

TEHRAN TIMES



Writer Moradi Kermani says his works present Iranians without exaggeration

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Iran seeking \$60b from Total to Mitsui for petrochemicals

Iran is in talks with Mitsui & Co. Ltd. and Total SA as part of its push to attract \$60 billion in foreign investment to more than double the

country's capacity to produce petrochemicals over the next decade. State-run National Petrochemical Co. plans to

increase output capacity to 150 million metric tons a year by 2026, Managing Director Marzieh Shahdaei said in an interview at her office in Tehran.

That means completing 55 unfinished projects and 28 new production facilities, said Shahdaei, who also serves as deputy oil minister. →4

PSA strikes deal with Saipa to build Citroen cars in Iran

1st new model to be introduced in 2018

PSA Group unveiled a second Iranian manufacturing deal on Thursday as the French carmaker seeks to reclaim the leading position it once enjoyed in the Middle East's biggest auto market, until U.S.-led sanctions forced its withdrawal.

The Paris-based carmaker struck a framework deal with Iranian counterpart Saipa to invest 300 million euros (\$330 million) in the development and production of three Citroen models through a new joint venture.

Under the agreement, to be finalized by the end of 2016, Citroen and its Iranian partner will introduce the first of three planned new models for the French brand in 2018.

PSA, which pulled out in 2011 under U.S. pressure, now faces stiffer competition from Chinese rivals that have grabbed more business in the intervening years - as well as western peers such as Renault flocking back with newer models.

"This agreement opens up a new chapter in our history of cooperation with Saipa," PSA Chief Executive Carlos Tavares said. "Our aim is to provide our Iranian customers with modern vehicles that meet the highest comfort, safety and technology standards."

Iranian car registrations approached 1.6 million cars at their 2011 peak, with PSA claiming almost 30 percent of the market, before collapsing under the weight of sanctions.

The deal with Saipa, Citroen's partner since 1966, follows a joint venture deal inked last month between Peugeot and state-owned Iran Khodro.

(Source: Reuters)

Rouhani: Iranian athletes' message in Rio is 'peace, coexistence'



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PERSPECTIVE

By Harun Yahya
political expert

The longest night for the Turks

Turkish nation had their longest night as Turkey experienced a failed coup d'état attempt on July 15, 2016. Turkish citizens flooded down to the streets after President Erdogan addressed the nation as the Commander of Chief via Face Time on CNN Turk and called them to the streets following an illegal coup notice announced by an anchorwoman on TRT (Turkish official state television channel). Thanks to our people acting as one body, this ugly attempt was thwarted; yet, this was a bittersweet happiness considering the terrifying repercussions that came to light the second day.

A failed coup attempt on July 15

The result of the coup is that hundreds of our people have been martyred and many injured. For the first time in our history, the Turkish Parliament was bombed as well as the new presidential complex. In this respect it was an incident we did not experience even during our Independence War or when Allies occupied our country during the Ottoman times. Low-flying military jets were all over the skies of the capital and Istanbul until dawn and blasts followed one another. I feel it is important to note that it was not the TAF that attempted this coup, but a small fraction implanted within the Army. Also for the first time, some soldiers, who belong to this fraction either consciously or not drove tanks through civilian areas. I am deliberately saying "consciously or not" because some of the young privates were called to execute their regular duty on the pretext of a military exercise. However, some of them who were carrying arms that were purchased by the taxes of Turkish citizens, crushed people with those tanks, while some shot many others from helicopters. →9

Erdogan will probably 'reduce tensions' with neighbors: Shireen Hunter

INTERVIEW
By Javad Heirannia

TEHRAN — Shireen Tahmaasb Hunter, a professor of political science at Georgetown University, believes that the coup attempt in Turkey would most likely induce President Recep Tayyip Erdogan to normalize relations with neighbors.

"In all likelihood, he will try to reduce tensions with Turkey's neighbors and extricate Turkey from regional conflicts," Hunter tells the Tehran Times.

Hunter also says after the attempted coup "Erdogan will have to focus on stabilizing Turkey domestically and consolidating his own power position."

Following is the text the interview:

What were the reasons behind the coup attempt in Turkey?

A: It is still not quite clear who were the principal instigators of the coup. The government is accusing the followers of Fethullah Gulen. This is quite possible because relations between Erdogan and Gulen have seriously deteriorated in the last several years and Erdogan has cracked down on various press and news outlets associated with the Gulen move-

ment. The two men are both of a dictatorial tendency and therefore have personality clashes as well. On some issues, such as relations with Israel, too, they differ. Gulen supports good Turkish-Israel relations. However, there is no certainty that Gulen and his movement were behind the coup. The fact is that Erdogan has antagonized too many people in Turkey and abroad through his domestic and foreign policies. What seems clear is that unlike previous coups this was not

plotted by the Kemalists. The reason for this is that the composition of Turkish military has changed in the last thirty years and many Islamists, including supporters of Gulen have joined it. For Turkey's secularists there is not much choice between Gulen and Erdogan, and they view both men negatively.

Some speculate that U.S. was behind the coup attempt in Turkey. What do you think?

A: It is unlikely that the U.S. was behind the coup. The U.S. wants stability in Turkey and although at some junctures it had problems with some of Erdogan's policies, it would not risk plunging Turkey in turmoil. Moreover, Turkey is a NATO member and plays an important role in America's regional strategy. →9

"The reaction of various political parties demonstrated people in Turkey want to continue with the democratic process and no longer favor resolving these problems through military coups."

Iran Khodro returns to Azerbaijan

Iran Khodro, the Iranian top auto manufacturer which once assembled automobile Samand in Shemakha (capital city of Azeri district of Shamakhi), is likely to return to Azerbaijan.

The Ministry of Economy of Azerbaijan in-

formed that in collaboration with Iran Khodro a project on manufacturing of motor vehicles & spare parts has been launched on the territory of the Neftchala Industrial Town.

According to the Ministry, eight modular

units with an area of 7,800 square meters and also 1,200 square meters of administrative and technical buildings have been already constructed in the town since September 2015.

(Source: abc.az)

Hamed Morteza-Alavi tops at Izmir cartoon contest

TEHRAN — Iranian artist Hamed Morteza-Alavi won the first prize at the Izmir Cartoon Competition on the theme of "Let's Remove the Barriers", the organizers announced on Friday during the closing ceremony of the event in the Turkish coastal city.

Saeid Sadeqi, another car-

toonist from Iran, also received an honorable mention, an Iranian member of the jury Seyyed Masud Shojaei-Tabatabai said in a press release on Friday.

Winners are scheduled to be honored during the 2nd Izmir International Accessible Congress, which will be held under the auspices of the Izmir Metropolitan

Municipality from November 2 to 5.

"Local Policies Oriented towards the Participation of Disabled in Social Life" is the theme of the conference that plans to bring together global academics and scholars to explore ways to expand the role of disabled people in urban life.



The competition is open to all artists around the world.

Comedy show brightens day for children with cancer in Tehran

By Marjan Golpira

TEHRAN — On Thursday, the Khodkar-e Asemani, a theatrical group performed a show for children with cancer at the Mahak charity hospital and rehabilitation

center in Tehran.

The Mahak hospital, itself, has an interesting story of how it all came about. But today, it is equipped to accommodate up to 120 children, each accompanied by a family member.



Children at Mahak normally have lunch at noon and an hour later they hit the playground, a dreamland fairy room filled with all sorts of toys, games and adventure, for three hours. →9

ARTICLE

By Seyed Hossein Mousavian
Head of Foreign Relations
Committee of Iran's National
Security Council (2005-1997)

From Iran to Nice, we must confront all terrorism to end terrorism

France has unfortunately been the epicenter for two terrorism-related events in recent weeks. The tragic truck attack in Nice, which received international attention, and a rally recently held in Paris by a notorious Iranian opposition group — the "Mujahedin-e Khalq" or MEK, which for years has committed acts of terrorism against Iran. While it might not be immediately evident, there is a connection between the events — the groups behind them have been accused of atrocities and have historical ties to Saudi Arabia.

Both the MEK and the self-proclaimed Islamic State, which claimed the attack in Nice, are groups with a history of terrorism, and both, in some way or another, are influenced by the kingdom.

MEK's terrorism in Iran

While the group no longer has the distinction of a terrorist group in the United States and is not related to or as widely destructive as ISIS, in Iran the MEK is still very much a perpetrator of terror.

Since its founding in the late 1960s, the MEK's favored tactic has been terrorism, which for years it directed towards Americans. An MEK leader by the name of Massoud Rajavi stated in 1972 that the group's "main goal" was to "free Iran of U.S. imperialism." As I documented in my 2014 book, "Iran and the United States," the MEK's assassination campaigns in the 1970s claimed the lives of several high-profile Americans. →23

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS



Iran arrests 40 terrorists

TEHRAN — Iranian security forces have arrested 40 members of a terrorist group in the eastern parts of the country, the interior minister announced on Thursday. Abdolreza Rahmani-Fazli said the suspects had been arrested over the previous two nights, the IRIB reported.

"The terrorists dug a 40-meter-long tunnel at depth of 20 meters under a house to carry out explosions and terrorist attacks," added the minister.



UN chief overlooks 50 anti-JCPOA bills by Congress: cleric

TEHRAN — A Tehran Friday prayer leader told worshippers that UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon does not see that U.S. lawmakers have passed over 50 anti-JCPOA bills but expresses "concerns" over Iran's missile program in his report to the Security Council.

Ahmad Khatami added, "Our missile story is related neither to the secretary general nor to the JCPOA."

The cleric also said, "No more is expected of a secretary general who is influenced by Zionists and receives dollars from Saudi Arabia."



Iran still ready to send pilgrims to Hajj

TEHRAN — Iran is still ready to dispatch pilgrims to Hajj pilgrimage, Supreme Leader's representative for Hajj and Pilgrimage Affairs has said.

Ali Qazi Asgar made the remarks in an interview with the Islamabad-based Such TV aired on Thursday.

He noted that despite the fact that it is very late but if Riyadh accepts Iran's condition to guarantee safety of citizens, Iran will send the possible number of pilgrims.



Kuwaiti court upholds death sentence for member of alleged Iran spy cell

TEHRAN — A Kuwaiti appeals court on Thursday upheld the death sentence of a man convicted of spying for Iran as part of a cell which Kuwait said was trying to destabilize the Arab state on behalf of Tehran, Reuters reported.

Iran has denied any links to the alleged cell. The Iranian citizen was charged in absentia in January. The ruling angered some Kuwaiti Shiites, with Shiite lawmakers boycotting a parliament session in protest.

Citing his "fugitive" status, the court gave no ruling on the Iranian defendant on Thursday. Iran has said Kuwaiti authorities have not contacted it regarding the Iranian suspect.



Terrorist team busted on Iran-Turkey border

TEHRAN — Four members of a terrorist group attempting entry into Iran at border with Turkey were busted on Thursday morning by IRGC forces, IRNA reported.

The four terrorists were intercepted in a region 25 kilometers from the city of Salmas, said Alireza Madani, commander of the border city.

"Two of the terrorists managed to flee into Turkey, one of them was arrested and another one killed during the IRGC operation," Madani said.

"They wanted to launch terrorist activities in Iran, but their plans were aborted."



Experts Assembly elects presiding board members

TEHRAN — Presiding boards of the committees of the Assembly of Experts were elected by committee members for a two-year term.

By casting secret votes on Thursday, members of various committees elected the chairmen and other members of the presiding boards, Tasnim reported.

Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati, chief of the assembly, was also elected as the chairman of the Inquiry Committee.

The assembly has six committees in total.

MPs: West must prove commitment to JCOPA in six months

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — An Iranian MP has warned that Tehran would take a different tack within six months from if the West continues to act irresponsibly toward the JCPOA, the official name for the nuclear deal between Iran and great powers.

Days after UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon's report on the implementation of the JCPOA, Tehran has voiced doubt if the deal was what they would have expected at all.

"If the other side continues to violate the nuclear deal in the next six months, then Iran will take necessary decisions to change tack," said Hajar Chenarani, a member of the National Security and Foreign Policy Committee of the Iranian Parliament, on Wednesday.

The post-nuclear deal remarks by Iranian officials have been particularly economic in nature, where they lament sanctions have been lifted mostly on paper and Washington is standing in the way appropriately honoring the deal.

Just before the warning bell, the Iranian parliament speaker had threatened to reactivate uranium enrichment facilities, either shuttered or operating with low speed under IAEA control following the JCPOA, reacting to the recent UN report.

The number of MPs sharing a reprisal attitude with Chenari is increasing, where the dyed-in-the-wool opponents inside Iran are incrementally pressing the Rouhani administration to follow the rule of law.

Weeks before the July 2105 deal, the Iranian parliament had ratified a legislation which provides for reversing the deal if the other side fails to fulfill the requirements of the accord.

"Now that the other side has not fulfilled its commitments, we should also retaliate and make guarantees that force them to be committed to the deal," said Mojtaba Zolnouri, another MP sitting on the security committee.

The other side has been acting on the basis of double standards, Zolnouri stressed, highlighting that the West is simply paying lip service to the pact.

"On the one hand they herald cooperation with Iran and on the other hand, scare investors away," the parliamentar-

ian said.

A commensurate response, according to the MP, is to reactivate the country's uranium enrichment facilities.

"The Atomic Energy (Organization of Iran) should put on agenda recommencing enriching uranium to whatever levels required to meet the country's needs."

In a similar vein, Heshmatollah Falahatpisheh, Zolnouri's colleague on the security panel, believes that speeding up uranium enrichment activities can alleviate Iran's concerns over its future fuel needs.

"Enriching uranium at up to 60 percent can be of great help to fuel our big submarines and ships in the future," he pointed out.

Definitely, nuclear powers, including the U.S., won't hand highly enriched uranium to Iran on a plate in the future, and therefore, the parliament is ready to ratify any relevant legislation in this regard, the MP underscored.

"Majlis is ready to appropriate budget to any enrichment facility for which the atomic organization has a plan."

Javad Karimi Qodousi, also a member of the parliamentary security body, sees the prospect of the JCPOA "blurred and bleak" and says there is unanimity of opinion among all parliament members to resume uranium enrichment now that the other side has fallen short of observing the rule of the game.

Pointing to the constant breaching of the deal by some 5+1 countries, Qodousi seems to be more than anybody else

MP Mojtaba Zolnouri says, "Now that the other side has not fulfilled its commitments, we also should retaliate and make guarantees that force them into being committed to the deal."

downbeat about the future of the deal.

After the signing of the JCPOA, international partners, particularly banks, have shown reluctance to enter the Iranian market, fearing facing fines by Washington over deals with Iran.

"The important point is that the implementation of the JCPOA has reached a deadlock because on the one hand Iran has fulfilled all the commitments and on the other, the other has almost done nothing," Qodousi explained.

