating**

World stocks rose for the first time in three days and sterling and the euro climbed on Tuesday, as investors made a rush for Brexit-bashed assets hammered by some of the biggest falls since the 2008 collapse of Lehman Brothers.

Bargain hunting trumped still widespread uncertainty over Britain's vote to leave the European Union, as the bloc's

leaders, including soon-to-be-ex UK Prime Minister David Cameron, headed for their first post-vote meeting in Brussels.

Battered sterling also got a reprieve. It rose 0.8 percent to \$1.3335 following the biggest two-day slide in the post-1973 era of floating exchange rates, which saw it slump to a 31-year low of

\$1.3122 on Monday.

"After a few days of a lot of volatility, it looks like we have found some stability," said TD Securities' European Head of Currency Strategy Ned Rumpelton.

"People will now need to see a bit more on the big questions such as what is the timeline for the UK withdrawal and what are the effects going to be for the

global economy."

The major concern for investors -- aside from the political ramifications of a split EU -- is whether already struggling banks can survive if Brexit prompts central banks in Europe, Switzerland, Scandinavia and Japan to cut interest rates even more deeply into negative territory. (Source: Reuters)

NEWS IN BRIEF



**EU referendum: German carmakers warn on free movement**

German carmakers have said that the UK will have to accept the free movement of EU citizens in return for access to the single market.

Matthias Wissmann, from the German Automotive Industry Association, said the UK would have to accept the "bitter pill" of free movement.

Restricting access to the UK was a key promise of the Leave campaign.

Leave campaigners also argued that, to help car exports, Germany would push for a generous trade deal with the UK.

However, the German carmakers appear to be taking a tough line.



**VW U.S. emissions settlement reported to cost \$15b**

Volkswagen has reportedly reached a \$15-billion (£11.3-billion) settlement with U.S. car owners after admitting it cheated emission tests.

The deal would offer to repair or buy back the affected diesel vehicles and pay owners compensation, according to sources close to the talks.

Last year, U.S. regulators discovered that VW cars were fitted with software that could distort emissions tests.

The German giant subsequently said 11 million cars were affected worldwide.

The U.S. settlement is still pending approval by a judge, but it would be the largest car scandal settlement in the country's history. The details are expected to be announced on Tuesday.



**Bangladesh central bank ends FireEye investigation into cyber heist**

Bangladesh's central bank has ended a contract with U.S. cyber security firm FireEye to investigate February's online theft of \$81 million, turning down a proposal to extend the agreement, a senior official said on Monday.

More than four months after hackers broke into the computer systems of Bangladesh Bank and transferred money from its account at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, investigators in Bangladesh and the United States are still trying to identify them.

FireEye's Mandiant division had asked for 570 hours of additional work to complete its investigation into the biggest cyber heist in history, sources at the bank had said earlier.



# Rediscovering the elegance of modern Iran

By Lee Siew Hua

Travel Correspondent

Fresh off the plane in Iran, in the elegant city of Shiraz which is admired for its gardens and poets, we are photo-bombed by a young local man in aviator shades.

That morning, my group of travellers has been languidly arranging ourselves for a picture in the 13th-century Eram Garden when the prankster leaps in front of us. His two female friends, wearing denim and head scarves, laugh out loud from the side.

This light-hearted encounter is one of several surprises that reveal a modern, multi-layered Iran during my 10-day journey to four Iranian cities in April.

Iran is safe and friendly and rewards the wanderer with hidden gardens, echoes of great civilizations past and a stylish lifestyle that is still affordable.

Sanctions were lifted on January 16 this year after the nation reached a historic nuclear deal with world powers last July and the country of 80 million is re-emerging on the global stage.

World leaders and industrialists are now rediscovering Iran, as are travelers.

## ■ Yazd

Persian carpets and pistachios, the One Thousand And One Nights anthology and ice cream, the first Human Rights Charter and polo: These are some of the creations, or refinements, of Iran's 7,000 years of heritage.

The country's desert technology is part of a long line of inventions, and I get a glimpse of Iranian design ingenuity in the desert city of Yazd in the centre of Iran.

It is filled with wind towers or wind-catchers, four- or eight-sided towers that direct the airflow into houses for cool comfort in summer.

At the bottom of Iran's tallest wind-catcher, which is 33m high, I relax in the Dolat Abad Garden, and it is so cool it feels air-conditioned although it is a blazing day.

Another clever Iranian invention is the qanat, an elaborate system of underground water tunnels. You access the water from wells that pop up on the desert landscape like mini-volcanoes.

There are also ice houses, or yakhchal, shaped like domes, which store snow and ice for the hotter months.

## ■ Isfahan



The Pink Mosque in Shiraz, Iran, and a wall tile in the mosque depicting churches and crosses, showing that Iran has long been a cosmopolitan society

While much of what I see in Iran is on an epic scale, there are also lots of intimate experiences.

The food, for instance, such as the lamb kebab, fresh pomegranate juice, or an unforgettable dark chocolate ice cream in the hip Hermes restaurant that serves Mediterranean food in an Armenian quarter of Isfahan (Jolfa Alley, Nazar Street).

The scents as well, especially of narenj or orange blossoms, small flowers exuding a jasmine-like perfume in many gardens.

The mosques too, many of which are contemplative yet dazzling spaces, with colour, soft illumination and elegant calligraphy.

In Shiraz, the Pink Mosque glows like a kaleidoscope when sunlight spills through stained-glass windows onto wall-to-wall prayer carpets.

But the most intimate and refined city, I find, is Isfahan in central Iran. Cherished as the Pearl of Persia, the 1,500-year-old city, twice a capital, showcases the best of Iran: Islamic architecture, Persian carpets and miniature paintings in its bazaars, teahouses, libraries and gardens.

Isfahan is half the world, as the Iranians say in reference to its importance.

While there are grand sites here, notably the Naqsh-e Jahan Square that is bigger

than the Red Square in Moscow, I delight in the littler places.

In the evening, we walk on the Khaju and Siosepol bridges when they are tinged with romantic sunset colors.

It is lovely to see Iranians enjoying life - roller-blading, texting, picnicking and relaxing by the landscaped river banks.

There is also the 300-year-old Ali Gholi Agha bathhouse (Ali Gholi Agha Alley, off Masjed-e Sayyed Street, Isfahan), for men and women at different hours.

It is a museum now, and we gaze at the fine mosaics and reflect on the social role played by bathhouses as places for relaxation and hygiene.

We drive out to Tehran and stop by the village of Abyaneh, which is set in a valley.

The houses are made of red-brown earth, and its 150 elderly dwellers are dressed traditionally, the women in flowery garments and the men in satiny, balloony pants.

Our guide says the village is part of a disappearing world. Young people have left to work in the cities.

Their elderly parents, left behind, peddle village products such as dried apple slices and roasted chickpeas, which we buy.

## ■ Tehran

From the countryside, we head into

Iran's pulsating metropolis: Tehran. While the capital is the political and economic centre of the country, it is also filled with places of cultural significance.

The National Museum of Iran, a modern building designed with art-deco and Persian elements by a French architect, and completed in 1928, houses national treasures.

I like its carvings from Persepolis, winged lions and terracotta bulls, and a ceramic thermos flask from the first millennia.

We also head over to the Saadabad Palace, set in a park. In earlier dynasties, it was a summer royal palace, including for the last Shah of Iran, Mohammed Reza Pahlavi, until his pro-Western regime was toppled in 1979.

Since the Islamic Revolution, the palace has been converted into a museum featuring Persian arts and relics of royal life.

It still contains portraits of the deposed Shah and his queen, and the toys in the bedrooms of their four children, now exiled.

Finally, for some unabashed splendor we go to the Treasury of National Jewels, which is said to contain the most expensive jewels in the world, amassed over centuries.

Most eye-popping of all is the Peacock Throne, a lavish raised platform with a sun symbol. It is made of gold and precious stones and ornamented with verses set in blue enamel.

There is also the dreamily named Sea of Light, a colossal diamond in a rare pale-pink hue that weighs 182 carats. It is reputedly the largest uncut diamond in the world.

No wonder the museum has to be set within the fortified Central Bank. It is a shame, though, that the jewels seem to be lumped higgledy-piggledy in a cramped, nondescript vault, when it may outshine the collections in the Tower of London or the Hermitage in St Petersburg.

The pomp and bling are an eye-opener. But for me, the loveliest moments in Iran are still the more reflective ones. I think about the lush secret gardens, introspective poetry and a solitary stroll to a bridge in Isfahan.

This is the hidden Iran that lingers in memory and, hopefully, even as the republic rouses from its days of isolation, its great beauty will never fade.

(Source: Straits Times)

## A CLOSER LOOK

### UK tourism set to benefit from weak pound

The UK's tourism industry is poised to benefit from Britain's vote to leave the EU, as the crashing value of the pound attracts an influx of international visitors and encourages Britons to take staycations.

British leisure companies and foreign tourists could gain from the market turmoil following the outcome of the EU referendum last week that has led sterling to fall to a 30-year low against the dollar and to drop faster against the euro than it has since the financial crisis.

The shrinking value of pound against the euro and dollar represents an opportunity for domestic leisure companies, accord-



ing to Nick Varney, the chief executive of Merlin Entertainments, the UK-based operator of Legoland and Madame Tussauds, and the chair of the British Hospitality Association.

Holidays in Europe will be a little more expensive and encourage Brits to take more holidays in their home country, he said.

We'll get more eurozone visitors coming in as it will be relatively cheaper than to holiday in the UK. My view is that this scenario will endure and the pound will settle at a more competitive rate.

Widespread international news coverage of the UK could also provide a boost to a tourism industry that has grown steadily since 2010. According to the UK's Office for National Statistics, the country saw 36.12m international visits in 2015, an increase of over 5 per cent compared with the previous year. Expenditure by overseas tourists was \$22.07bn last year, a 1 per cent rise from 2014.

It's certainly been great to see how much cheaper things have become since last Thursday, said Denis Fourey, a banker from Guadeloupe, who was coming to the end of a three-week visit to the UK.

We got a taxi from London to Southampton. Your taxis are a rip-off. It cost us \$400. But the favourable rate means it wasn't as expensive as it could have been.

Analysts warned that UK travelers to Europe could be hit with higher charges for travel insurance, as British citizens may no longer be entitled to public healthcare when travelling to EU countries.

(Source: Financial Times)

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nice garden, 8000 USD  
**Mr.Niaki: 09128103207**



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totally 14 rooms, 2 entrances,  
pool, nice garden, renovated,  
18000 USD  
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# What's next for Hamas' Meshaal?

By Adnan Abu Amer

Khaled Meshaal has long been a leading Hamas figure, heading its political bureau since 1996. However, according to recent media reports, Meshaal will not participate in the movement's internal elections that may be held in late November or early December.

It may seem early to talk about replacing Meshaal, as Meshaal himself has remained publicly silent.

On June 16, Mahmoud al-Zahar, a member of Hamas' political bureau in Gaza, told the New Arab newspaper that Meshaal will not run for re-election as head of the political bureau. The London-based Rai al-Youm reported on June 13 that Meshaal had confirmed to unnamed close associates that he will not run, but did not reveal whether he will support any particular Hamas leader for the post.

Ahmed Youssef, political adviser to former Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh, told Al-Monitor, "Meshaal has a charismatic leadership style, political gumption and strong ties with Arab and Islamic countries. Yet it is perhaps time for him to leave the post of head of the political bureau to someone else without compromising his standing." This way, Youssef said, Meshaal could leave but retain his ability to create a new position of secretary-general, for which he could run uncontested.

If Meshaal did withdraw from the movement's leadership, the vacancy would create room for a number of other political figures who view themselves as qualified to succeed him in a critical period for the Palestinian cause.

## Possible successors to Meshaal

Among those emerging as possible successors to Meshaal include Mousa Abu Marzouk, who likely has the best chance to win the election. He was the first head of Hamas' political bureau, a position that granted him a wide network of regional and international ties. He was arrested in the United States in



1995 on charges of transferring money to the fighters of Hamas' military wing, Izz ad-Din al-Qassam Brigades, and was deported to Jordan in 1997.

Haniyeh, now the deputy head of Hamas' political bureau, is another important candidate with wide popular support. March polls by the Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research in the West Bank revealed that had presidential elections been held then, Haniyeh would have beaten out Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas.

Israel's Channel 2 reported June 17 that Hamas military leader Yahya Sinwar will succeed Meshaal with support from al-Qassam Brigades. He was freed in a prisoner-swap deal between Hamas and Israel in 2011 after serving 22 years in jail.

Speaking to Al-Monitor, Husam Badran, the Qatar-based official spokesman for Hamas, refused to speak of the possible candidates. He said, "Hamas is an institutional organ-

ization that abides by its own regulations. Its leaders reach leadership posts through periodic elections within Palestinian areas or abroad. Each of the Hamas leaders has a role, regardless of his organizational position, that is subject to change. Hamas' insistence on holding internal elections is an achievement and a role model to be followed by other Palestinian factions."

Under Meshaal's leadership, Hamas has witnessed important milestones, most notably the 2000 Al-Aqsa intifada, the 2006 legislative elections from which Hamas came out victorious, three Israeli wars on Gaza and the establishment of new regional alliances between Hamas, Qatar and Turkey.

Meshaal was able to manage these dossiers with relative success, though there were some setbacks. The most serious challenges included the ouster of the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt in 2013 and Egypt closing the tunnels between Gaza and Sinai.

**If Meshaal did withdraw from the movement's leadership, the vacancy would create room for a number of other political figures who view themselves as qualified to succeed him in a critical period for the Palestinian cause.**

A close associate of Abbas who has met with Meshaal on several occasions told Al-Monitor on condition of anonymity, "Despite our dispute with Hamas, led by Meshaal, no one can deny his ability to show balance in his political stances on Palestinian internal relations. It is no secret that there is chemistry between Meshaal and Abbas, more than the rest of Hamas' leaders. We hope that any changes that will be brought about within Hamas in the future take the same national path that Meshaal has taken."

## Hamas' relationship

The Hamas-run Al-Aqsa TV reported on June 2 that the next Hamas leadership will be kept busy with such important matters as Hamas' relationship with regional countries including Israel, its relationship with the Muslim Brotherhood and the reconciliation with Fatah.

Raed Enairat, a professor of political science at An-Najah National University in Nablus and the head of the Contemporary Center for Studies and Policy Analysis, told Al-Monitor, "This time, Meshaal will not run for head of Hamas, since he has been leading it since 1996. It is a credit to Hamas that its leader steps down voluntarily via elections. Yet I do not think that a big change will be brought about to its general policy [governing] Palestinian, Arab and international relations, as Meshaal's successor is already a part of Hamas' political leadership. Meshaal [will not run despite having] political wisdom in dealing with political files, has a great deal of pragmatism and is viewed by many decision-making circles as a safety valve for Hamas in the most trying times."

If Meshaal does step down from the Hamas leadership at the organizational and executive levels, he seems unlikely to stay out of decision-making circles, given his extensive experience and influence among a number of the movement's current leaders. And who knows, maybe sitting out the next elections could be just a break before resuming his role. (Source: Al Monitor)

## COMMENT

### Darkening skies over Bahrain for human rights

When Bahrain announced a decision last Monday to strip the citizenship of a leading Shia cleric, Sheikh Isa Qassim, it accused him of "creating an extremist sectarian environment" and claimed he had "encouraged sectarianism and violence."

In fact, Bahrain's ruling monarchy and government are the ones fomenting division. In recent weeks, they also dissolved the main Shia opposition group, al-Wefaq, of which Sheikh Qassim was the spiritual leader.

These and other repressive measures taken lately are likely to backfire. Bahrain, a Sunni monarchy in the Persian Gulf that hosts the U.S. 5th Fleet, has been cracking heads of the opposition ever since the Arab Spring broke out five years ago and has harshly repressed those who sought a greater political voice for the country's Shia majority. The latest actions take the ruling al-Khalifa family still farther down the road of despotism and could trigger new waves of protest.

Bahrain's decision means that Sheikh Qassim could be deported. Human Rights Watch said the authorities have produced no evidence to support the charges against him.

Since July 2014, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Bahrain has stripped more than 250 people of their citizenship, a pernicious form of punishment.

At the same time, on May 30, a court in Bahrain more than doubled the prison sentence imposed by a lower court on opposition leader Sheikh Ali Salman, from four to nine years. As secretary general of the now-defunct al-Wefaq, which was the country's largest legally recognized opposition political group, he had given speeches explicitly repudiating the use of force and calling for nonviolence, but he was nonetheless found guilty of having "justified acts of violence and sabotage, provoking regime change and calling for Jihad as a form of religious duty." Human Rights Watch said the court ignored videos of his speeches and may have relied instead on a government report that misrepresented what he said.

Also alarming, the authorities on June 13 detained the prominent human rights activist Nabeel Rajab and on June 21 extended his imprisonment for eight days, on charges of "spreading false news .??. in a bid to discredit Bahrain."





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## Swap fizzy drinks for herbal juice in Ramadan, says nutritionist

**MEDICAL TEHRAN** — A nutritionist at Iran's Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has recommended Muslims observing the ritual of fasting to substitute herbal juice or herbal teas for soda pops.



In a report published by IRNA Sunday, Shahrzad Behrouzi said that in the scorching hot days of summer season when body respiration soars, devout Muslims are best to drink concentrated herbal juice like chicory and fumaria to lessen the sense of thirst and dehydration.

Adding the recommended amount of concentrated herbal juice to water, Behrouzi stressed, make sure the herbal juice is produced by reliable companies.

Rose water and concentrated form of mint, musk willow, and chicory juice are very popular in Iran, as they come from medicinal plants and have medicinal properties, she noted.

## Small-brained elephantnose fish can think big like humans

Fish may be smarter than we thought. Not only can some recognize human faces, but others can use their senses in a way that it was believed only humans and other mammals could manage. A team of zoologists at the University of Bonn has discovered that, despite lacking a complex brain, the African elephantnose fish can swap between its electrical and visual senses in the same way a person can switch between sight and touch.

The ability to recognize objects across different senses is regarded as an evolutionary plus because it provides the animal with greater sensory flexibility in different environments. However, it's been thought that this ability was confined to certain highly developed mammals, including monkeys, dolphins, rats, and humans, because the information processing was thought to require a cerebral cortex. That is, until the elephantnose fish came along.