He further said, "The prospect of the JCPOA is blurred and dark and we can change the scene only if our side sees a strong will in us to get back to the starting point."

The pessimism has spread to the presiding board of the Iranian parliament, as well, where it really makes a difference.

In addition to Majlis Speaker Ali Larijani's warning, Ahmad Amirabadi Farahani, a member of the parliament presiding board, thinks Iran can stop provisional application of the Additional Protocol.

Also, Tehran can start pressing ahead with storing stockpiles of uranium and heavy water inside the country, Farahani suggested.

Under the JCPOA "there will be no additional heavy water reactors or accumulation of heavy water in Iran for 15 years. All excess heavy water will be made available for export to the international market."

Farahani added, "The least we can do is to put aside all these limitations and accordingly, the government should take necessary steps."

While Iran has been insisting that it will not be the first one to step back and violate the JCPOA, the remarks made by the parliament members indicate the country's patience is wearing thin.

From one perspective, they are right as economic grievances of Tehran are as strong today as they were before the deal.

And this is a potential threat to the future of the pact particularly when new presidents take office next year both in Tehran and Washington.



Mojtaba Zolnouri



Ahmad Amirabadi Farahani



Heshmatollah Falahatpisheh



Javad Karimi Qodousi



Hajar Chenarani

Malaysia interested in boosting ties with Iran: Velayati

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Ali Akbar Velayati, a senior foreign policy advisor to the Leader, has said that the senior Malaysian officials are interested in expanding ties with Iran.

"There have been ups and downs in bilateral relations with Malaysia during recent years; however, given the Islamic Republic of Iran's determination, the two countries seek expansion of ties," Velayati told IRNA in an interview published on Friday.

Velayati who currently is president of the Center for Strategic Research of the Expediency Council, said that Malaysia can be a trusty partner to Iran.

He also said, "Malaysia has always had, and will have, an important role in ASEAN [the Association of Southeast Asian Nations] especially in political area."

"A country that seeks to have relations with ASEAN should pay attention to strategic role of Malaysia. Iran



also plays a strategic role in West Asia and Iran can be gateway to West Asia, and Malaysia can be Southeast Asia's gateway in bilateral relations," the veteran politician noted.

He said that Iran can serve as a transit route from South and Southeast Asia to Central Asia and Russia.

Elsewhere, Velayati said that Iran is the Middle East's

center of security.

Stability in Iran is important to Malaysia as well as other countries in the region, he added.

Velayati met with Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak and Foreign Minister Anifah Aman during his trip to Kuala Lumpur.

Prior to his trip to Malaysia, he paid a two-day visit to Singapore, attending a conference named "Growth Through Interaction: The South Asian Opportunity".

The Iranian official met with Singaporean Deputy Prime Minister Tharman Shanmugaratnam on Tuesday during which he said that the situation is ripe for Iran and Singapore to expand relations.

On Wednesday, Velayati held a meeting with researchers at the Malaysian Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS) in Kuala Lumpur.

'Enemies seek to create sectarian conflict in the region'

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Iranian Majlis Speaker Ali Larijani said on Friday that "enemies" are seeking to create "sectarian crises" in the Middle East, describing the security situation in the region as a "boiling pot".

"In the current situation, some countries that have animosity with the Islamic Republic seek to create sectarian crises in the region, but they will not achieve their evil objectives," Larijani said during a meeting with a number of disabled war

veterans in Qom.

The scholar-turned politician went on to say that there will be no regional security without Iran.

Larijani also highlighted the necessity of reviving "revolutionary spirit" in the

country.

He also said it is necessary to pay due attention to economic and cultural issues, saying the implementation of resistance economy is a very important factor in developing national economy.

From Iran to Nice, we must confront all terrorism to end terrorism

Among the victims were one colonel and one lieutenant colonel of the U.S. Air Force, along with other servicemen.

The MEK's hands are tainted not only with American blood, but also with the blood of countless Iranians, Iraqis and Kurds. Since Iran's 1979 revolution, the MEK has been responsible for the deaths of upwards of 17,000 Iranians, including senior officials and ministers. During the Iran-Iraq War, the MEK also sided with Saddam Hussein, earning the enmity of the vast majority of Iranians. An Iranian NGO, the Habilian Association, has gone so far as to document all the Iranian victims of the MEK in a comprehensive database that includes photos and biographies of each of the victims.

In the '80s and '90s, the MEK was responsible for several terrorist campaigns within Iran, one of which killed some 70 Iranian officials in 1981, including both the president and prime minister at the time.

After the Iran-Iraq War, the MEK resided in Iraq and took on the role of Saddam's henchmen. An October

1994 Wall Street Journal report quoted a Clinton administration official as saying, "Saddam looked on the Mujahedeen as more loyal than some of his own army units." After the 1991 Persian Gulf War, Massoud Rajavi lambasted the U.N. coalition that pushed Saddam out of Kuwait, stating, "Iranian national movements and their masses strongly denounce the Iranian regime's alliance with U.S. imperialism, world Zionism, and regional reactionaries to launch aggression against Iraq."

In recent years, Iranian nuclear scientists have been assassinated — in some cases murdered while driving to work. MEK is thought by many to be involved in these attacks, perhaps with the assistance of Israel. According to a 2012 NBC News report, Israel was "training MEK members" to carry out the killings. The group has also been held responsible for an April 2000 assassination attempt on the leader of the Iranian policy making center for the war in Iraq.

The Saudi connection

This year, the annual gathering of the MEK in Paris featured Prince Turki al-Faisal, the former director of Saudi intelligence, as a speaker. The conference typically draws the attendance of

politicians of many nations, including the U.S., Egypt, and this year, Saudi Arabia. In his remarks, al-Faisal praised the pseudo-Islamist-Marxist group and emphatically supported its objective of toppling the Iranian government. Al-Faisal's comments, which come at a time when Saudi-Iranian relations are at an all-time low and have even been compared to a "Cold War" state, will have serious consequences for the Tehran-Riyadh relationship going forward.

During my trip to Iran a few weeks ago, I spoke with a senior official about the necessity of improving Iran-Saudi relations. He told me that Iran was willing to engage the Saudis but that Riyadh had devoted itself to a confrontational approach. This official informed me that Iran had detailed intelligence about Riyadh's financial support to the MEK, which he said had increased 800 percent in the past two years. He also noted that Saudi Arabia would cover the cost of this year's MEK conference in Paris and that Prince Turki would be present to publicly declare Saudi Arabia's support.

With Prince Turki's speech to the MEK, Saudi Arabia has elected to destroy any chance of de-escalating tensions between the two nations.

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IRNA

TASNIM

Turkish lawmakers give Erdogan sweeping new powers

EU Slams Turkey for unacceptable purges

Turkey will be able to extend detention times for suspects and issue decrees without parliamentary approval under a three-month state of emergency approved on Thursday by lawmakers following last week's attempted military coup.

Parliament voted 346-115 to approve the national state of emergency, which gives sweeping new powers to Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who had been accused of autocratic conduct even before this week's crackdown on alleged opponents. Erdogan has said the state of emergency will counter threats to Turkish democracy.

Even without the emergency measures, his government has already imposed a crackdown that has included mass arrests, mass firings and the closure of hundreds of schools. Erdogan said the new powers would allow the government to rid the military of the "virus" of subversion, blaming the coup attempt on a United States-based Muslim cleric, Fethullah Gulen. The cleric has denied any knowledge of the attempted coup.

"This is a state of emergency imposed not on the people, but on (the state) itself," declared Prime Minister Binali Yildirim. "We will, one by one, cleanse the state of (Gulen's followers) and eliminate those who are trying to harm the country."

The government hopes the state of emergency will be lifted within 40 to 45 days, said Yildirim's deputy, Numan Kurtulmus.

Turkey immediately said it was partially suspending the European Convention on Human Rights, allowing it more leeway to deal with individual cases, by invoking an article most recently used by France and Ukraine. The Council of Europe said it had been informed of Turkey's decision, and that the convention will still apply, but that individual exceptions will be assessed on a case-by-case basis.

Meanwhile, video emerged of soldiers firing at crowds who rushed to defend the government during the failed coup.

Footage from CCTV cameras above the Bosphorus Bridge in Istanbul showed soldiers shooting at a man who had his hands up as he approached tanks that were blocking traffic. Other footage, obtained from the Turkish Dogan news agency, showed a mob attacking surrendering soldiers on the bridge after day-break.

Since the July 15 coup attempt, the government has arrested nearly 10,000 people. More than 58,880 civil service employees — including teachers, university deans and police — have been dismissed, suspended, forced to resign or had their licenses revoked for allegedly being Gulen followers.

Turkish state media said that another 32 judges and two military officers had been detained by authorities.

The main opposition Republican People's Party, or CHP (Cumhuriyet Halk Partisi), slammed the state of emergency move.

Speaking ahead of the vote, CHP lawmaker Ozgur Ozel said the decision would amount to a "civilian coup" against



Parliament and was a display of "ingratitude" to all the legislators who had gathered in the assembly Saturday to oppose the coup attempt.

Turkish Deputy Prime Minister Mehmet Simsek defended the move, saying he hoped the state of emergency would be short-lived. He said it would be used to go after "rogue" elements within the state and that there would have been "carnage in the streets" had the military coup succeeded.

Simsek said that "standards of the European Court of Human Rights will be upheld," but didn't elaborate.

"There will be no curfews. There will be no restriction of movement other than for the suspects," Simsek said.

Amnesty International said it recognized that the government had to take measures to prevent another coup attempt, but warned that under the state of emergency, dismissed civil servants would not be able to challenge the decrees in administrative courts and detention periods would be extended.

"Our concern is that government is going well beyond what might be considered a legitimate response to the coup attempt," said Andrew Gardner of the group's Istanbul office.

"People are being pursued without any evidence that they participated in this coup," he said, adding that the government is "targeting people for their political affiliations. It's not upholding the rule of law."

Under the Turkish constitution, the emergency measures allow the government to "partially or entirely" suspend "the exercise of fundamental rights and freedoms," so long as that doesn't violate international law obligations.

A state of emergency has never been declared nationwide although it was declared in Turkey's restive, Kurdish-dominated southeast between 1987 and 2002. There, governors imposed curfews, called in military forces to suppress demonstrations and issued search warrants.

Martial law was imposed across the country for three years following a successful military coup in 1980.

In other developments, a soldier allegedly linked to the attack on a hotel

where Erdogan had been vacationing during the foiled coup was arrested in southwestern Turkey, the state agency Anadolu reported.

Erdogan: Gulen separatist terror group

Meantime, Turkish President Erdogan says the movement affiliated to Gulen would be treated as "another separatist terrorist organization" in the wake of last Friday's failed coup attempt against his government.

"We will continue the fight... wherever they might be. These people have infiltrated the state organizations in this country and they rebelled against the state," Erdogan said in an exclusive interview with Reuters in the capital Ankara on Thursday, describing the botched putsch as "inhuman" and "immoral."

He drew a parallel between the Gulen movement and the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK/Partiya Karkerên Kurdistanê), calling the former a malignant cancer that could develop if not eliminated.

U.S. could extradite Gulen quickly

The United States does not need to take years to extradite a U.S.-based businessman accused by Turkey of masterminding a failed coup, Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu has said.

Washington has said Ankara must first provide clear evidence of Gulen's involvement and lawyers have said any extradition process could take years, AL Jazeera reported.

"If you want to draw out the Gulen extradition issue it can take years, but if you are decisive it can be completed in a short period," Cavusoglu told state broadcaster TRT Haber on Friday.

Cavusoglu also urged Athens to extradite soldiers who fled to Greece after the coup attempt failed. A Greek court handed down a two-month suspended sentence to the eight Turkish personnel.

Turkey rebuffs EU on death penalty

Meantime, Turkey rebuffed the European Union Friday over the death penalty, while President Erdogan vowed to restructure the military and give it "fresh blood," signaling the scope of a shake-up yet to come under a state of emergency.

There is growing worry in the West

about Turkey's widening crackdown against thousands of members of the security forces, judiciary, civil service and academia after last week's failed military coup.

The possibility of Turkey bringing back capital punishment for the plotters of the attempted coup that killed more than 246 people and wounded more than 2,100 has put further strain on Ankara's relationship with the EU, which it seeks to join.

The European Union urged Turkey "to respect under any circumstances the rule of law, human rights and fundamental freedoms," Foreign Affairs Chief Federica Mogherini and enlargement commissioner Johannes Hahn said in a joint statement.

They slammed as "unacceptable" the sacking or suspension of tens of thousands of people in the education system, judiciary and the media and said they were monitoring the state of emergency "with concern."

Turkey's Western allies have been watching with alarm the turmoil in the key NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) member state, which has also been reeling from a wave of bomb attacks by Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Daesh) terrorist group and Kurdish rebels.

Risk of second coup attempt over

Meanwhile, Turkish Prime Minister Binali Yildirim said on Friday that the risk of another coup had not disappeared but said the government and other institutions were in control of the situation.

One week after a faction of the Turkish military staged a brief but abortive coup in which an estimated 246 people were killed, Yildirim also urged Turks to stay calm and said life had returned to normal, adding there was no room for complacency.

"The danger has not ended but our citizens should not be anxious," Yildirim told reporters, adding that Turkey's institutions were guided by the rule of law, not by any desire for revenge, in dealing with the aftermath of the failed coup.

(Source: agencies)

Hollande: Israeli settlements a 'threat'

French President Francois Hollande has warned of the "fragility" of the situation in the Middle East, citing "continued settlement-building" by Israel as a threat.

In a meeting with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in Paris on Thursday, Hollande touched on a recent Quartet report which said "Israel should cease the policy of settlement construction and expansion."

"While the latest report from the Quartet shows the two-state solution is under threat by continued settlement-building, there is an urgent need to recreate a political perspective," Hollande said in a rare criticism of Israel.

Paris is already at odds with France's plans to revive stalled negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians. Hollande reiterated "commitment" to the scheme in his meeting with Abbas on Thursday evening.

But Israel's Foreign Ministry Chief Dore Gold poured cold water on the plan, saying Tel Aviv will likely boycott an international conference on the Middle East conflict in Paris if it goes ahead later this year.

"We weren't invited for the first round... I doubt we'll be there for the second one because we have been very clear about our problems with this whole French scheme," Gold said.

Israel has conditioned its participation in the planned conference to direct negotiations with the Palestinians who have rejected them.

Speaking to The Times of Israel on Friday, Gold doubled down on Israel's criticism, saying "the French initiative unfortunately is an alternative to direct negotiations."

Palestinians say there is no point in direct talks with the Israelis before Tel Aviv ceases its settlement expansion in the occupied territories.

The United States, European Union, Russia and the United Nations, which comprise the Quartet, condemned settlements in their report earlier this month, urging Tel Aviv to stop its policy of "designating land for exclusive Israeli use, and denying Palestinian development." (Source: Press TV)

From Iran to Nice, we must confront all terrorism to end terrorism

In pursuing this approach, Saudi leaders should be cognizant that not only are they imperiling regional and global security, but they are also following in the footsteps of Saddam Hussein. Saudi Arabia has already separated itself from its traditional regional allies with its hyper-anti-Iranian posture, so much so that only Bahrain — which is effectively under Saudi occupation — is standing fully with it. Global powers, on the other hand, are pursuing ways to enhance ties with Iran. It is truly a shame that Prince Turki al-Faisal, a man of significant ability and experience, has committed himself to this doomed cause rather than searching for peace and friendship between Iran and Saudi Arabia.

Riyadh's now open alliance with the MEK only solidifies its position as the sponsor of yet another extremist group that espouses perverted views of Islam. The barbaric Nice terrorist attack — later claimed by the self-proclaimed Islamic State — and Prince Faisal's endorsement of the MEK have a common denominator: a connection to Saudi Arabia.

Saudi Arabia and ISIS

It has long been evident to the global community that Saudi Arabia is a benefactor of Islamist militant groups, including likely the group that evolved into ISIS. Many U.S. officials have publicly acknowledged this reality. Even former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton stated at the Brookings Institution last year that, "Much of the extremism in the world today is the direct result of policies and funding undertaken by the Saudi government and individuals." A recent British parliament report also stated that it is "very likely" that individuals close to the royals of the Arab monarchies of the Persian Gulf have donated money to ISIS, though it is unclear how directly those funds have been given. Historically, too, the ideology of the group has ties to Saudi Arabia's own identity via Wahhabism.

While ISIS wreaks havoc on the world with its global acts of terror, the MEK ravages Iran. In much the same way ISIS is a twisted offspring of the Sunni world that has ravaged, among others, Sunni-populated areas, the MEK is its counterpart for Iranians in the Shia world. Iranians thus expect the world community to confront the MEK just as it confronts ISIS. At the very least, the group should not be hosted by countries like France and endorsed by Saudi Arabia. In the fight against terrorism, European and Saudi leaders should know better than to distinguish between "good" and "bad" terrorism, or tolerate any form of terrorism in the service of cheap geopolitical gains.

In light of the Nice terrorist attack, the international community should also view the threat from other groups such as the MEK as an interconnected phenomenon. The scourge of terrorism currently threatening the whole world can only be alleviated if it is addressed in a holistic way. The Nice truck slaughter — indeed the slaughtering by ISIS in general — and the MEK's killing of thousands of Iranians are both worthy of our attention and condemnation. The territory the perpetrators of such violence use to plan and launch attacks, as well as the flow of cash, equipment and ideology they draw their support and influence from should all be considered as pieces of the same terrorism "puzzle." The global terrorist threat simply cannot be solved until all these pieces are recognized as being a part of the same puzzle and dealt with in an effective and simultaneous manner. This means not only increasing security to prevent attacks, but also seriously confronting those who aid terrorism in any way — from the MEK to ISIS.

(Source: Huffington Post)

U.S. police shoot unarmed black man 'with his hands up'

A black therapist in the U.S. state of Florida trying to calm a man with autism in the middle of the street says he was shot by police, even though he had his hands in the air and repeatedly told them that both were unarmed.

The moments before the shooting on Monday were recorded on cellphone video, showing Charles Kinsey lying on the ground with his arms raised, talking to his patient and police throughout the standoff with officers, who appeared to have them surrounded.

"As long as I've got my hands up, they're not going to shoot me. This is what I'm thinking. They're not going to shoot me," he told WSVN-TV later from his hospital bed, where he was recovering from a gunshot wound to his leg.

"Wow, was I wrong."

The shooting comes at a time of growing tensions and increased protests against the disproportionate number of African Americans killed by the police.

North Miami Police Chief Gary Eugene said on Thursday he had asked Florida state officials to lead the investigation into the shooting.

Eugene said officers responded to a 911 emergency call about an armed man threatening suicide, but the chief told reporters no gun was recovered at the scene.

Kinsey said he was trying to calm his 23-year-old patient who had run away from the group home where he works.

"All he has is a toy truck in his hand," Kinsey can be



heard saying in the video, speaking of his patient, who was holding a toy. "That's all it is. There is no need for guns."

Al Jazeera's Andy Gallacher, reporting from North Miami, said: "The video at that point goes black, but we are told that a police officer fired three rounds towards Kinsey, one of them striking him in his leg."

Gallacher said the incident came "at a very sensitive time" in the United States.

"We had recently two officer-involved shootings of African American men, and eight officers targeted by other gunmen who allegedly were going after them in response to those shootings."

Black Lives Matter protests

Baton Rouge, in the U.S. state of Louisiana, recently became the scene of large protests against police bru-

ality after officers shot dead 37-year-old Alton Sterling on July 5 outside a supermarket, claiming he had a gun. The father of five had been selling CDs.

Footage of the moment Sterling was killed was also captured on a mobile phone and circulated online, sparking outrage and then protests.

Sterling's killing was followed the next day with another police shooting. An officer killed a 32-year-old black man, Philando Castile, at a traffic stop in the midwestern U.S. state of Minnesota. The aftermath of the shooting was also captured on video and streamed live by Castile's girlfriend on Facebook.

The deaths sparked outrage and protests in many cities across the U.S.

Just days later, five white police officers were shot dead at one such protest in Dallas, Texas.

Police identified Micah Xavier Johnson, 25, as the suspect and said he had set out to kill white people. Police shot and killed Johnson after the incident.

The Black Lives Matter movement — which campaigns against police killings of African Americans — disavowed the killing of the officers and said in a statement it stands for "dignity, justice and respect."

The Guardian has documented at least 598 people killed by police across the U.S. so far this year. From that total, 148 — nearly 25 percent — were Black, although African Americans constitute only around 13 percent of the country's total population.

(Source: Al Jazeera)

NEWS

Iranian fin min elaborates 'resistance economy' in UNCTAD

ECONOMY TEHRAN — Addressing the closing ceremony of the 14th session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD 14) in Kenya on Thursday, Iran's Finance Minister Ali Tayyebnia introduced the economic policies applied by Iranian state, known as resistance economy, as a new economic model for the world to adopt, IRNA reported.

Underlying the essential impact of economic cooperation among countries on their economic growth and international stability, Tayyebnia said that guidelines suggested by resistance economy can improve the Islamic Republic's economic cooperation with the world and in particular with its neighboring countries.

Iran's economy, relying on policies of resistance economy as well as domestic resources and capabilities, has a positive interaction with other countries' economy across the globe, he added.

He elsewhere noted that "the Iranian administration is determined to continue its support for attraction of foreign and domestic investments for economic projects in the country."

The Iranian minister also discussed resistance economy in his meeting with UNCTAD's Secretary General Mukhisa Kituyi and Kenyan Finance and National Treasury Minister Henry Rotich.

Resistance economy embraces a set of policies outlined by the Supreme Leader, calling on the government to secure the utilization of the country's resources, struggle to promote a knowledge-based economy, take efforts to increase energy consumption efficiency, and finally, boost domestic production.

The Iranian minister, heading a specialized delegation, left Tehran for Nairobi on July 17 to attend UNCTAD session.

Established in 1964, as a permanent intergovernmental body, UNCTAD is the principal organ of the UN General Assembly dealing with trade, investment, and development issues. The organization's goals are to maximize the trade, investment and development opportunities of developing countries and assist them in their efforts to integrate into the world economy on an equitable basis.

Caspian hub project crucial for Russia's trade with India and Iran

The Russian Ministry of North Caucasus Affairs held a session on Wednesday to discuss potential capacity of a Caspian transportation and logistics hub, TASS news agency reported on the 21st of July.

Following the discussion, specific recommendations will be prepared on the ways of its most efficient implementation.

According to Minister Lev Kuzhetsov, the International North-South Transport Corridor will promote trade relations. He also reminded about an Iranian-Russian agreement on a 'green corridor'.

He stressed the necessity to use potentials of the Makhachkala port located in the Republic of Dagestan, which is the only non-freezing port of the Caspian Sea. The session participants agreed that the growth of freight flow both from India and Iran increases the importance of the hub.

(Source: Russianconstruction.com)

Stocks retreat with commodities as Japan stimulus optimism fades

Global stocks extended Thursday's retreat from an eight-month high and commodities declined amid signs central bankers in Japan are becoming wary of expanding record stimulus. Malaysia's ringgit dropped to this month's low, while the yuan strengthened.



Benchmark share gauges pared weekly gains in Asia and Europe after U.S. shares slid from a record amid a mixed batch of U.S. corporate earnings. Japanese stocks dropped after central bank Governor Haruhiko Kuroda's opposition to so-called helicopter money became clear. The ringgit slipped for a fifth day as corruption probes into a Malaysian state investment fund remained in the spotlight and oil extended declines below \$45 a barrel. China issued 30-year bonds at the lowest cost since at least 2008.

Equity markets had been on a roll, gaining more than \$4.5 trillion in three weeks amid speculation central banks in Asia and Europe will add stimulus to stoke inflation and growth. The gains drove global stock valuations to a one-year high, leaving the securities vulnerable to disappointments on the policy and earnings fronts. A growing number of officials at the Bank of Japan are said to be concerned about the use of massive monetary easing and traders are pricing in a growing likelihood of a U.S. interest-rate increase this year.

"The concern about global central banks withdrawing from providing further stimulus definitely affects markets across the board," said Ang Kok Heng, chief investment officer at Phillip Capital Management Bhd. in Kuala Lumpur. "That's why we see some investors selling down their assets."

(Source: Bloomberg)

Iran rises to 12th place among world's top steelmakers: WSA

ECONOMY TEHRAN — Iran produced 8.806 million tons of crude steel in the first half of 2016, up 5.2 percent compared to the same period in previous year, the World Steel Association (WSA) reported.

According to the WSA's latest report, registering the mentioned growth the country stood at the 12th place among top world's steel producers leaving Mexico behind.

The country produced 8.372 million tons of crude steel in the first half of 2015. This is the second time that WSA upgrades Iran's place in its ranking lists released in the current year.

It is worth mentioning that while Iran's crude steel production grew during the said period, the world's steel production declined 1.9 percent to 794



million tons compared to the same period last year.

In WSA ranking, China seized the first place with 399 million tons of steel produced in the first half of 2016 and marked itself as the world's biggest steel producer. Japan stood at the second place with 52 million tons and India with 40 million tons of steel production holds the third place.

As a major steel producer in the region, Iran boosted its steel mills across the country in recent years, as central Isfahan and southwestern Khuzestan provinces remain the major steel producers.

According to WSA, Iran was the biggest producer of crude steel in the Middle East in 2013. The country's rank was 14th in the world in 2014.

Pakistan-Iran trade meeting concludes

The fourth meeting of Joint Border Trade Committee of Pakistan and Iran concluded on Wednesday which reached consensus that the volume of Pakistan-Iran trade would be increased from \$1 billion to \$5 billion.

Later, addressing a joint press conference, Nader Mir-Shekar, the head of Iranian delegation, Saeed Jadoon,

the customs collector of Quetta (capital city of Pakistani province of Balochistan), and other officials said that it was decided in the meeting the trade size between the two countries would be increased by further strengthening trade relations.

They said that air and rail services between Quetta and Zahedan (capital city of Iranian province of Sistan-Baluchestan) would also be started to facilitate transportation between the two countries and to promote trade activities.

"The issue of issuance of visa for Pakistani and Iranian persons will also be resolved amicably," they said. They said that a 10-member com-

mittee comprising of traders from both Pakistan and Iran had been formed which would look into the problems and hurdles pertaining to import and export between Pakistan and Iran.

Later, the Pakistani and Iranian officials inked MOUs pertaining to trade activities. (Source: Associated Press of Pakistan)

Iran seeking \$60b from Total to Mitsui for petrochemicals

If it succeeds, Iran would be producing more than twice the current output of Saudi Basic Industries Corp., known as Sabic, the world's second-biggest petrochemical maker by sales.

Iran is seeking to upgrade and expand its energy industry, including petrochemicals, in a drive to rebuild its economy after the easing of international sanctions in January. The Persian Gulf nation has boosted crude output since then to near pre-sanctions levels and ramped up production of natural gas, a raw material for petrochemicals.

Dollar transactions

"A number of these projects have had problems that go back to sanctions and financing," Shahdaei said Wednesday. Although most of the restrictions on Iran were lifted under last year's nuclear accord, some U.S. sanctions remain in place, prohibiting transactions in dollars and keeping large international banks at bay.



The government presented about 60 projects to potential investors in December at an event in Tehran with companies including BASF SE, the world's largest chemical company by sales.

Iran's current production capacity is 60 million tons a year, up about a third since the end of the last Iranian

year on March 20, when it stood at 46 million tons, Shahdaei said. Sabic, by comparison, produced 69.7 million tons annually as of the end of 2014, according to the Saudi company's website.

Iran generated \$14 billion from petrochemicals produced in the last Iranian year, including \$9.4 billion from exports, mostly to China and Europe, Shahdaei said.

A \$10 billion credit line from Japan to Iran, announced last month, could facilitate the petrochemicals business, she said. In addition to Mitsui and Total SA, NPC is in talks with several German, Italian and Spanish companies, Shahdaei said, declining to identify them because they haven't signed memorandums of understanding with Iran.

"Companies that ignored us for years are now getting up and coming here," she said. "It's similar to starting a race. They are positioning themselves in the starting blocks so that as soon as the barriers are removed, they can get working."

(Source: Bloomberg)

Brexit wrecks havoc on UK economy as recession risk increases

The U.K.'s decision to leave the European Union inflicted an immediate blow on the economy as business activity shrank at its fastest pace since the last recession seven years ago.

In the weeks following Brexit, there was a "dramatic deterioration," Markit Economics said in a one-time report published Friday. Services and manufacturing shrank and a gauge of the private-sector economy plunged to 47.7, well below the 50 level that divides expansion from contraction.

The slump is the strongest evidence yet that politics is propelling the world's fifth largest economy into recession. It intensifies pressure on the Bank of England to

deliver fresh monetary stimulus and on the government to reverse fiscal austerity. The pound dropped after the report was published, with Markit saying its latest readings put the economy on course to contract by 0.4 percent this quarter.

"July's PMI certainly points to more easing," said Samuel Tombs, an economist at Pantheon Macroeconomics in London. "We've seen a variety of business measures fall to levels not seen since the financial crisis. Although consumer confidence might hold up for the next few months, businesses are putting the brakes on investment and that's hitting the economy."

A gauge of services, the biggest part

of the economy, dropped to 47.4. The slide in the composite Purchasing Managers' Index was sharper than economists had predicted. It's now at the lowest since April 2009, when the global financial crisis had helped push the U.K. into five straight quarters of contraction, and then Prime Minister Gordon Brown said an "international hurricane" was battering the world economy.