Peters' elephantnose fish (*Gnathonemus petersii*) is common to the slower rivers of West Africa, where it hunts for insect larvae just before dawn and after sunset. It's also one of a number of fish equipped with an electrical organ that allows it to generate a weak electrical field that allows it to sense its immediate environment like a living motion detector. It also has eyes that it uses to navigate as well as to track and catch its supper.

(Source: Gizmag)

# Painless breath test could replace daily finger prick for diabetics

A painless breath test could replace the daily finger prick check for diabetics after scientists found a chemical which rises when blood sugar is too low.

Researchers have known for some time that dogs can be trained to notice when their owners are about to suffer a hypoglycaemic attack because of lack of glucose.

But now Cambridge has managed to isolate the chemical which they are actually sniffing. Called isoprene, the discovery means they could screen for it in a breath test meaning the 400,000 people in Britain living with Type 1 diabetes would not need to draw blood daily.

"Isoprene is one of the commonest natural chemicals that we find in human breath, but we know surprisingly little about where it comes from," says Dr. Mark Evans, Honorary Consultant Physician at Addenbrooke's Hospital, University of Cambridge.

"We suspect it's a by-product of the production of cholesterol, but it isn't clear why levels of the chemical rise when patients get very low blood sugar.

"Humans aren't sensitive to the presence of isoprene, but dogs with their incredible sense of smell, find it easy to identify and can be trained to alert their owners



**Hypoglycaemia -- low blood sugar -- can cause problems such as shakiness, disorientation and fatigue; if the patient does not receive a sugar boost in time, it can cause seizures and lead to unconsciousness.**

about dangerously low blood sugar levels.'

### Low blood sugar

Hypoglycaemia – low blood sugar – can cause problems such as shakiness, disorientation and fatigue; if the patient does not receive a sugar boost in time, it can cause seizures and lead to unconsciousness.

In some people with diabetes, these episodes can occur suddenly with little warning.

To find out what chemical the dogs were smelling, researchers lowered blood sugar levels under controlled conditions in eight women, then tested the presence of molecules in the blood.

The researchers found that levels of the chemical isoprene rose significantly at hypoglycaemia – in some cases almost doubling, which would present a disturbing change for a pet with sensitive smell receptors.

Claire Pesterfield, a paediatric diabetes specialist nurse at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge has a golden Labrador dog that has been trained by the charity Medical Detection Dogs to detect when her blood sugar levels are falling to potentially dangerous levels.

(Source: The Telegraph)

## Huge cache of ancient helium discovered in Africa's Rift valley



Researchers in the United Kingdom and Norway say the newly discovered helium gas field, found in the East African Rift Valley region of Tanzania, has the potential to ease a critical global shortage of helium, a gas that is vital to many high-tech applications, such as the magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scanners used in many hospitals.

The researchers say the discovery is the result of a new approach to searching for helium that combines prospecting methods from the oil industry with scientific research that reveals the role of volcanic heat in the production of pockets of helium gas.

By one estimate, the newly discovered helium field in the geothermally active East African Rift Valley may contain more helium than the U.S. Federal Helium Reserve near Amarillo, Texas, which holds about 30 percent of the world's helium supply.

The Tanzania discovery was made by researchers from the University of Oxford and Durham University, both in the UK, working with Helium One, a helium exploration company headquartered in Norway.

### Helium gas

"We sampled helium gas (and nitro-

gen) just bubbling out of the ground in the Tanzanian East African Rift valley," Chris Ballentine, a geochemist in the Department of Earth Sciences at Oxford University, said in a statement. "By combining our understanding of helium geochemistry with seismic images of gas-trapping structures, independent experts have calculated a probable resource of 54 billion cubic feet (1.5 billion cubic meters) in just one part of the rift valley."

Pete Barry, a geochemist at the University of Oxford, takes gas samples from a thermal pool at a helium prospecting site in Tanzania operated by Norwegian geoscience company Helium One.

Pete Barry, a geochemist at the University of Oxford, takes gas samples from a thermal pool at a helium prospecting site in Tanzania operated by Norwegian geoscience company Helium One.

Meanwhile, the Federal Helium Reserve currently holds just 24.2 billion cubic feet, and the total known reserves in the U.S. contain about 153 billion cubic feet (4.3 billion cubic m), Ballentine said, while global consumption of helium is about 8 billion cubic feet (0.23 billion cubic m) per year.

(Source: Live Science)

## Study documents live Zika virus in urine and saliva



In findings that hint at other possible person-to-person Zika transmission routes, a research team from Brazil's Fiocruz Institute said they have isolated live virus from the urine and saliva of acutely ill patients in Rio de Janeiro.

In other Zika developments, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced two efforts to support eventual immunization, one to develop a new vaccine and the other to help Brazil -- the hardest-hit country -- boost capacity to make vaccine.

The Fiocruz Institute scientists initially announced their findings in Brazil in early February and published the full results on Jun 24 in Public Library of Science (PLOS) Neglected Tropical Diseases.

Of nine patients sampled, 6 were from a group of pregnant women with rash, and 3—2 men and 1 woman—had sought care for their Zika symptoms at a Fiocruz acute care clinic. Nine urine samples and five saliva samples were collected from the patients. Tests on the samples included reverse-transcriptase polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR), quantitative RT-PCR, nucleic acid testing (NAT), and Vero cell inoculation.

### Samples of urine and saliva

Live virus was found in two samples from different patients, one from urine and one from saliva. For patients who submitted both types of sample, urine viral loads were higher than in saliva.

The authors said their finding in saliva seems to confirm a case report of live virus isolated from the saliva of a patient who got sick in January after returning from the Dominican Republic to Italy, reported in March in Eurosurveillance.

In April, French researchers in an early-online letter to the New England Journal of Medicine reported a sexual Zika transmission case in which they couldn't rule out the possible of saliva as one of the ways the infected man passed the virus to his female partner.

The importance of both body fluids as transmission routes isn't clear and needs more study, the authors wrote. They noted that the acidic pH of urine might restrict viral spread.

For saliva, the isolation of viable virus doesn't always prove that the virus can transmit orally, because saliva typically contains antiviral molecules and is relatively hypotonic, meaning it can lyse enveloped viruses.

(Source: CIDRAP)

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RAW MATERIAL AND ENERGY PURCHASING	19 JULY 2016	MOBARAKEH STEEL COMPANY INTENDS TO PURCHASE 50 M/T NITRIDED FERRO MANGENESE	48395867	Public	3
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## Earth may have had more than two magnetic poles: new study

The fact that our planet is surrounded by a magnetic field -- which acts as a protective blanket against harmful solar radiation -- is what makes life on Earth possible. Without it, Earth's surface would have been continuously bombarded by cosmic radiation through its 4.5 billion-year history, instantly frying all but the hardiest of microbes.

This magnetic field, as it exists today, has two poles -- north and south. But, as a new study published in the Geophysical Research Letters explains, this was not always the case. There were periods in Earth's history, between 500 million and 1 billion years ago, when the planet may have been enveloped in a multipolar magnetic field.

Our planet's magnetic field is generated by molten iron swirling around in the planet's outer core around

a smaller, solid core -- a process that creates a self-sustaining geomagnetic dynamo. The motion of liquid iron in the outer core is itself driven by the continuous loss of heat from the inner core.

However, Earth's inner core was not always solid. According to the study, which is based on three-dimensional simulations of geodynamos created by turbulent liquids and models of Earth's thermal history, the inner core is believed to have begun solidifying roughly 650 million years ago.

### Amount of variability

"What I found was a surprising amount of variability," Peter Driscoll, a scientist at the department of terrestrial magnetism at the Carnegie Institution of Washington, said in a statement. "These new models do not support the assumption of a stable dipole field at all

times, contrary to what we'd previously believed."

For instance, the models suggest that around 1 billion years ago, Earth may have transitioned from a strong dipolar field to a weak magnetic field that fluctuated wildly in terms of intensity and direction and originated from several poles. Then, shortly after the predicted timing of the core solidification event nearly 650 million years ago, the geodynamo simulations predict that Earth's magnetic field transitioned back to a two-pole system.

"These findings could offer an explanation for the bizarre fluctuations in magnetic field direction seen in the geologic record around 600 to 700 million years ago," Driscoll said. "And there are widespread implications for such dramatic field changes."

(Source: International Business Times)

## California may have a huge groundwater reserve that nobody knew about

In a surprising new study, Stanford researchers have found that drought-ravaged California is sitting on top of a vast and previously unrecognized water resource, in the form of deep groundwater, residing at depths between 1,000 and nearly 10,000 feet below the surface of the state's always thirsty Central Valley.

The resource amounts to 2,700 billion tons of freshwater, mostly less than about 3,250 feet deep, according to the paper published Monday in the influential Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. And there is even fresher or

moderately salty water at more extreme depths than this that could potentially be retrieved and desalinated someday for drinking water, or for use.

Part of the solution to California's demand for water in the face of the state's crippling drought may lie 10,000 feet beneath the surface of the state's Central Valley. New research published in the journal PNAS suggests that the region's aquifers, areas deep underground where water can collect, have three times the usable groundwater as previously estimated.