"The downturn, whether manifesting itself in order-book cancellations, a lack of new orders or the postponement or halting of projects, was most commonly attributed in one way or another to Brexit," said Chris Williamson, chief economist at Markit.

The pound reversed earlier gains, dropping 0.8 percent to \$1.3133 at 10:46 a.m. London time. Markit collected the data between July 12 and July 21. It released the survey -- based on about 70 percent of usual replies -- to provide clarity on the impact of the referendum.

For BOE Governor Mark Carney and fellow officials debating whether the economy needs more stimulus, a key question will be whether the signs of weakness persist or just reflect an initial post-referendum shock. Williamson said the slump in the PMI "will provide a powerful argument for swift action."

(Source: Bloomberg)

Spanish bond spreads tightest in year as Italy's appeal wanes

Investors seeking opportunities in the euro area's periphery are focusing on Spain, where the Treasury sold three-year notes yielding less than zero for the first time, endorsing the country's debt even as it begins an eighth month struggling to form a gov-

ernment.

The extra yield, or spread, that investors demand for holding Spanish 10-year bonds instead of similar-maturity German debt narrowed to the lowest in 2016 this week, based on closing prices. The gap was 1.15 percent-

age point on Friday, having shrunk 0.07 percentage point since July 15. The compression was 0.11 percentage point the previous week.

Spain's debt, which investors often trade relative to Italy's, outperformed its Mediterranean peer this week as the Iberian country

also sold five- and 30-year securities. A 6 billion-euro (\$6.6 billion) syndication of 10-year Spanish bonds could fill only about a fifth of total orders, according to figures from the Economy Ministry.

(Source: Bloomberg)

NEWS IN BRIEF



MasterCard may apply for China payment license this year

MasterCard Inc hopes to apply this year to become a payment service provider in China after the government opened the market, but the company is still weighing whether to do so alone or with a partner, senior executives said on Friday.

The world's most populous country is "pretty crucial" to its future, but MasterCard is still studying rules in China that would affect its business and is hammering out a business plan, Ann Cairns, president of international markets, told Reuters in an interview.

China in June allowed foreign payment card companies to operate in the country under new rules, potentially giving companies like MasterCard and Visa Inc access to its 55 trillion yuan (\$8.25 trillion) card payment market.

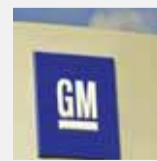


Volkswagen to halt sales of most vehicles in South Korea amid emissions probe

Volkswagen will suspend sales of most of its vehicle models in South Korea from July 25, as pressure builds on the German automaker over its falsified emissions tests.

The move comes as Volkswagen has struggled with a sales slump in South Korea, Asia's second-biggest diesel car market, after the firm admitted in the United States to using software to cheat on emissions tests on some diesel cars.

It also comes ahead of an environment ministry review later this month or in early August on whether to revoke the certification of 32 models made by Volkswagen, its Audi and Bentley units, which would lead to a sales ban of the affected models in the country.



GM, Isuzu to end pick-up truck development partnership

General Motors Co and Isuzu Motor Co have agreed to cease collaboration on the development of midsize pick-up trucks made in Asia, ending a joint product development relationship that dates back to the mid-2000s.

Japanese automaker Isuzu said on Friday it had ended the deal under which both companies produced pick-up trucks at their respective plants in Thailand, which the two companies had marketed under their own brands around the world.

The company said on Thursday it may be forced by U.S. regulators to recall another 4.3 million vehicles for potentially defective Takata air bag inflators, a call-back that would cost the U.S. automaker \$550 million.

Global tourism takes massive hit after spike in terror attacks

When a Tunisian truck driver launched an ISIS-inspired attack on July 14 in Nice on the French Riviera, he didn't just mow down 84 people, he widened a wound in the global economy.

Now, no tourist destination appears safe after the attack on the boardwalk in Nice, a glamorous and family-friendly seaside city popular with tourists from all over the world. While full of "soft targets", it broke from the recent pattern of terror attacks in Europe.

"It was a watershed moment," said luxury consultant Milton Pedraza. "You thought it was just capitals and where those guys live and congregate; now it's everywhere."

As ISIS has lost its physical territory, there has been an uptick in attacks in Western Europe for which the group has later claimed responsibility said Alex Kassirer, a senior counterterrorism analyst at the global security firm Flashpoint Intelligence and an NBC News consultant.

"This is a strategy they're honing, and one we'll see more often, with little attention paid to city of attack, as long as it's in the West," said Kassirer. "No city is immune to attacks."

The increased cadence in terror attacks targeting European tourist destinations both major and minor has dealt double-digit blows to travel, with global tourism spending down 14 percent in June, according to a recent report by UBS.

In the immediate aftermath of the Nice attack, cruise lines canceled trips and ports of call to the city. Rihanna canceled a concert scheduled for the day after the attack, and the prestigious annual Nice Jazz Festival canceled its four-day event.

Nice is the second most populous city of the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region. A government spokesman declined to comment on the attack's impact on tourism.

"Economic consequences, though im-



People walk away from Istanbul Ataturk airport, Turkey, following a blast June 28, 2016. (Reuters/Goran Tomasevic)

portant, are meaningless compared to the tragedy many families and the nation are experiencing," said spokesman Eric Lorrain. "The Regional Council is assessing the economic consequences and trying to figure out how to help the professionals that are to face losses in their activity."

But it's clear that in Nice, as seen in other targets of terror, tourism will suffer. Across the board, fearful tourists are canceling or changing travel plans to avoid attacked cities and countries.

■ Fearful tourists change itineraries

Egypt, France, Tunisia, and Turkey have all seen drops in visitors from 11 to 20 percent following terror attacks, some of which specifically targeted tourists.

31-year-old travel entrepreneur Jared Kamrowski said that he initially stuck with his plans to visit Turkey following a terror bombing there in January 2016.

"We told ourselves we weren't going to let the terrorists win by canceling our plans," he said. But, after another

bombing there in March, he did cancel his plans, opting to visit Dubai and Spain instead.

"After the first bombing...we weren't going to let the terrorists win...after the second bombing...we decided to cancel our plans"

Many travelers are avoiding mainland Western Europe entirely, switching to places seen as safe, like Scotland, or Latin America.

Esther Roskam, a 31-year-old law student from Baltimore, Maryland, was discussing with her friend whether to take a trip to Amsterdam because of terror concerns. Besides the general miasma overhanging Europe, there had been an attack on the Amsterdam to Paris high-speed train in August 2015.

"As we were debating, there was another attack," said Roskam. Instead, they opted for Cancun. She couldn't recall which attack specifically changed her mind. "Possibly France? It's incredibly depressing that I'm having trouble keeping

track."

Valerie Bowden, a 28-year-old American who regularly backpacks and hitchhikes through Ethiopia said she was in the Istanbul airport shortly before the attack June 29 that killed 45 and injured more than 200.

Later, watching on TV screens the aftermath she avoided by only a few hours, "was eerie and scary," she said.

She finds African countries to be safer than the U.S. and Europe. In fact her biggest concern is pickpockets.

"Thanks to ISIS, terrorism across Europe takes place exactly where tourists would end up"

"While Africa isn't immune to terrorism, most violence occurs in small villages that a tourist would never visit. Thanks to ISIS, terrorism across Europe takes place exactly where tourists would end up," said Bowden.

■ History repeats itself, but the 70's were worse

The recent spate of terror is a decided spike for events in recent memory. But it pales in comparison to the thousands of terror attacks seen in the 70's, 80's and 90's, which saw an average of 10 attacks per week.

There have been over 16,000 attacks in Western Europe since 1971, according to the Global Terrorism Database. That's an average of 350 per year. The highest number of deaths came in 1988, a total of 440, largely due to the Pan Am flight 103 bombing over Lockerbie, Scotland. And 2004 saw the highest number of wounded, 1,853, after the attacks in Madrid, Spain.

So, if history is a guide, tourism will come back, said Yeganeh Morakabati, an associate professor at Bournemouth University in the U.K., who studies the relationship between tourism and terrorism.

(Source: nbcnews.com)

NEWS

Iran plans to expand eco-lodges sharply: CHTHO chief

TOURISM **TEHRAN** — Iran plans to sharply increase the number of eco-lodges across the country in the next four years, Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicraft Organization Director Masoud Soltanifar said.

There were just below 40 eco-lodges nationwide three years ago, he said, adding that currently about 300 eco-lodges are in different parts of the country.

"We plan to increase the number of eco-lodges to 2,000, of which 20 to 30 percent will be in Lut Desert," IRIB quoted Soltanifar as saying.

Eco-lodge is a type of tourist accommodation designed to have the minimum possible impact on the natural environment in which it is situated. It is usually located in a natural area, or in a rural area within a short distance to a natural area, and is not significantly impacted by a townsite, noise, traffic, smog or pollution.

Lut Desert was registered on the World Heritage List during 40th session of the World Heritage Committee in Istanbul last week.

Now Iran is proud of 21 UNESCO registered sites, which is a great step for attraction of more tourists, he said.

"Besides, with global registration, the sites would be under spotlight by world research and tourist centers," he added.

About 60 historical and natural places in Iran have factors for global registration, Soltanifar said.

"We have nominees for UNESCO registration until 30-40 years on," he said.

In a speech in October 2015, Soltanifar announced that Iran president has is preparing for a "tsunami" of foreign holidaymakers as world powers begin to lift sanctions against the country. Iran aims to host 20 million tourists a year by 2025 and is currently trying to remove obstacles for tourists to acquire visas.

Strong yen tempers record Japan tourism numbers

Average revenue per tourist fell 10 per cent in the second quarter as free-spending Chinese tourists — famous in Japan for their "explosive shopping" — find the renminbi in their pocket no longer goes as far.

Inbound tourism has been one of Japan's biggest sources of economic growth for the past few years. The new numbers suggest that trend will continue but highlight the drag from a stronger yen.

"The start of the summer season, travel promotions and the large increase in cruise ship visits continue to boost the number of visitors to Japan," said the Japan National Tourism Organization.

"International political instability and the risk of long-term yen strength are concerns, but we expect scheduled cruise ship visits and the Ramadan travel season in Indonesia and Malaysia to boost visits to Japan."

June visitor numbers from Taiwan, Hong Kong and the US all reached record highs and tourism from South Korea rebounded compared with last year, when the MERS virus caused a fall in travel.

The trend of rising numbers but falling spending was especially acute for China. While the number of Chinese tourists was up 26 per cent year-on-year in June to 582,500, spending per person fell 23 per cent in the second quarter.

With their best customers no longer splurging on hand bags, cosmetics and gold watches, sales in Japanese department stores were off 3.7 per cent compared with June last year.

The average Chinese tourist spent ¥123,597 on shopping — more than double the average visitor — while spending less than average on their hotel. The renminbi is down 14 per cent against the yen since the start of the year.

(Source: Financial Times)



How to take better travel photos on Instagram: Secrets from a pro

If you're anything like us, you're a total sucker for travel photos on Instagram. A dreamy beach scene with impossibly blue waters here, a jaw-dropping mountain landscape and the sun serenely setting in a faraway locale there, and you can't help but get double-tap happy. These days, with smartphones at our disposal, even the least savvy shutterbugs can look like a pro.

■ First impressions are important

Before you begin to shoot, it's crucial to keep the crop and composition in mind. Although Instagram allows for full-size photos now, it still adjusts the crop to a square, which can appear incongruent when perusing the feed as a whole. According to Furst, people are likely to follow you based on your body of work, so photos should look clean on first glance.

■ To shoot horizontally or vertically — that is the question!

It doesn't matter which you choose, but you should do both to get different perspectives. Switching up the angles will help you see things differently — and ultimately give you more options on what to post. "I'll almost always try a vertical and horizontal shot on anything I'm shooting, from portraits to landscapes," says Furst.

■ #NoFilter — but really, don't use one

Filters are your frenemy — applying one can degrade the quality of the photo, even if it wasn't low-quality to begin with. Be careful of over-editing too, which can make things appear unnatural. "I never edit within the Instagram app," says Furst. Instead, he turns to third-party editing tools like Lightroom. (Other resources include VSCO Cam and Afterlight). "It's important to develop your own style, but you shouldn't click one button and have your photo edited in seconds."

■ Step out of your comfort zone

It's essential to experiment — blur things purposefully, play up silhouettes, and try new angles. Creativity and originality are vital, so attempt to see things differently, take photos of the same object several times if you need, go to different locations, and don't simply recreate someone else's shot because it worked out well for them.

■ Find your focus

Give your viewer one clear focal point. If it's dark outside, find something lighter to focus on. But ultimately, it comes down to choice. "I love shooting with a wide open aperture, which achieves a lot of blur behind or in front



of what I choose to focus on," says Furst. "People will tell you there are right and wrong ways to do something, but as an artist, I believe that you should always do it your own way — and maybe even break the rules."

■ The more the merrier

You know what they say — if at first you don't succeed, try, and try again. Snap several frames of a single object. Not everyone will be perfect, but the more you take, the more likely you'll find something you'll want to showcase.

(Source: Trip Advisor)

Literary quotes on travel: walking down the road in Bali

"When you are walking down the road in Bali and you pass a stranger, the very first question he or she will ask you is, 'Where are you going?' The second question is, 'Where are you coming from?' To a Westerner, this can seem like a rather invasive inquiry from a perfect stranger, but they're just trying to get an orientation on you, trying to insert you into the grid for the purposes of security and comfort. If you tell them that you don't know where you're going, or that you're just wandering about randomly, you might instigate a bit of distress in the heart of your new Balinese friend. It's far better to pick some kind of specific direction -- anywhere -- just so everybody feels better.

The third question a Balinese will almost certainly ask you is, 'Are you married?' Again, it's a positioning and orienting inquiry. It's necessary for them to know this, to make sure that you are completely in order in your life. They really want you to say yes. It's such a relief to them when you say yes. If you're single, it's better not to say so directly. And I really recommend that you not mention your divorce at all, if you happen to have had one. It just makes the Balinese so worried.

*"Eat, Pray, Love" by Elizabeth Gilbert

PICTURE OF THE DAY © IRNA/Hassan Abbaspur



A group of local men in their traditional dress on the Persian Gulf island of Qeshm performs Noruz Sayyad ritual. During the ceremony, which literally means fishermen's New Year, locals celebrate the beginning of fishing season in midsummer.

Money-saving travel tips - save on summer travel

■ When traveling internationally:

*Visit destinations where the U.S. dollars is closest in value to the local currency (currency in the Caribbean is tied to the U.S. dollar, for example)

*Look for all inclusive packages, such as resorts or cruises and pay upfront in U.S. dollars

*Ask your travel agent about locations that may be less costly as they are in their 'off season'

■ Ways to save money on hotels:

*Ask your travel agent about upgrading your hotel reservation to a room with two king size beds instead of getting two hotel rooms when traveling in groups or with kids

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*Ask your travel agent to find a hotel room with a kitchenette so you can take care of a few meals yourself instead of eating out for every meal

*Your travel agent can suggest properties that might offer complimentary breakfast or heavy hors d'oeuvres in the afternoon.

(Source: travelsense.org)

Cambodia at a point of no return

By Mu Sochua

For days now, tens of thousands of mourners, rich and poor, from the cities and from the countryside, have been visiting Wat Chas pagoda to pay their respects to Kem Ley. A prominent political commentator, Kem Ley, 45, was shot dead on July 10 over his morning coffee in a mini-mart in central Phnom Penh.

He was known across Cambodia for his plain-spoken criticism of Prime Minister Hun Sen's government and occasionally my own party, the opposition Cambodia National Rescue Party (C.N.R.P.), earning himself a reputation for being above the fray. In 2014, he created Khmer for Khmer, an advocacy group promoting civic engagement. It spawned the Grassroots Democracy Party, which plans to run in local elections in 2017 and the general election in 2018.

Kem Ley was beloved as one of Cambodia's few public pedagogues. He reached a wide audience thanks to frequent radio shows and his Facebook posts, often political explainers about real-life cases of corruption and impu-

nity told like old-fashioned fables. Before his death, he was in the midst of what he called the "100 Nights" campaign, a vast tour of the country including homestays with poor rural families and visits to areas claimed by both Cambodia and Vietnam.

Even in Cambodia, a country with a history of violence, political and otherwise, the disbelief, condemnation and sadness sparked by Kem Ley's murder have been unusual.

After gunning him down, the killer escaped on foot, until a mob that had gathered on his trail beat him. He was taken into custody by the police. The man first identified himself as "Meet Kill," and claimed to have shot Kem Ley over a debt. That story seems implausible, and relatives of both men have since reportedly said they didn't think the two knew one another. And so the killer's motives remain unclear, as does the question of whether he acted on anyone's orders.

Political beliefs

What already is clear, however, is that many Cambodians believe Kem Ley died for his political beliefs, and few have much faith in the investigation the government has promised to

conduct. Whatever the truth behind Kem Ley's death, the event already seems to mark a point of no return in public opinion: The fracture between the people and the government may now be irrevocable.

The credibility of the ruling Cambodian People's Party has been shaky since the 2013 general election, when the C.P.P. barely managed to hold on to its parliamentary majority. Given the irregularities surrounding that narrow victory — especially major discrepancies in voter registration lists — the result signaled a crisis of faith. There were mass protests in Phnom Penh for several months, until a deadly crackdown.

For a while in 2014 the government seemed willing to cooperate with the C.N.R.P., but then it dropped even the semblance of that. For close to a year now, various officials, the courts and other public institutions have hounded opposition lawmakers, environmental and labor activists and members of civil society — anyone, basically, who asks hard questions.



The C.N.R.P.'s leader, Sam Rainsy, has gone into exile abroad to avoid arrest in relation to an old defamation suit by the former foreign

minister. Kem Sokha, the party's deputy leader, is also being threatened with a defamation suit for a statement he is said to have made to his alleged mistress. He has sought refuge at C.N.R.P. headquarters since late May.

Two C.N.R.P. parliamentarians have been imprisoned, in violation of their constitutionally protected parliamentary immunity, on charges that they posted online documents that inaccurately describe Cambodia's border with Vietnam. Several opposition M.P.s face charges of insurrection for leading in July 2014 a peaceful protest calling for freedom of speech and assembly that devolved into violence after state security forces intervened.

Four members of Ad hoc, one of the country's leading human rights organizations, have been imprisoned for allegedly bribing a witness in the case against Kem Sokha. So has one member of the National Election Commission, the body tasked with redrawing voter registration lists ahead of the next elections. A staffer from the United Nations' human rights office in Phnom Penh has also been charged in relation to the case.

If Kem Ley's murder was designed to instill fear, it has only stoked outrage and determination.

→9

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A visit with Fethullah Gülen, Erdogan's chief adversary

Fethullah Gülen is sitting in a small reception room in his home. There's a small side table next to him, a blue fan and a glass of water. He wears a dark blazer and leather slippers. The elderly man has something he wants to say.

"I am prepared to be screened by an international commission," he says. "If they find that I am guilty, then I will go to the execution chamber. But that won't happen because I haven't done anything."

Gülen has been the focus of a considerable amount of international attention in recent days, with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan having accused him and his influential Islamic movement of engineering the failed weekend military putsch in Turkey from his home in the United States. The preacher has been living in American exile since 1999 because of his many enemies in Turkey: His organization, called Hizmet, operates a global network of schools, firms and media companies -- and is treated like a terrorist organization by Erdogan's people. Gülen's guarded complex, located near the small town of Saylorsburg, Pennsylvania, around 100 miles from New York, is considered by officials in Ankara to be the headquarters of its greatest enemy.

Erdogan's accusations are serious, and Gülen wants to defend both himself and his movement. He says he had nothing to do with the putsch and that Erdogan's behavior borders on insanity. "I have already said several times that I am against any form of violence when it comes to achieving political goals," he says. Gülen also claims that he supports democracy in Turkey. "I reject military putsches," he says.

A Rare Visit

Those visiting the 75-year-old are subjected to a security screening at the entrance to his spacious complex, with armed guards conducting checks of each guest. The subject of anonymous death threats, the FBI advised Gülen to take this precaution several years ago. There are several buildings on the park-like property where



his followers dedicate themselves to prayer. Few people are in sight and a Porsche SUV can be seen in a parking spot. Normally, guests are only rarely received here -- and the media have virtually no access.

But this weekend, Gülen opened his doors to a group of reporters. He lives reclusively, in the back part of the property and guests must either take off their shoes or wrap them with plastic foil before entering his rooms. Women must cover their shoulders.

The reception room is formal, with lots of gold, ornamentation, elegant carpets and fine porcelain. Koran suras hang from the walls and an encyclopedia of Islam can be found on the shelves. One shelf unit is covered with all kinds of knick-knacks: a plastic combat helicopter, a globe, a vase. There's a portable radio in one corner and a view of the surrounding green hills from the window.

A Friendship Turned Sour

Gülen is sitting on a beige sofa and looks weak. One of his aides says he has been suffering from heart trouble and dia-

betes. Gülen speaks in Turkish with a quiet voice, but his answers are long -- very long. The preacher comes across like a statesman himself as he talks about Erdogan. He knows the Turkish president well.

During the rise of Erdogan's Justice and Development Party (AKP), Gülen and Erdogan were allies, united by their deep faith. Today they despise each other.

When Gülen went into exile, he called on his supporters to take over power in Turkey by infiltrating state institutions, thus prompting law enforcement officials to issue an arrest warrant for him.

Gülen's rise began in the 1970s when he was an imam at a mosque in the northwestern Turkish city of Edirne. The charismatic cleric distributed his sermons via video and audio cassettes, and his following continuously grew. During the same period, he built up a network of private schools, private tutoring centers and dormitories, which he called "houses of light." The alumnus of these institutions ultimately grew into a network of Gülen supporters over the decades. Today they

own newspapers, television stations and banks.

Opinions about the imam couldn't be more divergent. People who have left his movement describe the community as a sect, not unlike Scientology. Others view Gülen as being one of the most important preachers of modernist Islam, which seeks to spread a more tolerant interpretation of the religion.

For a long time, Erdogan was one of Gülen's most prominent supporters -- and they even entered into an informal alliance: Gülen's supporters secured votes for AKP and Erdogan gave protection to the Gülen movement's opaque businesses after he came into power in 2002.

Parting Ways

But after the parliamentary elections in 2011, in which AKP won almost 50 percent of the vote, Erdogan apparently felt strong enough on his own to break the pact with Gülen. Erdogan, who was prime minister at the time, fired important justice officials and party functionaries considered to be Gülen followers. He also ordered the secret services to monitor the movement.

The final break between the two came in November 2013, when Erdogan announced his decision to close the Gülen movement's tutoring centers. Around 2 million Turkish youth visit the schools in order to prepare for university entrance examinations. They provide Gülen with his most important source of revenue, but also serve as places where he can recruit new followers.

For years, Erdogan has believed that Gülen sought to challenge his hold on power. Gülen, meanwhile, believes that his one-time friend has become a tyrant intent on eliminating any opposition.

"Erdogan is so hungry for power that he believes everyone else is too," says Gülen. "Erdogan comes from a poor background and now he lives in many palaces. Success and power have poisoned him."

→ 9

COMMENT

Africa's step to be a continent of peace

With its decision to intervene militarily in South Sudan's conflict, the African Union shows it may yet live up to its goal of creating a continent of peace by 2020.

For a continent with so many wars, Africa certainly has big ambitions about peace. Its one unifying body, the 54-nation African Union, has set a goal to end all conflicts by 2020. Last week, the AU took a step toward ending one potentially explosive conflict by agreeing to send troops to South Sudan.

That new nation, created only in 2011, recently saw a flare-up of violence between forces of President Salva Kiir and Vice President Riek Machar, who are archrivals but who have also often cooperated. At least 300 people were killed, including two Chinese soldiers serving in a United Nations peacekeeping unit.

A principle of "no indifference"

UN peacekeeping operations are not equipped to bring about peace in countries, only to keep the peace. The AU, on the other hand, has adopted a principle of "no indifference" in those situations in Africa that might result in genocide, crimes against humanity, or war crimes.

Africans do not want a repeat of the kind of genocide that occurred in Rwanda in the mid-1990s. That slaughter has altered international diplomacy in favor of military intervention in countries where mass violence might occur, where there's "a responsibility to protect."

Nearly three-quarters of all UN peacekeepers, however, are now in Africa. The AU is struggling to improve its performance to take care of conflicts, especially before they escalate. A report this week by the World Peace Foundation about the AU peace missions recommended that the AU "ensure that it has the capacity and the will to discharge its responsibilities as that first and leading respondent" to a conflict.

The AU has a decent track record of its forces helping keep peace in Somalia and the Central African Republic. Now, if it has can get cooperation from the UN and South Sudan leaders, Africa may become a continent of peace, not war.

(Source: The CSM)

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Humanity chip wants to send your time capsule into space

Backed by the scientists who are behind Breakthrough Starshot, a new Kickstarter campaign called "Voices of Humanity" wants to use lasers to propel a tiny spacecraft across the universe. But when it leaves earth, the aim is to include YOU as part of a time capsule.

Voices of Humanity is looking for funding to send hockey puck-sized research vessels into space with sensors attached, but they also want to include information like DNA, names, tweets, thoughts -- anything that can be digitized.

The project is clearly going after the "eternal gift" market. Knowing your identity is out there tumbling through space is definitely cooler than a little placard saying you own a star -- but let's see if they get the tech off the ground before we go sending them DNA samples.

(Source: Popular Science)

Cure for asthma on horizon as scientists find genetic cause

A cure for asthma is on the horizon after scientists discovered a genetic switch which prevents the condition.

The research carried out at the University of Southampton, discovered that the gene ADAM33 plays a crucial role in causing the twitchiness and inflammation of airways that triggers an attack.

The gene makes an enzyme which usually attaches to the muscles in the airways helping to repair and regenerate damaged areas.

But the enzyme can become detached and 'go rogue' travelling around the lung and sparking the unnecessary production of new muscles and blood vessels which cause the airways to narrow -- a process known as airway remodelling.

Asthma attacks

Scientists traditionally thought that it was allergens -- like pollen -- that triggered airway remodelling, inflammation and eventually asthma attacks. But they could never explain why lots of people with allergies never get asthma.

Now scientists believe that it takes the combination of the rogue gene and an allergen to trigger an attack.

Studies in human tissue samples and mice showed that if the gene is switched off allergens do not have the same impact on the airways.

Professor Hans Michel Haitchi, associate professor in respiratory medicine, said: "This finding radically alters our understanding of the field, to say the least."

Allergic reaction

"For years we have thought that airway remodelling is the result of the inflammation caused by an allergic reaction, but our research tells us otherwise."

Around 5.4 million people in Britain suffer from asthma, but the new study suggests that drug to knock out the effects of the ADAM33 gene could prevent attacks.

The team at Southampton has already identified molecules which can switch off both gene itself, and the enzymes.

They are planning to test the new medication in mice and are already in talks with pharmaceutical companies to bring the treatment to market. Charity Asthma UK has also agreed to help fund the next stage describing the breakthrough as 'promising.'

The treatment could be taken daily as a pill, inhaled or even injected monthly to prevent attacks ever happening.

(Source: The Telegraph)

NASA's Curiosity rover can now fire its laser on its own

Curiosity isn't just firing its laser for fun, either. The plasma produced from the zapped rock helps scientists learn more about exactly what the target is made of.

The rover's new autonomy is made possible by using software that helps Curiosity pick out rock targets based on brightness and size parameters laid out by scientists ahead of time, according to NASA.

"This autonomy is particularly useful at times when getting the science team in the loop is difficult or impossible -- in the middle of a long drive, perhaps, or when the schedules of Earth, Mars and spacecraft activities lead to delays in sharing information between the planets," NASA robotics engineer Tara Estlin, said in a statement.

On-board software analyzed the Navcam image at left, chose the target indicated with a yellow dot, and pointed ChemCam for laser shots at the image at right.

In total, Curiosity has fired its laser -- which is part of the rover's ChemCam instrument -- more than 350,000 times at about 10,000 targets, NASA said.

Pointing challenges

"Due to their small size and other pointing challenges, hitting these targets accurately with the laser has often required the rover to stay in place while ground operators fine tune pointing parameters," Estlin added.

Now, the software helps with identifying and pointing at targets, allowing Curiosity to hit the rocks on its first try and save everyone some time. The rover entered an unexpected "safe mode" after some kind of software malfunction occurred involving image data storage, NASA said. Curiosity -- which landed on Mars in 2012 -- now seems to function well.

(Source: Mashable)

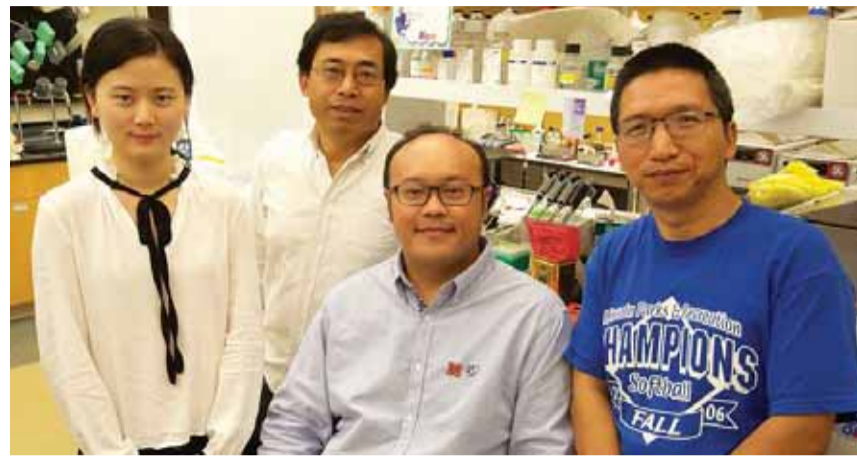
**Forms of HIV can cross from chimps to humans: study**

No one knows exactly how it happened. It may have entered through a cut or bite wound, the blood of a chimpanzee seeping into an exposed fingertip or forearm or foot.