(Source: The Washington Post)

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Britain faced angry calls from other European leaders to act quickly to resolve the political and economic chaos unleashed by its vote to leave the European Union, which the IMF said could put pressure on global growth.

Financial markets recovered slightly Tuesday after the result wiped a record \$3 trillion off global shares and sterling fell to its lowest level in 31 years, but trading was volatile and policymakers vowed to take all necessary measures to protect their economies.

British finance minister George Osborne, whose attempt to calm markets fell on deaf ears Monday, said he would have to cut spending and raise taxes to secure fiscal stability after a third credit ratings agency downgraded the country's debt.

Firms have announced hiring freezes and possible job cuts, dashing voters' hopes the economy would thrive outside the EU.

European countries are particularly worried about the impact on the rest of the European Union of the uncertainty created by Britain's vote to leave, with little idea of when, or even if, the country will formally declare it is quitting.

European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker told the European Parliament he would be urging British Prime Minister David Cameron to "clarify as soon as possible" the British position, but did not expect him to launch the two-year withdrawal process "today, or tomorrow morning."

"We cannot be embroiled in lasting uncertainty," he said in a speech which he interrupted to ask British lawmakers who campaigned to leave the EU why they were there.

## Europe presses Britain for quick exit to limit global fallout



Cameron, who resigned after it became clear he had failed in his efforts to persuade the country to stay in the EU in the referendum, which he called, says he will leave it to his successor to formally declare Britain's exit.

His party says it aims to choose a new leader by early September, but those who campaigned for Britain's leave vote have made clear they hope to negotiate a new deal for the country with Europe before triggering the formal exit process. European leaders have said that is not an option.

"No notification, no negotiation," Juncker said.

### ■ No cherry-picking

Cameron arrived in Brussels Tuesday and went into a meeting with Juncker without exchanging any words in front of the media. He will also meet other European counterparts one-on-one before addressing them all at what promises to

be a frosty dinner to discuss what has become known as Brexit.

EU lawmakers have made clear they hope he will trigger the exit process at the dinner, but an EU official said Monday that was unrealistic given the political chaos in London, where both Cameron's party and opposition Labour are deeply divided.

The ruling Conservative Party in parliament is split into pro and anti EU camps and the leader of the opposition Labour Party, Jeremy Corbyn, faces a no confidence vote on Tuesday from parliamentarians who accuse him of lukewarm support for the EU.

"The 27 other members of the EU should not wait for the disorientated Tory (Conservative) party to get its act together," former Belgian PM Guy Verhofstadt, leader of the liberal group in the European Parliament, said Tuesday, denouncing what he called the "lies" of the Leave campaign.

For Britain, the outlook is bleak. Fitch joined other major credit ratings agencies in downgrading its sovereign debt Monday, making the promises by leave campaigners that Britain's economy would be stronger outside the EU appear empty.

"We are absolutely going to have to provide fiscal security to people, we are going to have to show the country and the world that the government can live within its means," Osborne, who, like Cameron campaigned to stay in the EU, told BBC radio.

Asked if that meant tax rises and spending cuts, he said: "Yes, absolutely."

After Cameron has addressed EU leaders Tuesday evening, they will meet the next day to discuss Brexit without him.

Leave campaigners in Britain, among them Cameron's possible successor, former London Mayor Boris Johnson, have suggested Britain can retain access to the European single market and curb immigration – goals which are mutually incompatible under EU rules.

But German Chancellor Angela Merkel said Britain would not be able "cherry-pick" the parts of the European Union it wants, such as enjoying access to the single market, without accepting principles like freedom of movement when it negotiates its exit from the bloc.

"I can only advise our British friends not to fool themselves ... in terms of the necessary decisions that need to be made in Britain," she said.

Reflecting deep concern over the referendum result in London, where a majority voted to stay and people fear job losses if the city loses its status as a global financial center, Mayor Sadiq Khan said access to Europe's market was key.

(Source: Reuters)

## New Cold War would not be productive for anyone: Robert Hunter

➔ A: The NATO military exercise was designed to be sure that Russia (Vladimir Putin) understands that further Russian or Russian-condoned military actions, either deeper into Ukraine or in any of the other Central European countries will be unacceptable to the West and will have negative consequences, though these have not been directly specified. Perhaps Putin has no such intention. But many conflicts have begun because of a lack of clarity about what will happen if one side begins taking steps that conflict with the legitimate security and defense requirements of others. In my judgment, NATO does need to strike a balance, however, between, on the one hand, "sending a message" to the Russians and reassuring vulnerable countries like the three Baltic States and, on the other hand, enabling Putin to argue with his population (his domestic politics) that NATO and the West are somehow trying to "surround" Russia and also not give it what Russians believe is their proper status as a "great power."

■ **What would be the possible response of Russia to the recent NATO activities in Eastern Europe?**

A: It is of course not possible to judge what Russia might do in response to this and other NATO activities which, of course, are the product of what Putin did by seizing Crimea and promoting military actions, including by Russian forces, in other parts of southeastern Ukraine. This fact underscores the need for diplomacy, to begin with to try clarifying the interests on all sides and, without condoning anything that Russia has done, to begin exploring possible ways out of the current crisis. It does appear that there will be no serious Western attempt to regain Crimea for Ukraine; but there do need to be efforts to get Russia to change its policies and practices in other parts of Ukraine, and that includes a formal resto-

ration of Ukrainian sovereignty over contested territories (though not Crimea). At the same time, the government in Kiev needs to do several things, some functional for its own effectiveness, notably reducing corruption; and some practical for a potential resolution of conflict in Russian-speaking and Russian-ethnic parts of the country, and that probably means some form of autonomy. At the same time, there needs to be a major infusion of economic resources into Ukraine, coupled with reduction of corruption. As happened in the latter part of the Cold War, such economic developments can send a message to Moscow that is potentially "stronger" than a Western military buildup.

■ **German Foreign Minister Steinmeier has strongly criticized NATO war games in Eastern Europe, calling it "warmongering" against Russia. What is your assessment of such a statement?**

A: Minister Steinmeier's comments illustrate the need to "strike a balance" in what NATO and the West do, along with emphasis on diplomacy – assuming, of course, that Putin is also prepared to see a value in diplomacy in the course of which he will need to change some of the things he has done. We do need to test whether he is largely seeking a "place in the sun" for Russia or whether he is, at the extreme, trying to reestablish the old Soviet Union and to intimidate his West-

ern neighbors. Perhaps the "truth" of his motives, to the extent he knows them, himself, lies somewhere in between. It should be clear that no one has anything to gain from an expansion of the conflict (except perhaps for the Russian population in Ukraine); and that even a new Cold War would not be productive for anyone – and especially not for Russia. (Russia does need us more than we need it; but this is not a point to be made in public, since it plays into a sense of Russian wounded pride, given that the Soviet Union/Russia "lost" the Cold War and superpower status.)

Given that there are some differences of view within the Alliance underscores the importance of NATO's striking a balance in regard to policies toward Russia and also seeing if a revival of diplomacy is possible anytime soon. But I do not believe that these differences within the alliance are ultimately crippling for it.

■ **Considering the existing differences within NATO, Turkey's differences with the alliance regarding its presence in the Black Sea to stop the flow of refugees to Europe, and NATO's role in Syria, what is your prediction of the future shape of the alliance?**

A: Even more complicated is what is happening in the southeast of the Alliance, with Turkey's position as both a European and a Middle East country, with difficult relationships in both directions, as well as its "identity crisis" as President

Erdogan tries to reshape Turkish society, even to the point in some respects on a pre-Kemalist basis. You will see the efforts by European countries to gain Turkish cooperation in slowing the flow of refugees from the Middle East, and especially from Syria, into Europe. This is now tied up with the broader agenda of Turkish-EU relations and at the moment does not seem to be leading toward an effective resolution. In regard to Syria, I do not see NATO's getting directly involved, as NATO – there would not be a consensus for acting and that would be required – although a few of the NATO allies might choose at some point (not now) to become more deeply involved. Obviously, the tensions within the alliance over Syria, the Kurds, and the evolution of Turkish government, politics, and society are quite serious, though I do not believe that they will lead to a basic breakdown of overall alliance cooperation. Too much is at stake for each of the allies to permit this to happen.

■ **Will there be any changes in the alliance, especially if Trump, who talks about the necessity of changes in NATO, takes the helm at the White House?**

A: I do not believe that Trump will win the U.S. presidency, but if he did, it is not really possible to predict what he would do: he has said so many contradictory things and he has had no experience in facing real foreign policy and national security issues. Having said that, I do believe there NATO is going through another period of redefinition. In particular, it has to work out how to balance difference challenges, especially those coming from the direction of Russia with those coming from North Africa and the Middle East (especially refugee flows), along with the need to develop effective relations with the European Union, which continue to lag far behind what is necessary.

**"The government in Kiev needs to do several things, some functional for its own effectiveness, notably reducing corruption; and some practical for a potential resolution of conflict in Russian-speaking and Russian-ethnic parts of the country, and that probably means some form of autonomy."**

## BSI unveils special credit package to support medical community

■ **ECONOMY** Bank Saderat Iran (BSI) unveiled special credit package to support medical community for funding workplace, procuring consumables and office & professional equipment in compatible with the subject of activity within the framework of renting with ownership option (lease-purchase) contract for buying office or workplace as well as other cases of civil partnership contract.