But in the early 1900s, probably near a West African rainforest, it's thought that a hunter or vendor of bush meat -- wild game that can include primates -- acquired the first strain of a simian immunodeficiency virus that virologists consider the ancestor of HIV.

A new study led by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln has supported this hypothesis by reporting the first in vivo evidence that strains of chimpanzee-carried SIVs can infect human cells. They include the simian immunodeficiency virus (SIV) ancestor of HIV-1 M -- the strain responsible for the global HIV pandemic -- and another ancestral strain of HIV found only among residents of Cameroon.

Yet the researchers further discovered that the SIV ancestors of two HIV strains not identified in humans also managed to invade human cells after multiple exposures in the lab.



The "question was whether SIV strains that have not been found in humans have the potential to cause another HIV-like infection," said senior author Qingsheng Li,

associate professor of biological sciences and member of the Nebraska Center for

The researchers further discovered that the SIV ancestors of two HIV strains not identified in humans also managed to invade human cells after multiple exposures in the lab.

Virology. The "answer is that, actually, they do. They get replicated at a very high level. It's surprising."

Li and his colleagues came to the conclusions after inoculating mice that were implanted with human tissues and stem cells, which stimulated the growth of other cells essential to the human immune system.

HIV strains

To explore why humans have acquired certain HIV strains while avoiding others, the team injected low doses of the four SIV strains into separate groups of the mice.

The authors found that the inferred SIV forerunners of HIV-1 M and the Cameroon-specific strain required fewer opportunities to infect the mice than did the two SIV strains whose HIV descendants have not been found in humans.

According to Li, this may stem from the fact that the genetic makeup of the latter two strains differs more from HIV-1 M than does the Cameroon strain, which shares more genes with its pandemic cousin.

(Source: EurekAlert)

These amazing wild birds understand when people call them to help hunt for honey

For thousands of years, humans have trained animals to help them. Pigs locate truffles. Dogs sniff for drugs. Dolphins detect underwater mines.

But working in partnership with an untrained wild animal is another thing altogether. And one of the very few species that it has been documented in is the greater honeyguide.

These petite, orange-beaked birds live across sub-Saharan Africa, and they do what their name implies: They guide people to beehives containing honey, which people have a hard time finding on their own and the birds can't access without being stung to death. For this service, the birds get something in return -- the leftover beeswax and larvae, which they eat with abandon. The birds' unique skill earned them the fitting scientific name of Indicator.

Human-animal collaboration

This remarkable human-animal collaboration has been recorded in various spots in Africa where the greater honeyguide lives, and it often involves a honeyguide showing up when it hears



people going about their business or whistling. The bird might then hop about and chatter to signal its readiness to lead a honey-hunting expedition. The people then trail the honeyguide, which keeps itself visible by displaying its white tail feathers, until the entire gang arrives at the booty. The people then smoke out the bees, chop

open the tree and the hive and harvest rewards for man and bird alike.

The honeyguide birds of Africa have a very unique relationship with people -- they work together to find honeycomb, which they then share. But how exactly do honeyguides communicate with people? New research gives insight.

But it works a little differently in the Niassa National Reserve of northern Mozambique, a Denmark-sized expanse of remote wilderness that is a crucial habitat for lions and elephants. There live Yao tribe members who depend on honey for trade and nourishment -- and who have developed their own unique method of communicating with honeyguides.

When they want to find honey, the Yao call the birds with what a new study calls a "loud trill followed by a grunt: 'brrrr-hm.'" It's a sound Yao honey hunters learn from their fathers and use under no other circumstances, according to the study, published Thursday in the journal Science.

(Source: The Washington Post)

Women smokers at higher risk for brain bleed

Strokes characterized by bleeding inside the lining of the brain are more common among smokers, especially women, researchers report.

These serious strokes -- called subarachnoid hemorrhages -- are eight times more common among women who smoke more than a pack a day compared to nonsmokers, Finnish researchers found. They're three times more common among men who smoke the same amount.

Even light smoking tripled a woman's risk for this type of stroke, the study found.

"There is no safe level of smoking, and naturally, the best option is never to start," said lead researcher Dr. Joni Lindbohm of the University of Helsinki.

Effective strategies

The "message for policymakers is that by implementing effective strategies against smoking, they can considerably reduce the burden of subarachnoid hemorrhage," said Lindbohm, who specializes in neurosurgery and public health.

Subarachnoid hemorrhages account for about 3 percent of all strokes, said Dr. Ralph Sacco, chairman of neurology at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine.

These strokes often affect younger people and "can be quite devastating in terms of disability and death, with fatality rates around one in five," said Sacco, who wasn't involved in the study.

This type of stroke usually results from a bleeding aneurysm in the brain. An an-



eurysm is a small weak spot in a blood vessel that can burst at any time.

For the study, Lindbohm and colleagues collected data on nearly 66,000 adults listed in Finnish national surveys since 1972. Participants were followed for an average of 21 years, until they had a first stroke, died, or until the end of 2011.

The researchers found that among light smokers -- one to 10 cigarettes a day -- women were three times more likely to have subarachnoid hemorrhage, and men were twice as likely to have one compared to nonsmokers.

Among those who smoked 11 to 20 cigarettes a day, women were four times more likely and men two times more likely to suffer this type of stroke, the investigators found.

(Source: WebMD)

Air pollution up in a third of Chinese cities: Greenpeace

Air pollution levels rose in nearly a third of Chinese cities monitored in the second quarter, environmental campaign group Greenpeace said Wednesday.

China's cities are often hit by severe pollution from coal-burning by power stations, heavy industry and vehicle use, and it has become a major source of discontent with the ruling Communist Party.

Air quality worsened year-on-year in 103 cities from April to June, nearly 30 percent of those monitored, Greenpeace said.

It cited pollution data collated from China's environmental protection ministry, which makes live figures available but does not publish full historic or comparative statistics.

Communist authorities are looking to retool the economy away from heavy industry and exports to one led more by consumer demand, but the transition is proving bumpy.

Air pollution

"It is now clearer than ever that air pollution and coal-burning heavy industry are directly connected," said Greenpeace's East Asia climate and energy campaigner Dong Liansai.

China's financial hub Shanghai saw its average PM2.5 level rise 6.1 percent to 48.4 micrograms per cubic meter in the April-June period, in comparison with the



same period in 2015.

Exposure to the minute particles in the 2.5 size range can affect lung function and worsen medical conditions such as asthma and heart disease.

But Beijing saw its PM2.5 level drop 6.9 percent to 59.2 micrograms per cubic meter in the same period, year-on-year.

The World Health Organization's recommended maximum is an average 25 micrograms over 24 hours and 10 micrograms over a year.

The government has declared "war on pollution" and vowed to reduce the proportion of energy derived from coal and fossil fuels, but critics say efforts have fallen short of expectations.

(Source: AFP)

World's most sensitive dark matter detector completes search

The Large Underground Xenon (LUX) dark matter experiment, which operates beneath a mile of rock at the Sanford Underground Research Facility in the Black Hills of South Dakota, has completed its silent search for the missing matter of the universe.

Today at an international dark matter conference (IDM 2016) in Sheffield, UK, LUX scientific collaborators presented the results from the detector's final 20-month run from October 2014 to May 2016. The new research result is also described with further details on the LUX Collaboration's website.

LUX's sensitivity far exceeded the goals for the project, collaboration scientists said, but yielded no trace of a dark matter particle. LUX's extreme sensitivity makes the team confident that if dark matter particles had interacted with

the LUX's xenon target, the detector would almost certainly have seen it. That enables scientists to confidently eliminate many potential models for dark matter particles, offering critical guidance for the next generation of dark matter experiments.

Final result

"LUX has delivered the world's best search sensitivity since its first run in 2013," said Rick Gaitskell, professor of physics at Brown University and co-spokesperson for the LUX experiment. "With this final result from the 2014 to 2016 search, the scientists of the LUX Collaboration have pushed the sensitivity of the instrument to a final performance level that is four times better than the original project goals. It would have been marvelous if the improved sensitivity had also delivered a clear dark mat-

ter signal. However, what we have observed is consistent with background alone."

Dark matter is thought to account for more than four-fifths of the mass in the universe. Scientists are confident of its existence because the effects of its gravity can be seen in the rotation of galaxies and in the way light bends as it travels through the universe, but experiments have yet to make direct contact with a dark matter particle.

The LUX experiment was designed to look for weakly interacting massive particles, or WIMPs, the leading theoretical candidate for a dark matter particle. If the WIMP idea is correct, billions of these particles pass through your hand every second, and also through the Earth and everything on it.

(Source: phys.org)

Opposition groups in Syria have called on the United States and allies to suspend airstrikes following the deaths of some 140 civilians in Aleppo in French and American air raids.

The so-called Syrian National Coalition (SNC) on Thursday called for a temporary halt to the aerial campaign while an investigation is completed into the civilian deaths in the northern city of Manbij.

"It is essential that such investigation not only result in revised rules of procedure for future operations, but also inform accountability for those responsible for such major violations," SNC president Anas al-Abdah said.

According to the Syrian Foreign Ministry, French warplanes targeted the village of Tukhan al-Kubra in Manbij on Tuesday, killing 120 civilians. The fatalities came a day after a U.S. airstrike killed 20 civilians in Manbij, it said.

Some local reports have put the death toll at around 200.

The French Foreign Ministry has said it does not recognize figures released by the Syrian government and would wait for the results of the investigation into the airstrike.

President Francois Hollande also said he had no precise information on the French air force's responsibility for the civilian deaths.

The Syrian government has written to the United Nations, asking the world body to condemn the airstrikes which are carried out without authorization from Damascus or a UN mandate.

Abdah, the president of the SNC, said in his statement that the civilian fatalities of the recent strikes could "prove to be a recruitment tool" for the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Daesh) terrorist group.

The so-called Free Syrian Army, another opposition group, called the fatalities of the U.S.-led airstrikes "shocking

Syria opposition urges suspension of U.S.-led airstrikes after civilian deaths



massacres."

"We will not allow any crime to be justified under the pretext of combating terrorism," it said in a statement signed by more than 30 militant factions.

Foreign-backed groups themselves stand accused of terrorist activities. One such group, regarded as "moderate" by the U.S., was recently revealed to have beheaded a Palestinian child in Syria.

The UN children agency UNICEF (United Nations Children's Emergency Fund) and Britain-based rights group Amnesty International have sharply criticized the airstrikes.

The U.S.-led coalition has been backing the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), an alliance of Kurdish and Arab forces, to capture Manbij since last May.

Russian warplanes bombard ISIL targets in Syria's Homs

Meantime, Russian military aircraft have carried out several airstrikes in Syria, destroying a number of positions of the

ISIL terrorist group on the outskirts of the ancient city of Palmyra and other areas in Syria's central province of Homs.

"On July 21, six Tu-22M3 long-range strategic bombers conducted airstrikes on intelligence-verified Daesh targets east of Palmyra, and in the cities of Arak, al-Sukhnah and al-Tawbah. The targeted objects included command posts, forces and terrorists' equipment," the Russian Defense Ministry said in a statement released on Thursday.

The statement added that state-of-the-art intelligence gathering assets, including satellites, were utilized to support the airstrikes and "locate and hit new militant targets in real-time mode."

The Russian Defense Ministry further pointed out that the bombers were covered by Su-35 fighter jets scrambled from Russia's Hmeimim Air Base southeast of the western Syrian city of Latakia after carrying out the airstrikes.

Libya: Tripoli condemns French military involvement

Libya's United Nations-backed government has reacted strongly following France's confirmation that its special forces have been operating in the country, which also sparked angry protests in the capital Tripoli against French military intervention.

The French government announced that three of its soldiers had been killed in a helicopter crash in eastern Libya during an intelligence-gathering operation - the first time Paris acknowledged its presence in the oil-rich country.

In a strongly worded statement, the Tripoli-based Government of National Accord (GNA) said that it had asked France to explain the presence of its forces in the country.

"The Presidential Council expresses its deep discontent at the French presence

in eastern Libya without coordination with the Council, which was declared by the government of France."

There could be "no compromise" over Libyan sovereignty, the council added.

At the centre of the controversy is General Khalifa Haftar, an opponent of the UN-backed government who leads a large army fighting armed groups in eastern Libya.

If it is proved that the French government is backing him, then tensions could escalate amid increasing questions about the western role in Libya.

"This [France's action] will destabilize the country. This is a sort of coup against the political process and against the democratic path chosen by the Libyan people," Mansour Al Hasadi, a member of the GNA, told Al Jazeera.

"It is also against the political agreement sponsored by the UN, the international community and the Security Council."

Combat role?

The presence of French troops in Libya was first reported by French newspaper Le Monde, but denied by Libyan officials.

On Tuesday, Libyan officials told The Associated Press news agency that an "extremist militia" had shot down a helicopter near the eastern Libyan city of Benghazi, killing two French officers, in an area called al-Magrun. French and Libyan officials have not provided information on where the third officer died.

Ahmed al-Mesmari, the spokesman for Haftar's forces, told reporters in Benghazi on Wednesday that the French were gathering intelligence on

Russia has been bombing ISIL and al-Qaeda-affiliated al-Nusra Front (Jabhat al-Nusra) terrorist groups in Syria at the official request of President Bashar al-Assad since September 2015.

ISIL given '48 hours' to leave Manbij

Elsewhere, U.S.-backed Syrian rebels have given the ISIL 48 hours to leave their stronghold of Manbij in Syria, after U.S.-led air strikes nearby killed scores reported to be civilians.

Elsewhere in Syria, a monitor said at least 51 civilians were killed in bombing raids on rebel-held areas of the country.

Thursday's announcement comes two days after strikes launched by the U.S.-led coalition fighting ISIL reportedly killed at least 56 civilians in the Tokhar area in the northern city of Manbij of the Aleppo governorate.

"This initiative is the last remaining chance for besieged members of Daesh to leave the town," the Manbij Military Council, part of the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) alliance, said, according to AFP news agency.

The council said that ISIL terrorists would be allowed to take individual light weapons with them.

The statement also called for civilians to try to leave the town or distance themselves from areas where clashes are taking place.

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 that it receives from various sources.

A ceasefire brokered by the U.S. and Russia went into effect in Syria on February 27, but it does not apply to the ISIL and al-Nusra Front terrorist groups.