Granting facilities in the form of loan to medical community has been cited as the main objective of the bank in this respect, the report added.

BSI will grant facilities to medical community including general physicians, pediatricians, dentists, highly-specialized doctors and surgeons who hold Medical Council Number and also license for setting up office.

In addition, expert physicians in Laboratory Sciences, Radiology, Sonography, MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging), Physiotherapy and the like, licensed by the Medical Council Org. or the Ministry of Health and Medical Education and also veterinarians licensed and confirmed by the State Veterinary Medical Organization, can take advantage of facilities of the bank once well-grounded

documents are submitted to the concerned bodies.

The interest rate of the bank facilities is notified by Central Bank of Iran (CBI) within the framework of envisioned rules and regulations.

For further information, applicants willing to receive facilities of the bank are cordially requested to refer in person to the bank branches across the country.

It is worth mentioning that BSI has also devised credit package special of publishers, development of sports places and attorneys, etc. in order to create dynamism and boom in various economic sectors in the country.

## Sarmayeh Bank holds direct talks with cultural officials to broaden interaction

■ **ECONOMY** A get-together meeting was held in the presence of senior managers of Sarmayeh Bank and Iranian Artistic Development Group in order to explore avenues for broadening cooperation in artistic and cultural field.

Following the organization of a

meeting held on Tuesday June 21 between Member of Board of Directors and Deputy Managing Director of Sarmayeh Bank Dr. Mohammad-Reza Khani and Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Dr. Ali Jannati, a get-together session was held in the presence of Chairman of Board of Directors of

Sarmayeh Bank Dr. Mohammad-Ali Hadi, Board Members of the Bank Dr. Khani and Dr. Bahman Khadem as well as representative of Iranian Artistic Development Group in order to explore ways for broadening and enhancing joint cooperation in the field of art and culture.

Moreover negotiating with industrialists and large industrial - economic enterprises to attract optimal financial resources, Sarmayeh Bank has presently entered into direct talks with cultural officials of the country in order to play an active role in art field along in tandem with fulfilling social responsibility.

## NEWS

### Iraqi court dismisses parliament's reshuffle approval

A federal court in Iraq has invalidated a parliamentary session on April 26 in which changes in the cabinet proposed by Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi were approved.

"The federal court decided to invalidate the parliamentary sessions of April 14 and 26," higher judicial council spokesman Abdelsattar Bayraqdar said in a statement Tuesday, referring to sessions in which lawmakers first sacked Parliament Speaker Salim al-Juburi and then approved the changes in the cabinet. Bayraqdar said the April 14 session, which led to the dismissal of Juburi, lacked the necessary quorum, with only 131 lawmakers present.

He said the second meeting of the lawmakers on April 26 took place in an atmosphere "inconsistent with freedom of opinion." Bayraqdar said the vote for endorsement of Abadi's nominees in the meeting was invalid as guards entered the session and some parliamentarians were prevented from attending. The verdict could be viewed as a serious blow to Abadi's efforts for introducing a reform-minded cabinet in Iraq. The push came after mass protests in the capital, Baghdad, and elsewhere with hundreds of thousands, mostly followers of the prominent Shia cleric Muqtada al-Sadr, taking to the streets on a weekly basis to demand changes.

The demonstrations escalated last month when the parliament resisted changes, prompting protesters to break into the heavily-fortified Green Zone, where the parliament and government offices are located. Sadr has vowed to call for a fresh round of protests after the holy month of Ramadan, which ends next week. He has repeatedly criticized the government for its failure in carrying out the reshuffle, saying it bows to pressure by powerful political parties.

Iraq is engaged in a massive battle against the ISIL (Daesh) Takfiri terrorists. The military and allies declared the full liberation of the city of Fallujah, west of Baghdad, earlier in the week. Abadi has warned that the political stalemate could hamper the operations against Daesh. (Source: Press TV)

### The one who always said 'No'... is gone!

➔ This means that the British should pin their hope on a lavish and colorful economy to keep all parties satisfied.

This is while most Scottish people had voted in favor of staying in the European Union to take advantage of it; however now they have lost their motive and desire to be integrated with Britain. The development follows as even some Britons find it interesting to have an Irish identity.

In this case the threat of separatists to have another referendum is really a serious threat and most analysts share the same view that with no doubt they will be the winner of any kind of referendum.

No one can give an appropriate and good explanation or interpretation of the recent political act of the British people, who consider themselves as the men of logic among all, and the mind of each analyst or expert wanders around sociological reasons behind the move.

However one thing is almost absolute that no one can be optimistic regarding the British political and economic domain, at least in mid-term period.

### Iran, Russia security officials discuss Syria, bilateral ties

➔ Shamkhani traveled to Moscow for the high-level meetings on Monday. Before departing the Russian capital for Tehran, he elaborated on the topics of discussions he had had with Russian authorities. He said common areas of interest, including regional issues, mutual security cooperation, regional terrorism, the situation in Syria as well as continued contacts between SNSC and SCRF, were discussed.

On June 9, Iranian, Russian and Syrian defense ministers met in the Iranian capital, Tehran, to coordinate and step up their efforts in the anti-terrorism fight. "We made decisions for what must be done on the regional and operational levels and in a consensual and coordinated manner," Iranian Defense Minister Hossein Dehqan said back then after meeting with his Syrian and Russian counterparts.

Syria has been gripped by foreign-backed militancy since March 2011. United Nations Special Envoy for Syria Staffan de Mistura estimates that over 400,000 people have been killed in the conflict. The UN has stopped its official casualty count in Syria, citing its inability to verify the figures it receives from various sources.

Iran and Russia are Syria's main allies against the various foreign-backed armed groups fighting to topple President Bashar al-Assad, including Daesh terrorists. Russia launched an aerial military campaign against terrorist groups in Syria last September upon a request from the government in Damascus. The air raids have expedited the advances of Syrian forces against the militants on the ground. (Source: Press TV)

### Darkening skies over Bahrain for human rights

➔ The kingdom had promised reforms after the crack-down of 2011 but largely failed to deliver. A report by the State Department just sent to Congress says that Bahrain did establish some institutions of accountability and oversight but has fallen down on the vital issues of allowing free speech and assembly, and establishing due process. Last year, the Obama administration lifted some holds on military sales to Bahrain. Perhaps this sent a signal to the king and his regime that there would be no further consequences from Washington if they pummeled the opposition again. At the very least, it is time to send a different signal — if necessary by holding up U.S. military sales — that Bahrain's contempt for dissent and basic human rights is intolerable. (Source: The Washington Post)



FOOD FOR THOUGHT



People tend to forget their duties but remember their rights. *Indira Gandhi*

LEARN ENGLISH

Preparing a Speech

Lourdes: I need help.  
 Valery: Sure, what's up?  
 Lourdes: I'm supposed to give a speech at the start of the conference next month and I don't know what to do.  
 Valery: It's not that hard to **plan out** a speech. You start with an **attention getter** using humor or telling a personal story.  
 Lourdes: Okay, I guess I can do that.  
 Valery: Then, in the **body** of your speech, you want to state your **main points**, using **supporting ideas**, giving examples, and maybe using **visuals**.  
 Lourdes: Okay.  
 Valery: And finally, in the conclusion, you **restate** your main points and make some **closing remarks**. Simple, right?  
 Lourdes: Yeah, simple. One last question.  
 Valery: **Shoot**.  
 Lourdes: **What** are you doing the morning of June 20th, and how do you feel about **standing in for** a coworker who plans to be **deathly** ill?

(Source: eslpod.com)

- **Words & phrases**
- plan out:** to plan something carefully, considering all the possible problems
- attention getter:** a sentence or a story grab the audience's attention
- thesis statement:** the sentence or group of sentences which state what the main idea of a speech or essay
- along the way:** during a process
- establish:** to make people accept that you can do something, or that you have a particular quality
- credibility:** the quality of deserving to be believed and trusted
- body:** The part of an essay, report, or speech that explains and develops a main idea
- main point:** important information that tells more about the overall idea of speech or text
- supporting idea:** facts, statements, examples-specifics which guide us to a full understanding of the main idea
- visual:** something such as a picture or the part of a film, video etc. that you can see, as opposed to the parts that you hear
- restate:** to say something again in a different way, so that it is clearer or more strongly expressed
- closing remark:** closing remarks, or conclusion, of a speech emphasize the primary message that the speaker wants to convey; these final words help the audience remember the main points that were made
- shoot:** go ahead and ask your question
- stand in for:** to do the job or take the place of someone else for a short time
- deathly: very; utterly

QUIZ OF THE DAY

175) She's been married \_\_\_ her husband for twenty years.  
 a) to  
 b) with  
 (Quiz No. 174 answer: c)

PHRASAL VERB

Tire out

- **Meaning:** exhaust completely
- **For example:** The children tired out their grandmother.

ENGLISH PROVERB

Great oaks grow from small acorns

- **Explanation:** large successful operations can begin in a small way

# Iran's first pediatric subspecialty hospital to be built

**SOCIETY TEHRAN** — The first pediatric subspecialty hospital in Iran will be built in the near future in association with the Health Ministry and with the financial support of philanthropists.

The 540-bed hospital will be constructed on a land stretching 26,000 square meters in Javadiye district, southern Tehran, Maryam Mar'ashi, CEO of Zanjireh Omid, a charity organization which coordinates the project's activities, told Mehr news agency.

The construction project of the hospital carries a cost of 3 trillion rials (nearly \$85 million) as well as a 5-trillion-rial (nearly \$142 million) that must be spent on equipping the hospital and will be all covered by the Health Ministry, Mar'ashi explained.

"For the construction costs of the hospital we need philanthropists' financial support in order to decrease the death rate among children and improve the



A group of children suffering from blood cancer playing at Tabriz Children's Hospital playroom.

current situation," she suggested. "Unfortunately we are short of sufficient subspecialty centers for kids in Iran and the death rate for the children

in Children's Medical Center in Tehran is about 23 to 25 percent while the amount must be less than two percent based on global standards," she highlighted.

"We have figured out that some of the deaths in this center are resulted from shortage of NICU beds which are essential for pre and post operation cares," Mar'ashi explained.

Therefore, Zanjireh Omid has allocated some 100 billion rials (nearly \$2.8 million) for 10 neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) beds and now the death rate for children has dropped to 9 to 7 percent in Children's Medical Center, Mar'ashi noted.

Commenting on the pediatric spinal surgeries she regretted the fact that due the lack of appropriate equipment 60 percent of such surgeries wound up in the patients' paralysis and now owing to the newly imported equipment the number has decreased to 20 percent.

There are only seven pediatric orthopedic surgeons and six pediatric cardiologists in Iran which is not enough, she lamented.

## Over 3,300 transplants carried out in Iran last calendar year

**SOCIETY TEHRAN** — More than 3,300 transplants were performed in Iran over the last Iranian calendar year (March 21, 2015- March 19, 2016), the director for transplant management department of Health Ministry has said.

"Iran is in quite a good situation regarding the transplants surgeries," Mohammad Kazemeini told ISNA news agency.

Some 2,500 of the surgeries are pertaining to kidney transplants, Kazemeini said, adding, 716 liver and 102 heart transplant surgeries were performed over the same period.

57 percent of kidney donors were brain dead, he noted, "We are planning on increasing the number of the transplants from the brain dead patients as in addition to kidney we can procure

other organs as well." Last year some 800 patients were diagnosed with brain death and they donated 2,300 organs of which 1,400 were kidneys, he added.

Currently, he said, there exist 29 kidney transplant centers as well as seven centers for liver, eight for heart and two for lung transplant.

He further mentioned the considerable costs of transplant surgeries including the equipment, the treatment process and the medications which are mostly provided by the government.

Inquired about insurance companies' share in transplant surgeries Kazemeini noted that these companies only offer coverage for kidney transplants and that the rest of the transplant surgeries are covered by the Health Ministry.

## Man arrested in Brazil for attempt to douse Olympic torch

**RIO DE JANEIRO (Reuters)** — A man has been arrested for trying to extinguish the Olympic torch by throwing a bucket of water over it as it passed through his farming town of Maracaju in central Brazil, an officer at the local police station said on Monday.

Police arrested the 27-year-old at the scene on Sunday for damaging public property, the officer said. The Olympic flame continued to burn, video footage showed.

The crime can carry a sentence of between six months and three years in prison.

"He said it was a joke, a dare on Facebook," the officer in the state of Mato Grosso do Sul said by

telephone. He declined to give his name as he is not permitted to talk publicly.

Local Olympic organizing committee Rio 2016 did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The video, available on YouTube, showed a heavy spray of water thrown indiscriminately over the group around the torch bearer by someone out of view.

The man was freed on bail after paying 1,000 reais (\$294.74).

The torch is on a 20,000 km (12,400 mile) voyage through about 300 Brazilian cities before arriving in Rio de Janeiro for the Games' opening ceremony on Aug. 5.

## Stopping the crime of torture will benefit whole societies: Ban

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in his message on the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture said assisting victims of torture and stopping this crime will benefit whole societies and help provide a future of safety and dignity for all.

The full text of his message reads:

Around the world, in every region, men, women and children are still being tortured by non-State actors and under direct State policy. Despite its absolute prohibition under international law, this dehumanizing practice remains pervasive and, most disturbingly, is even gaining acceptance.

The law is crystal clear: torture can never be used at any time or under any circumstances, including during

conflict or when national security is under threat. On this International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, we express our solidarity with and support for the hundreds of thousands of victims of torture and their family members throughout the world.

The Convention Against Torture, ratified to date by 159 UN State Parties, stipulates that States have to ensure that a victim of torture under their jurisdiction obtains redress, including the means for as full rehabilitation as is possible. When States neglect their obligation to prevent torture, and fail to provide torture victims with effective and prompt redress, compensation and appropriate forms of rehabilitation, the UN Voluntary

Fund for Victims of Torture is a lifeline of last resort. Established by the UN General Assembly 35 years ago, the Fund supports hundreds of organizations that provide legal, social, psychological and medical assistance to some 50,000 victims every year.

The Fund requires a minimum of US \$12 million in annual voluntary contributions. I strongly urge States to stand by victims by supporting this UN Fund, and to remain fully engaged in the fight against torture and impunity. Assisting victims of torture and stopping this crime will benefit whole societies and help provide a future of safety and dignity for all.

(Source: UNIC)

IN FOCUS Mehr/ Aryan Nasrollahi



Kohkamar village in northern province of Golestan is a mountainous area with a sparse population of 150.

## Dad who placed ad for a wife for his son gets 12 prospects

**COEUR D'ALENE, Idaho (AP)** — The father of a Salt Lake City businessman who placed an Idaho newspaper ad seeking women interested in marrying his 48-year-old son has received about a dozen inquiries.

Arthur Brooks had planned to meet potential candidates at a Coeur d'Alene resort, but son Baron Brooks told the Spokesman-Review on Sunday that its managers asked his father not to conduct interviews there after getting barraged with media requests.

The younger Brooks previously called the \$900 ad in the Coeur d'Alene Press "embarrassing" but said he'd let his 78-year-old father go forward.

He says about 12 women from around the U.S. expressed interest in the ad. Arthur Brooks will interview them in the coming weeks.

Baron Brooks says his father wants a grandchild to carry on the family name.

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

### Joyce Oates "Patricide" published in Persian

Prominent American novelist Joyce Carol Oates' novella "Patricide" has recently been published in Persian by Nimaj Publications.

Translated by Hesam Jenani and Mitra Zaheri, the story has been selected from the Pulitzer Prize nominated collection "Lovely, Dark, Deep".

The story is narrated from the perspective of Lou-Lou, the daughter of Nobel prize-winning author Roland Marks.

### «پدرکشی» کارول اوتس به فارسی منتشر شد

داستان بلندی از جوئیس کارول اوتس رمان نویس مطرح امریکایی با عنوان «پدرکشی» به تازگی توسط نشر نیماژ به فارسی ترجمه و منتشر شد.

این داستان بلند که جزئی از مجموعه داستان «دوست داشتنی، تاریک، عمیق» اثر این نویسنده است و در سال میلادی گذشته نامزد دریافت جایزه ادبی پولیتزر بوده است توسط حسام جنانی و میترا ظاهری ترجمه شده است.

این داستان روایتی است از زبان لولو دختر رولاند ماکز نویسنده ای که برنده ی جایزه ی نوبل شده است می باشد.



# Iran basketball team defeats New Zealand in friendly

**SPORTS** Iran basketball team defeated New Zealand 75-72 in a friendly match as part of its preparation for the 2016 FIBA World Olympic Qualifying Tournament.

Hamed Haddadi and Sajjad Mashayekhi could not play in this match due to minor injury.

The Iranian team will play host Latvia in its second friendly match.

Dirk Bauermann's team will travel to Turin, Italy after its training camp to participate at the FIBA World Olympic Qualifying Tournament which will be held at the multi-purpose Pala Alpitour indoor sports arena from July 4 to 9.

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

The first-place team in Group A will take on the second-place team from Group B in one semi-final, and the side that comes top of Group B will go up against the second-top team in Group A in the other semi-final.

The winners will then meet in a do-or-die showdown for a spot in the Olympics.



## Luciano signs for Tractor Sazi – official



**SPORTS** Brazilian striker Eder Luciano has officially joined Iranian side Tractor Sazi from Qatar Stars League club Al Sailiya on a one-year contract.

This is the 34-year-old second spell at the club as he spent 2014-15 season with Tractor Sazi. He became Iran Professional League top scorer after scoring 20 goals in 30 matches.

"I'm very happy to be back here in Tabriz. When I heard about Tractor Sazi's offer I didn't need to think for the answer. With this strong squad I believe we can win the IPL title next season," Eder Luciano told reporters.

Edinho has also played in Iranian football club Mes Kerman.

Tractor Sazi finished in fourth place in Iran Professional League last season.

## Chamanian replaced Alidoosti at Iran U-17 football team



**SPORTS** The Iranian football federation has announced the appointment of Abbas Chamanian as the new head coach of country's U-17 team on Tuesday.

Chamanian replaced Hamid Alidoosti who was sacked following the team's poor results.