(Source: agencies)

an affiliate of the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Daesh) terrorist group in Libya.

Mohamed Eljarh, a Libya analyst and non-resident Fellow at the Atlantic Council's Hariri Centre for the Middle East, said that it was "common knowledge" that Western forces were operating in the east and west of Libya in non-combat roles, mostly in advisory capacity.

"There have been air strikes by the Americans, and reportedly by the British, using drones - but not the French," Eljarh told Al Jazeera.

"What is interesting is that the personnel were targeted in a helicopter near the frontlines. That is where it gets a little bit blurry - was part of their mission a combat role, or was it not?"

(Source: Al Jazeera)

Comedy show brightens day for children with cancer in Tehran

On that particular day, right after their playtime, the sick children were all on their teeny-tiny chairs ready to watch the performance with their caregivers.

The director of the theatrical show, Mehdi Bagheri along with Nasrin Yasin, put up a good show on teaching little passengers 'road rules and safety'.

The lessons, which came out in a Siah-Bazi play were about instructing kids walking near traffic, crossing streets, and intersections.

Siah-Bazi, which literally translates to "playing black", is a type of Iranian folk performing art that features a blackface,

mischievous and forthright harlequin that does improvisations to stir laughter. It goes back to antiquity.

Wearing a red outfit and black-face paint, Bagheri takes on a clown-like role who struggles to learn the rules of the streets through humor.

Played by Yasin in a long blue chador, Nan-e Sarma was the old wise woman, teaching Bagheri patiently to learn the traffic rules.

Nan-e Sarma or Grandma Frost, a mythical character in the Iranian folklore, is the wife of Amou Noruz who is a fictional figure and appears annually at the beginning

of spring. The 30-minute entertaining and informative show uplifted and cheered up the children so much so that they called for a replay.

Khodkar-e Asemami group knew full-well they had done it once again.

Feeling proud to have reached their objective which was touching the lives of many kids with cancer and their families and introducing smile and laughter back to their lives even for a brief time, the group members left the hospital until next time and next performance.

The longest night for the Turks

The scenes were terrifying. I am unable to bring myself to call those who pointed guns at our civilians as human beings; they are simply inhumane, cold, and callous creatures that were oppressing their own people.

They committed a very serious crime and it is hard to imagine what people with such a monstrous mindset would do if they come to power.

Coups always cause tribulation

Being a citizen of a country, which has experienced many coups, it is fair to say that coups are always doomed to fail and never bring any development or positive change to a country. Coups have always paralyzed our country in the past and taken it backwards. Coups always cause tribulation (fitna) and "Fitna is worse than killing" (Qur'an 2/191). We will never allow our country fall into the hands of plotters. We are a country with a Muslim identity and we are living with a spirit of integrity, cohesion, love, and brotherhood. Our people are balanced and have always opposed fragmentation and conflict. We have always been side by side with our soldiers, police officers, nation and the state. However, such attempts may occur in any part of the world and since we are aware of their hazards, our

people acted as one to thwart it and thanks to God succeeded. I called the people to be calm and act wisely from the moment things started to progress in the evening time during my live TV program that continued all through the night and the next day.

Our nation made history

Some circles acted superficially and believed that carrying out a coup would solve everything without thinking of its consequences. No good will come out through imposition. In many parts of the world, human life is considered valueless and the moment they see a threat, they spray the people with bullets without resorting to any other methods. Turkey would never accept such a transformation. Turkish people have pride and they love their nation. This was the victory of the people and if our nation had not acted as well-built walls, the coup plotters would have succeeded even if they had half of their power, may God forbid. Our citizens showed their love for and devotion to their country together with their grandfathers holding their walking sticks, grandmothers, with young men taking back the arms from the coup plotting soldiers by using force courageously.

Turkey will never forget the heroic men lying on the ground or parking their cars in front of the tanks to stop them going forward. The night started like a nightmare marking as a black stain but the next day our lionhearted people made history by protecting their country as best as they could. May God have mercy on our precious martyrs and bestow them with His paradise.

All the political parties are hand in hand against the coup

People were hand in hand and shoulder-to-shoulder, so were the non-governmental organizations, the politicians and the political parties to stand against this coup attempt. MHP leader Devlet Bahçeli made a very important statement right at the beginning of the coup attempt by saying that coups were unacceptable and they were with the government. Similar declaration came from the main opposition party (CHP) leader Kilicdaroglu a few moments later. These were priceless moments Turkish history has experienced and showed the entire world the strength of the unitary power of Turkey. They held joint meetings to denounce this attempt within the ruined walls of the Assembly Building. None of the MPs from both the party in power and parties in opposition

left the Assembly even at the time it was kept bombing. Regrettably, it was not very common to see them standing side by side lately but thanks to this unwanted incident, they supported one another for the sake of our country's well-being.

Conclusion

It is important to be on alert for a while and not to fall into slumber, as things seem settled. The government should take very comprehensive and attentive precautions and all the citizens should do everything to collaborate with them. People should act in compliance with the measures taken by the government to prevent a similar attempt to partake. May God forbid, we never want any of our civilians, or our officers or our soldiers to lose their lives. It is for everyone's benefit to solve everything with a sane and rational perspective otherwise acting irrationally and emotionally would drag the country into a disaster. We should constantly sustain the spirit of brotherhood while carrying out these duties. Above all else, we should always keep in mind God controls everything and creates everything with wisdom. I pray God to turn our country back to stability and give serenity to our people.

JUMP

Erdogan will probably 'reduce tensions' with neighbors: Shireen Hunter

Some argue it would be possible to see another coup attempt because of inconsistent policies by the Turkish government. Do you agree with such a view?

A: Turkey is indeed divided on many levels, including secular-Islamist. However, as the popular reaction as well as the reaction of various political parties demonstrated people in Turkey want to continue with the democratic process and no longer favor resolving these problems through military coups. In short, although the possibility of another coup cannot be totally ruled out, it appears quite unlikely.

What will be the impact of the coup on the Turkish foreign policy, especially Erdogan's regional approach?

A: Most probably, Erdogan will have to focus on stabilizing Turkey domestically and consolidating his own power position. Therefore, in all likelihood, he will try to reduce tensions with Turkey's neighbors and extricate Turkey from regional conflicts. The fact that Turkey's relations in the aftermath of the coup have become strained with both the U.S. and the EU will enhance the necessity of establishing less fractious relations with neighbors.

Cambodia at a point of no return

6

Instances of repression

These instances of repression are the direct work of state organs, whereas the motives behind Kem Ley's murder remain murky. But people are wary and angry, and they are likely to be skeptical of any conclusion reached by a government investigation. Just days before his death, Kem Ley spoke on Radio Free Asia about a recent report by Global Witness, a watchdog NGO, detailing the staggering fortunes amassed by Mr. Hun Sen's relatives and close associates through the abuse of government power and corrupt business practices.

Government mouthpieces and Hun Sen himself have asked the public to consider who might benefit from Kem Ley's death, seemingly implicating the C.N.R.P. But Cambodians won't be duped. If anything, they seem increasingly resolute in standing their ground and speaking truth to power, as Kem Ley did. Immediately after he was shot, people at the scene gathered around his body to protect it, turned his car into a makeshift hearse and in an impromptu funeral march escorted it to the pagoda. Others quickly rallied to find out the killer's real name by disseminating his photo on Facebook.

If Kem Ley's murder was designed to instill fear, it has only stoked outrage and determination. Cambodian officials often issue warnings about a "color revolution," and the prime minister has cautioned Cambodians against calling for change on social media. The Hun Sen government is afraid of its own people. Perhaps it has reason to be.

(Source: The NYT)

A visit with Fethullah Gülen, Erdogan's chief adversary

7

In Gülen's bedroom

These days, Gülen is seeking to present himself as the polar opposite of the president in Ankara. His organization has millions in assets at its disposal, but Gülen himself claims to have practically no personal belongings. His aides say that he lives solely for his faith. His small apartment, which he has willingly opened up to his visitors on this day, has two rooms. He sleeps on a mattress on the floor, and next to it is a desk with books on it, small bottles of oil and a little Ottoman treasure box. A picture of the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem is hanging on the wall and a Turkish flag covers the shelf.

A closer inspection suggests that much consideration here has been given to security. Gülen's large veranda is furnished with black panels to ensure that he can't easily be seen and the rooms in his apartment can only be opened with a special chip card. An elevator takes Gülen directly to the garage, from which he is driven to the hospital for regular check-ups. Otherwise, his people say, he never leaves the house.

Why is he so sealed off?

Gülen has been described as extremely introverted, but it's difficult to imagine that being the case. How, after all, could someone so reserved build up such a major and influential movement? Followers of his movement are in important positions at all levels of the state -- in the judiciary, the military and in the political sphere. When Erdogan flexes his muscles inside the government apparatus, as he is currently doing, parts of Gülen's network are also affected. But this quiet and modest-seeming gentleman also has a firm grasp on the political game back in his home country. Gülen insinuates it may have been Erdogan himself who staged the putsch in order to strengthen his power and he notes that the president spoke of a golden opportunity to conduct a purge. But Gülen says he was also surprised by the unusual course taken by the putsch. After all, he said, the rebels failed to eliminate the political leadership right at the beginning. In effect, he is spinning his own conspiracy theory to counter Erdogan's. But he has no proof.

Intrigues, propaganda and power struggles

In this conflict, it is difficult to tell those telling lies from those telling the truth, or even just the half-truth. Turkish domestic politics long ago became filled with intrigue, propaganda and power struggles. But a visit with Gülen doesn't leave you with the impression that he is some sort of terror mastermind or putschist. Still, it is impossible to be certain. In such appearances, it is difficult to tell what is real and what is staged. So what happens next? Erdogan is demanding that the United States extradite Gülen, but he hasn't yet filed an official request and Gülen doesn't believe he will be extradited. Erdogan, he says, has no evidence to show the Americans. "The U.S. justice system works. The Americans won't turn me over if there isn't a tangible reason." His praise is more than idle. With permanent resident status, he says he likes America a lot and feels at home here. Indeed, he has even taken up an interest in American politics.

"Hillary Clinton is a good woman," he says. "She is a figure of hope for this country!"

(Source: Spiegel)

FOOD FOR THOUGHT



Anticipate the difficult by managing the easy.

Lao Tzu

LEARN ENGLISH
Plagiarizing a Paper

Paul: All done.
Samantha: You're done with your **paper**? How can that be? I'm just getting started.
Paul: I'm just a better student than you are.
Samantha: Let me see that. You didn't write this.
Paul: No, I didn't. I downloaded somebody's paper from some website and **slapped my name on** it. The professor will never know. **Wise up**. Do you want me to find one for you?
Samantha: No way! Not only is it **cheating**, if you **get caught**, you could **flunk** the class or get **expelled**.
Paul: Don't be such a **goody two-shoes**. Everybody does it. I know a guy who pays somebody in another state to write all of his papers for him and another guy who **lifts** his papers from old books. Don't tell me you've never **paraphrased** ideas from a source and **represented** them as your own.
Samantha: Are you kidding me? Borrowing ideas from a book with proper **attribution** is what you're supposed to do. You, on the other hand, are **plagiarizing** your way to your **degree**.
Paul: **Damn straight!** Look who's done with his homework and who is still working on hers.
Samantha: I'd rather earn what I get and know that I didn't **shortchange myself out of** an education!
(Source: eslpod.com)

Words & phrases

- paper**: a piece of writing that is done as part of a course at school or university
- slap something on something**: put or apply (something) somewhere quickly, carelessly, or forcefully
- wise up**: to realize the truth about a bad situation
- cheat**: to behave in a dishonest way in order to win or to get an advantage, especially in a competition, game, or examination
- get caught**: to find someone guilty of a crime or something bad and stop them from escaping
- flunk**: to fail a test
- expel**: to officially force someone to leave a school or organization
- goody two-shoes**: a person who is uncommonly good; a person who always does everything right and always follows the rules, so much so that it becomes annoying
- lift**: to take words, ideas etc. from someone else's work and use them in your work, without stating where they came from and as if they were your own words etc.
- paraphrase**: to express in a shorter, clearer, or different way what someone has said or written
- represent**: state or point out
- attribution**: the act of saying or thinking that something is the result or work of a particular person or thing
- plagiarize**: to take words or ideas from another person's work and use them in your work, without stating that they are not your own
- degree**: a course of study at a university or college, or the qualification that is given to you when you have successfully completed the course
- damn straight**: used for expressing strong agreement with something that someone has just said; for sure, certainly, without doubt
- shortchange out of**: to deprive of something

QUIZ OF THE DAY

187) Choose if the sentence is true or false.
They treated them roughly.
a) True
b) False
(Quiz No. 186 answer: b)

PHRASAL VERB

Wear down

- Meaning**: make someone feel weary/tired
- For example**: The baby's constant crying wore her down.

ENGLISH PROVERB

Hunger is a good sauce

- Explanation**: All food tastes good when you are hungry

Eco-friendly motorcycle couriers to help reduce air pollution in Tehran

SOCIETY TEHRAN — Some 600 eco-friendly electric motorcycle couriers will start working in central Tehran in a bid to reduce air pollution in the megacity, the director of Tehran's Air Quality Control Company has said.

Hopefully by the beginning of the second half of the current year - falling on September 22, 2016 - and in association with Tehran's Municipality and Badpa Courier Company the scheme will be administered in 6 areas located in district 12 of Tehran, Vahid Hosseini said, Mehr news agency reported on Friday.

Air pollution in Tehran stems from various factors including great number of cars as well as the clunkers, motorcycles, sand mines surrounding the city, and occasional dust storms originating from hotspots which used to be wetland and are now dried up due to mismanagement of the water resources.

To tackle all these problems different organizations must get involved to formulate coherent policies to reduce this persisting predicament.

As carburetor motorcycles are responsible for a great deal of harmful emissions replacing them with electric motorcycles would play a significant role in mitigating the air pollution, Hosseini added.

Electric motorcycles produce zero emission and noise disturbance, he said, adding, "It is not so far-fetched that with their emergence in the city we would experience less pollution the center of the city."

He also criticized the manufacturers who didn't cooperate to mass produce the electric motorcycles as at the beginning of the scheme 30 manufacturers have expressed readiness but not only two have kept their words.



Electric motorcycles being showcased in an exhibition held in Tehran in December 2014 (photo by Mohammad Babakhani/ Mizan)

It would be more fruitful if there were more manufacturers to stimulate competition and consequently enhance the quality and lower the prices, Hosseini suggested.

Agricultural pesticides being used inappropriately: official

SOCIETY TEHRAN — Iran's Food and Drug Administration director has voiced concerns over improper usage of agricultural pesticides in the country, Tasnim news agency reported on Friday.

"Unfortunately, pesticides are being applied inappropriately in the agricultural hubs of the country," Rasoul Dinarvand regretted.