The 53-year old coach has

previously worked in Payam Mashhad football club and has good knowledge of youth football.

The Iranian team is preparing for the 2016 AFC Championship which will be held in India from September 15 to October 2.

The tournament acts as the AFC qualifiers for the FIFA U-17 World Cup.

## Azadi a difficult stadium to play: Julio Velsaco

**SPORTS** Argentina volleyball coach Julio Velsaco says that to play Iran team in Tehran's Azadi Stadium will be tough.

The Argentinian volleyball team has been scheduled to face Iran on July 3 in Pool 11 - Group 1 of the FVB World League.

"Our players have earned good experience during the FIVB World League. We've beaten Russia and France and we've learned a lot from the strong teams in this edition," Velsaco said.

The Argentine-born Italian volleyball coach worked as Iran

mentor from 2011 to 2014 and played a key role in transforming Iran into strong teams.

Heaping praise on the atmosphere at Azadi, Velsaco said, "There's a different atmosphere here to other stadiums and I know we have a difficult task ahead of us. The Iranian

fans always support their team but we're looking forward to gaining experience," former Iran coach added.

"I am happy to be back to Iran. The Iranian people will stay in my heart forever. I'd like to stay here for a long time," Argentina coach added.

## President, Maradona want Messi to reconsider decision

Lionel Messi arrived back in Argentina on Monday and avoided commenting on his abrupt resignation from the national team after losing the Copa America final to Chile.

Dozens of emotional fans wearing the white and sky-blue striped jerseys of the national team, adorned with Messi's number 10, waited in the rain for the team to arrive back from the tournament in the United States.

Some followed the team bus along the road leading from the airport to the Argentine Football Association complex. They waved flags, chanted "Messi is not leaving!" and carried banners. One of them read: "Messi- I love you more than I love my mom."

Although Messi could not be seen on the bus, AFA spokesman Ernesto Cherquis Bialo confirmed to The Associated Press that he had arrived in Buenos Aires with the rest of the team.



Some fans, players, and even Argentina's president and the country's greatest player Diego Maradona asked Messi to reconsider. Other supporters on Monday were simply sad that one of the all-time greats

is departing the national team prematurely.

Messi shocked Argentina and the whole world with his unexpected resignation after Chile defeated Argentina 4-2 on penalties after a 0-0 draw on Sunday.

"The national team is over for me," Messi told the Argentine network TyC Sports. "It's been four finals, it's not meant for me. I tried. It was the thing I wanted the most, but I couldn't get it, so I think it's over."

Messi lifted Argentina's first penalty kick over the crossbar, setting the stage for another loss in a final. Messi and Argentina lost to Brazil in the 2007 Copa final and to Germany in extra time in the 2014 World Cup final. They lost last year's Copa final to host Chile on penalty kicks after a 0-0 draw.

"I imagine it was a very hard blow," Barcelona teammate Gerard Pique said. "I know how competitive he is. He will recover from this."

(Source: AP)

## Persepolis striker Taremi on Turkey's Rizespor Radar

Turkish football club Caykur Rizespor has shown interest in signing Iranian international and Persepolis striker Mehdi Taremi.

Taremi has not extended his contract with the Iranian giant and the Turkish media suggest that he has reached an initial agreement with Caykur Rizespor.

Taremi finished as top scorer of Iran

Professional League last season with 16 goals.

The Turkish club also wants Bursaspor target Ramin Rezaeian.

The Persepolis and Iran national team winger has not extended his contract so far and it's said he is in Turkey to negotiate with the Caykur Rizespor officials.

(Source: Tasnim)

## Nikkhah Bahrami joins Chinese basketball club Foshan Long-Lions

Iranian international small forward Samad Nikkhah Bahrami has joined Chinese basketball club Foshan Long-Lions.

Foshan Long-Lions is a professional basketball team which plays in the Chinese Basketball Association, and is based in Foshan, Guangdong.

The 33-year-old player has

already played in Chinese clubs Fujian SBS Sturgeons and Zhejiang Golden Bulls.

Nikkhah Bahrami started his career with Iran Nara in 2001 and has also played for Iranian clubs Sanam, Saba Battery, Petrochimi, Mahram and French clubs Cholet and Pau-Orthez.

(Source: Tasnim)



## Iceland 'should have beaten the English by a bigger score' - Ragnar Sigurdsson

Iceland defender Ragnar Sigurdsson says that England underestimated his side and could have lost Monday's round-of-16 game by a bigger score.

Sigurdsson, 30, was named man of the match after an excellent display in the heart of defence during Iceland's stunning 2-1 win over England in Nice on Monday.

And the scorer of Iceland's equaliser believes that England went into the game with the wrong attitude.

"It's important to say it -- the English thought it was going to be an easy match," Sigurdsson said. "But we really have confidence in ourselves."

"I dreamed of taking on England a few years ago. I'm happy that my wish has come true and above all to have beaten them."

France will start as favourites to win Sunday's quarterfinal at the Stade de France, but Sigurdsson has called on Iceland to raise their game once more.

"They're a good team who are quite like England," the Krasnodar central defender said. "France have not played their best football for the moment."

"The quarterfinal could be like tonight's match."

"We'll have to be a bit more dominant and more effective in attack -- we should have beaten the English by a bigger score."

(Source: ESPN)

## Wayne Rooney: Why I will not retire from England despite disappointing Euro 2016 exit

The Three Lions captain put his country ahead from the penalty spot but the lead didn't last long as Iceland were quickly back on level terms.

And an 18th minute effort from Kolbeinn Sigthorsson which somehow found its way through England keeper Joe Hart gave Iceland the most unlikely of victories.

"I feel disappointed, gutted, it's a hard one to take. We had a good chance of going through and after such a good start, conceding two sloppy goals, we're disappointed," Rooney said in after the final whistle.

Rooney also revealed how Roy Hodgson told the players he would be leaving his post as England manager after the humiliating display.

He added: "He told us after the game, he went round all the players and as a group of players we appreciate what he's done, he gave a lot of these players their debut and you can't forget that."

"I said before the tournament I'm proud to play for England, I'm interested and excited to see who the next manager is and if selected I'm available to play."

Iceland will now face France in the quarter-finals on Sunday as they look to cause another upset.

(Source: DailyStar)

## Seven candidates to take over from Roy Hodgson as England boss

England's humiliating 2-1 defeat at the hands of Iceland at Euro 2016 has seen Roy Hodgson step down as manager. Who will the Football Association turn to take over?

Here we look at some leading contenders:

### 1. Gareth Southgate

Highly thought of by the decision-makers at the FA, the former Middlesbrough boss was brought into the fold to coach the under-21s with an eye on future progression. Faltered at last year's Under-21 European Championship but led the team to victory at the Toulon tournament just weeks ago.

### 2. Alan Pardew

Seemed to be a new man after swapping Newcastle for Crystal Palace and some fine early-season results saw him seriously linked with the England job for the first time in his career. But results tailed off badly as the campaign progressed and the window of opportunity may be closing.

### 3. Gary Neville

Seemed a heavy favourite to progress from his role as Hodgson's assistant until his ill-advised stint with Valencia saw his stock plummet. It may yet be decided that that was a case of the wrong job but the right man and although his involvement in the current set-up gives him a link to the squad, the fact he stepped down along with Hodgson may rule him out.

### 4. Eddie Howe

A smart, erudite and tactically savvy coach who, at 38, looks to have a bright future at the top of the game. The FA must surely be monitoring the Bournemouth boss, though they may want to see him move to a bigger club before handing him the reigns of the national side.

### 5. Sam Allardyce

Has always coveted the post and has spoken confidently about the qualities he would bring to it. Keeping Sunderland in the Premier League last term was another impressive achievement for his CV but he may be viewed as a retrograde appointment.

### 6. Arsene Wenger

The prospect of the cultured, technically minded Frenchman with Anglophile tendencies overseeing a Three Lions revolution is a highly attractive option. After 20 years with Arsenal, might he finally be persuaded to seek a new challenge?

### 7. Rafa Benitez

Another foreign candidate but, like Wenger, the Spaniard is well versed in all things English. After stints with Liverpool, Chelsea and now Newcastle he qualifies as suitably 'assimilated' in the way Fabio Capello was not. Was not hurt by Newcastle's relegation, almost doing enough to avert it, and would surely fancy the job.

(Source: irishexaminer)





### Poem of the day

God has allowed some magical reversal to occur,  
so that you see the scorpion pit  
as an object of desire.

Rumi

### Prayer Times

Noon:13:08 Evening: 20:45 Dawn: 4:06 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 5:52 (tomorrow)

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## NEWS IN BRIEF



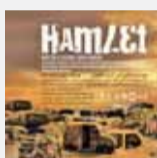
### "The Queen of Attolia" comes to Iranian bookstores

**TEHRAN** — U.S. writer Megan Whalen Turner's "The Queen of Attolia" has recently been published in Persian by Tehran-based Amout Publications.

The young adults' fantasy novel is set in a Byzantine-like imaginary landscape, reminiscent of ancient Greece and other territories around the Mediterranean. The story takes place in the ancient countries of Eddis, Attolia and Sounis.

The book rendered into Persian by Roya Behnam is the second novel of Turner's series, which began with "The Thief" in 1996.

"The King of Attolia" and "A Conspiracy of Kings" are the third and fourth books of the series.



### Iranian director preparing "Hamlet" for Polish festival

**TEHRAN** — Iranian director Arash Dadgar is preparing his troupe Quantum to perform "Hamlet" at the 20th Gdansk Shakespeare Festival, which will be held in the Polish city from July 29 to August 7.

The play is a loose adaptation of William Shakespeare's masterpiece "Hamlet" by Shahram Ahmadzadeh.

Amin Tabatabai, Mehran Emambakhsh, Khosro Shahraz and Shabnam Farshadju are the members of the cast.

The play has previously won the grand prize in the international competition at the 32nd Fajr International Theater Festival in Tehran in 2014.



### Belgian musicians to duet in Tehran

**TEHRAN** — Violin virtuoso Ann Vancoillie and pianist Liselotte Sels, both from Belgium, will perform a duet at Tehran's Arasbaran Cultural Center on July 13.

Violin Sonata No. 21 by Mozart, Violin Sonata No. 5 by Beethoven, Sonata in A Major for Violin and Piano by Cesar Franck and other pieces have been selected for the performance.



### Iranian painters to raise funds for children with autism

**TEHRAN** — A group of top Iranian painters will showcase their latest works at an exhibition in Tehran to raise funds to build a special school for children with autism.

The exhibition titled "Art for Autism" will be held from July 1 to 5 at the Niavaran Cultural Center located on Pasdaran Ave. in the Niavaran neighborhood.

## Italian Actor Bud Spencer dies at age 86

**NAPLES (Reuters)** — Italian actor and filmmaker Bud Spencer died on Monday at age 86, national media reported.

"My father died peacefully at 18:15 and did not suffer from pain, he had all of us next to him and his last words were 'Thank you,'" his son and film producer Giuseppe Pedersoli said in a note to media. Pedersoli could not be immediately reached for additional comment.

A post on his official Facebook page read, "With our deepest regrets, we have to tell you that Bud is flying to his next journey".

Born Carlo Pedersoli in the southern city of Naples, he was known to his public as the "big friendly giant" of the screen due to his height and weight.

He played in action and comedy films in the 1970s and 1980s, mostly working at the side of his friend Terence Hill.

Often cast as a cowboy or policeman, his biggest successes included "They Call Me Trinity", a parody of Spaghetti Western movies, the "Flatfoot" films and "A friend is a Treasure".

He had many fans abroad, especially in South America where he lived at various times in his life, and in Germany.

Speaking to channel SKY TG24, Osvaldo De Santis, president of 20th Century Fox in Italy, said, "He was an actor whom Italian cinema needs to thank because he brought Italian movies around the world."

Before turning to acting, Spencer was a professional swimmer and the first Italian to swim the 100 meters freestyle in less than one minute. He twice participated in Olympic Games.

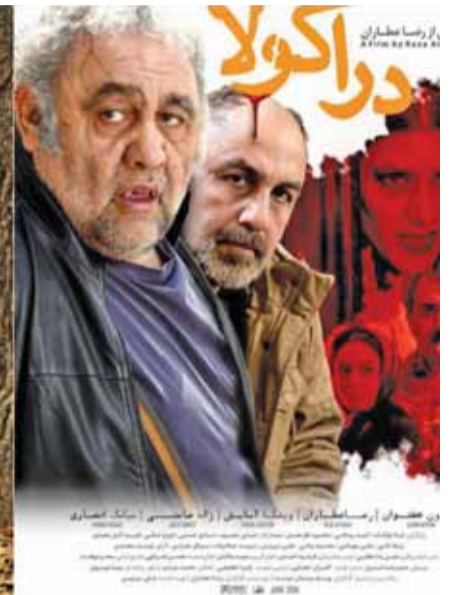
# Iranian theaters renew schedules to improve box office receipts

**TEHRAN** — Iranian theaters are renewing their schedules today with three movies to improve box office receipts that declined due to the off-season during the month of Ramadan.

"The Daughter" by Reza Mirkarimi, "Spare" by Borzu Niknejad and "Dracula" by Reza Attaran area scheduled to begin public premiere at movie theaters across the country today.

Starring Farhad Aslani and Merila Zarei, "The Daughter" is set in the southwestern Iranian city of Abadan, where Mr. Azizi, an engineer for the Abadan Oil Refining Company, is making arrangements for an engagement party for one his daughters while his other daughter, Setareh, plans to leave Abadan to attend her friend's goodbye party in Tehran.

"Spare" tells the story of a local football coach who is opposed to his daughter's plan to marry an injured amateur soccer who is unable to play anymore. Amir Jafari and Rima Raminfar star in the drama.



This combination photo shows posters for "The Daughter" (L), "Spare" (C) and "Dracula".

The comedy drama "Dracula" starring Attaran, Levon Haftvan, Vishka Asayesh and Siamak Ansari is about a vampire who recently arrived in Tehran

from nowhere. He is thirsty for blood however by bad luck he bumps into an addicted person.

Some Tehran theaters hold late-

night screenings during Ramadan every year to lessen the loss of box office receipts in the off-season during the month.

## Abbas Kiarostami leaves Iran to receive treatment at Paris hospital

**TEHRAN** — World-renowned filmmaker Abbas Kiarostami, who is suffering repercussions from several operations for his severe gastrointestinal disease, left Iran on Monday to receive additional treatment at a hospital in Paris.

An air ambulance owned by MK2, the producer of Kiarostami's latest film, transferred him to Paris, the Persian service of ISNA reported on Tuesday.

Earlier last week, he was admitted to Tehran's Arad Hospital and underwent an operation, but he and his family decided that further medical treatment



World-renowned filmmaker Abbas Kiarostami in an undated photo

should be pursued in Paris, the report added, but gave no name for the Parisian hospital.

Kiarostami, 76, was hospitalized in mid-March at Tehran's Jam Hospital and underwent several operations. Although he didn't recover fully, he left the hospital late in April.

The filmmaker is famous as an artist who stayed in Iran after the Islamic Revolution of 1979, while others chose to live abroad.

Kiarostami achieved international recognition for Iranian cinema after his "Taste of Cherry" won the Palme d'Or at Cannes in 1997.

### PICTURE OF THE DAY



Mohammad Hatami (R) and Mona Farjad act in a scene from "The Story of the Sacrifice", a play about the martyrdom of Imam Ali (AS), at Shahrivar 17 Hall in Tehran on June 27, 2016. Hatami is also the director of the play.

## Publisher buys back books to promote reading environment

**TEHRAN** — The Tehran-based Ofoq Publications has announced its plan to buy back its publications from readers to promote reading and the environment.

Readers can receive new books or cash instead, the publisher has announced.

The publisher will buy back the books, if they are clean and in good condition, for one third of the original price, and resell them to other readers for half of the original price.

The idea of buying back books that have been sold with the aim of keeping the environment green was initiated by Ofoq last year under the title "This Time You Sell Us Books" and was warmly welcomed by people.

The book sellers can also receive cash instead of books, the publications says, adding that the previously sold books bearing a green label will be offered on two separate bookshelves at the bookstore.

The program also aims to support book readers in the society. Ofoq Publications is located on Enqelab St., next to Sepideh Theater.

## EU regulators to decide on Sony's Michael Jackson deal by Aug. 1

**BRUSSELS (Reuters)** — EU antitrust authorities will rule by Aug. 1 whether to allow Sony Corp (6758.T) to buy out the Michael Jackson estate's stake in its music publishing joint venture, a move which rivals such as Warner Music Group say gives Sony too much power.

Sony requested approval on June 24, according to a filing on the European Commission website. The EU competition enforcer can clear the deal unconditionally or demand concessions.

It can also open a five-month long investigation if it has serious concerns the deal may harm consumers and

rivals. Sony signed a deal in March to acquire the stake that the deceased pop star held in Sony/ATV Music Publishing, the world's largest music publisher, which owns copyrights to most of the Beatles' songs and songs by the Rolling Stones, Taylor Swift, Pharrell Williams and Kanye West.

Warner Music Group has conveyed its concerns to the Commission, a person familiar with the matter told Reuters, while lobbying group Impala which represents independent labels and national trade associations, has also done the same.

## Drake's "Views" holds on to Billboard top spot for eighth week

**LOS ANGELES (Reuters)** — Streaming activity kept Canadian R&B singer Drake on top of the weekly U.S. Billboard 200 album chart on Monday for an eighth consecutive week, holding off the Red Hot Chili Peppers.

Drake's "Views" sold another 124,000 units in the week ended June 23, comprising album and song sales and more than 105 million streams, according to figures from Nielsen SoundScan.

The Billboard 200 album chart tallies units from album sales, song sales (10 songs equal one album) and streaming activity (1,500

streams equal one album). "The Getaway", the 11th studio album from California rockers Red Hot Chili Peppers, debuted at No. 2 on the chart with 118,000 units sold.

Other new albums in the top ten of the Billboard 200 chart include rapper YG's "Still Brazy" at No. 6 and British folk-pop group Mumford & Sons at No. 9 with "Johannesburg". On the Digital Songs chart, which measures online single sales, Justin Timberlake's summer song "Can't Stop The Feeling!" held steady at No. 1 with another 118,000 copies sold.