"To stop such malpractice the Food and Drug Administration and the Agriculture Ministry have drawn up a plan which we hope to put into effect in the current Iranian calendar year (started on March 20),"



he explained. "We believe that a lack of close supervision regarding the time that pesticides must be applied and the type of pesticide that must be used are the main extant problems," he highlighted.

Mentioning the Agriculture Ministry's accomplishment in this regard, Dinarvand stated that hiring experts to monitor pesticides use, enforcing a law against buying pesticides from unlicensed pesticides dealers, and preventing unlicensed pesticides sellers from selling the material are of the measures taken by this ministry so far.

Woman suffers 3rd-degree burns from pennies left in hot SUV

An Oklahoma woman is recovering from third-degree burns to her thigh caused by hot pennies that spilled in her sport utility vehicle on a scorching summer day.

Melissa Sechrist says a cup of spare change spilled onto her seat in Moore, Oklahoma, last week, and the scalding-hot pennies came into contact with her leg. She tried icing the wound, but she went to a hospital over the

weekend after the pain didn't subside.

Sechrist tells Oklahoma City television station KWTW that the coins caused third-degree burns on the back of her thigh. She says it's still painful to walk, sit or lie down because of the injury.

According to the National Weather Service, the heat index was 104 degrees on the day Sechrist suffered the burns. *(Source: CBS News)*

30 injured after train crashes into truck in northern Iran

Iran's state news agency is reporting that 30 people were injured when an intercity passenger train crashed into a truck in the north of the country, Associated Press reported.

The Friday report by IRNA says the crash took place in the morning near the city of Behshahr, some 350 kilometers (220 miles) northeast of the capital, Tehran.

It says the injured were taken to

nearby hospitals. It says there were no fatalities.

It is common in rural areas of Iran for drivers to cross railroads, even where there are no marked crossings.

Some 17,000 people die in road accidents in Iran each year. The high accident rate is mostly blamed on drivers disregarding traffic laws, old vehicles and inadequate emergency services.

Rare crane hatches at Tehran's Birds Garden

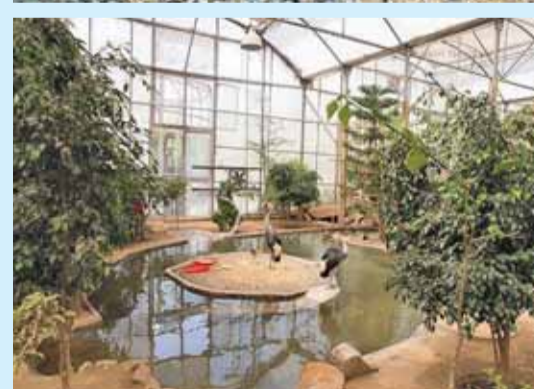
SOCIETY TEHRAN — A grey crowned crane, a rare species which is on the verge of extinction, hatched on Wednesday at Tehran's Birds Garden, Tasnim news agency reported.

A special birthday ceremony was held on this occasion at the garden with a number of environmentalists and officials in attendance.

The little birdie is now living with its parents in the tropical quarantine section of the garden and is being well taken care of.

The grey crowned crane is a bird in the crane family Gruidae. It occurs in dry savannah in Africa south of the Sahara, although it nests in somewhat wetter habitats. They can also be found in marshes, cultivated lands and grassy flatlands near rivers and lakes in Uganda and Kenya and as far south as South Africa.

The bird lives up to age 40 but unfortunately due to the effects of climate change the drying up lakes and lagoons it is on the brink of extinction.



LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

Poachers kill two rangers in Iran

Two rangers got killed while chasing poachers in Geno biosphere reserve in the southern province of Hormozgan on Thursday, the Department of Environment website reported.

While patrolling the area, the two rangers, Mohammad Dehqani and Parviz Hormozi, got shot in the head and the heart and passed away, Hormozgan province department of environment director general said.

Majid Vafadar explained that the poachers ran away from the scene and the searches to find the murderers are still ongoing.

Dehqani, 35, and Hormozi, 54, each have got the experience of 12 and 23 years under their belts, Vafadar said.

شکارچیان غیرقانونی دو محیط بان را کشتند

به گزارش سازمان محیط زیست دو نفر از محیط بانان منطقه حفاظت شده گنو در هرمزگان در تعقیب و گریز متخلفین غیرمجاز شکار و صید به شهادت رسیدند.

مدیرکل حفاظت محیط زیست هرمزگان گفت: طی ماموریت گشت و کنترل در منطقه دوتن از محیط بانان محمد دهقانی و پرویز هرمزی بر اثر شلیک گلوله مستقیم به قلب و به سر به شهادت رسیده اند. مجید وفادار توضیح داد: متخلفین غیر مجاز شکار و صید از منطقه متواری شدند و پیگیری ها برای یافتن آنها همچنان ادامه دارد.

وفادار گفت: دهقانی ۳۵ساله و هرمزی ۵۴ ساله با ۱۲سال و ۲۳سال سابقه کار خدمت بوده اند.

Team Melli made nation happy with good performance against Argentina: Rouhani

Iranian athletes' message in Rio is "peace, friendship, coexistence"

SPORTS TEHRAN — Iran president Hassan Rouhani says that Team Melli made the nation happy despite losing to Argentina in the 2014 World Cup.

Iran national football team suffered a late 1-0 loss to Argentina in the World Cup group stage.

"In the match against Argentina we lost to the team but our people were satisfied with our team's performance because Team Melli played well," Rouhani said in a ceremony held for seeing off Iranian athletes departing for Rio Olympics and Paralympics.

"Iranian nation are seeing off these athletes with their heart and prayer," continued Rouhani.

Stressing that the government will continue supporting public and cham-



ampionship sport in the country, Rouhani said: "Fortunately there is a new record in the number of Iranian athletes' attending Olympics and Paralympics and this is a great success for our dear athletes".

He went on saying: "Sport is the symbol of a nation's strength, activity and exhilaration in international stages".

"The biggest cruelty towards people is promoting despair of future in them and the biggest service comes from those who are giving people hope in words and in action," said Rouhani, stressing that success is not possible without hope and exhilaration.

The President added: "Iran is the most secure, most integrated country compared to most countries in the region and the world".

Esteghlal's Shahbazzadeh joins Alanyaspor



SPORTS Iranian striker Sajjad Shahbazzadeh has officially joined Turkish side Alanyaspor after leaving Esteghlal on mutual consent.

The 26-year-old player joined Esteghlal from Saipa in summer 2014 and scored 19 goals for the Tehran based team in 56 matches.

He will be the second Iranian play-

er to join Turkish Super Lig after Ramin Rezaeian who signed for Rizespor last month.

This is the first season in Super Lig for Alanyaspor after they won the promotion last season.

Formed in 1948, the club colors are orange and green and they play their home matches at Alanya Oba Stadyumu.

Former Iran coach Mayeli Kohan appointed First Division Malavan coach



SPORTS Mohammad Mayeli Kohan has been appointed as new head coach of Iran's First Division football team Malavan Bandar Anzali.

Malavan was relegated from the Iran Professional League at the end of the last season.

Mayeli Kohan, who led Iran futsal team to the fourth place at 1992 FIFA

Futsal World Cup, has penned a one-year contract with the team.

He also coached Iran national team in 1996 AFC Asian Cup and finished in third place with the team after defeating Kuwait in Penalty shootout.

The former Persepolis midfielder has also coached Saipa, Paykan, Foolad and Saba in Iran Professional League.

Iran has the potential to win gold medal at Olympics, says Iran's Mohammad Mousavi

SPORTS Iranian international volleyball player Mohammad Mousavi, who is currently one of the best blockers in the world, believes that Iran national volleyball team has the potential to win the gold medal of the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio.

"Without a doubt, we have done a great job booking a place in the Olympic Games for the first time. Generally, we are aiming to have a good performance in the tournament but when you speak about the individual purposes I believe that our team has the potential of winning the gold medal. This is a very tough job but we have the chance and we've shown our quality in the



past. We have the quality to beat any team and win the gold medal," Mousavi said.

"When I was younger I had the dream of playing in Europe especially in Italy but we're lucky players in Iran because we earn good money here even better than players in Europe," he added.

Iran has been pitted against London 2012 gold medalist Russia, World Championship 2014 winner Poland, Argentina, Cuba and Egypt in Pool B of the Rio 2016 Olympic Games.

The volleyball tournaments at the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro will be played between 6 and 21 August.

Iran downs Indonesia at FIBA Asia U-18 Championship opener

SPORTS TEHRAN — Iran defeated Indonesia at the 24th FIBA Asia U-18 Championship on Friday.

Iran overpowered Indonesia 106-40 in Group B in Tehran's Azadi Stadium.

The competition will run until July 31.

Iran has been scheduled to face Kazakhstan on Sunday.

The twelve participating teams have been into groups of two as follows:

Group A: China, Chinese Taipei, the Philippines, India, Iraq, Thailand.

Group B: Iran, South Korea, Japan, Kazakhstan, Indonesia, Lebanon.

The top four teams from each group will advance to the Quarter-Final. The top three teams from the 24th FIBA Asia U-18 Championship will represent Asia at the 2017 FIBA U-19 World Championship.



Iran's Naft Tehran signs Croatian Igor Prahic



Iranian football club Naft Tehran completed the signing of Croatian defender Igor Prahic on Thursday.

The 29-year-old player has joined Naft Tehran on a one-year contract from Padideh.

The details of the contract have not been revealed.

Prahic signed with newly promoted Persian

Gulf Professional League side Padideh in 2014. The defender played 38 games for the team and scored three goals.

He started his playing career in Croatian club Varteks in 2006 and was a member of the team for four years.

Prahic has played at all Croatian age levels but senior team.

(Source: Tasnim)

Iran's weightlifter Molaei taken to hospital after car crash



Iranian super heavyweight weightlifter Bahador Molaei was transferred to a hospital in the northern city of Amol, Mazandaran province, after a car crash.

Molaei's grandfather has been killed in a crash on Haraz Road on Thursday morning.

The weightlifter has undergone sur-

gery with surgical hip dislocation.

Molaei had participated in a ceremony for seeing off Iranian athletes departing for Rio Olympics and Paralympics.

He was also left out of the Olympic Games by a selection committee on Wednesday.

(Source: Tasnim)

FOOTBALL

Borussia Dortmund sign Andre Schurrle from Wolfsburg

Borussia Dortmund have announced the transfer of Wolfsburg winger Andre Schurrle, their eighth new arrival this summer.

Dortmund will sign the Germany forward on a five-year contract, subject to a medical, just a day after re-signing Mario Gotze from Bayern Munich.

Schurrle, 25, leaves Wolfsburg only 18 months after joining them from Chelsea, where he had been deemed surplus to requirements by then-manager Jose Mourinho.

Dortmund will reportedly pay around €30 million for the World Cup winner, who had three years left on his deal at the Volkswagen Arena.

Schurrle told Dortmund's official website: "Borussia Dortmund are one of the top European clubs with a strong and extremely exciting squad. From my own experience I know how much power BVB can develop with their fans and I am already looking forward to witness it not as wide-eyed opponent but as a part of it."

"I want to achieve great things with Borussia in the years to come and can't wait to start training and convince the people it was a good move to sign me."

BVB sporting director Michael Zorc added: "Andre Schurrle is a Germany international with an outstanding attacking potential, who moreover is a good passer, and also plays a skilful part in the defence. He has a lot of international experience despite being only 25. His quality will be very valuable for our team. Our attack is now complete."

During his 18-month stint at Wolfsburg, Schurrle made 62 appearances for the club and scored a total of 13 goals, setting up a further 10.

Ten of Schurrle's 13 goals came in his final six months at the club. However, his nine league goals in 2016 could not help Wolfsburg qualify for European competition, as they finished eighth in Bundesliga behind Mainz and Hertha Berlin.

Earlier this summer Wolfsburg said that Schurrle, who endured a disappointing Euro 2016, was not for sale, but the player expressed his urgent desire to move and the club changed their stance allowing Dortmund to make their eighth signing of the summer.

At the Westfalenstadion, Schurrle will reunite with former coach Thomas Tuchel, who promoted him to Mainz's first team when taking charge of the club only days before the 2009-10 season.

(Source: ESPN)

Mourinho not concerned if Man Utd fail to sign Pogba

Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho insists that the club are not merely focusing on one player amid intense speculation regarding their bid for Paul Pogba.



Goal understands that Juventus have demanded €120 million for the France international, with the Italian champions eager to hold on to the former Red Devils youngster.

Mourinho has previously claimed that he is "confident" a deal can be wrapped up, but he has now claimed that the club have a number of targets, rather than focusing their energies on a sole deal.

"We set four targets for us, we got three of them and we are going to get the fourth," Mourinho told reporters, having brought in Zlatan Ibrahimovic, Henrikh Mkhitaryan and Eric Bailly.

"We established the profile of four players to improve the squad, to give us more options, especially adapted to my way of thinking about football."

"Everybody speaks about one, but it wouldn't be a surprise for me if it is not him and it is another one because we went for profile."

"We have two more options in front of us and we are going to close one."

On Pogba, the 53-year-old added: "I am not going to try to make you naive and believe that we are not trying for one player."

"You have smoke, you have fire - you used to say something like that, right?"

"First of all, we know the player belongs to another club, which is not a small club. It is also a big club, one with economic power to fight for their best players, to try and keep their best players."

"Apart from that, we know other clubs are also involved and for us it is not, 'are we going to win the race or lose the race?' It is not a race, it is just the market."

"When you go to the market, you have other options. You cannot focus on one, so we are in a very comfortable situation."

(Source: Goal)



Poem of the day

"Dread him who dreads thee, O sage,
Although thou couldst cope with a hundred like
him.

Sadi

Prayer Times

Noon:13:11 Evening: 20:36 Dawn: 4:27 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:06 (tomorrow)

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NEWS IN BRIEF



Iranian "Angel" to compete in Spanish festival

T I A R T TEHRAN — Iranian director Hassan Akhundpur's movie "Angel" will be screened at the 11th Marbella International Film Festival, which will be held in the Spanish city from September 28 to October 2.

The movie is about the elder daughter of a family who is trying to help her family to overcome their economic problems while her father is in prison.



Iranian, German cultural officials meet in Tehran

T I A R T TEHRAN — Germany's Director-General for Culture and Communication at the Federal Foreign Office, Andreas Gorgen, met with the Iranian Deputy Culture Minister for Artist Affairs, Ali Moradkhani, in Tehran on Tuesday.

The expansion of cultural relations was discussed at the meeting.

Writer Moradi Kermani says his works present Iranians without exaggeration

T I A R T TEHRAN — Iranian children's book writer Hushang Moradi Kermani, whose works also appeal to adults, has said that he never has been prone to exaggerate about Iranians in his works, most of which have been translated into several different languages.

"I have presented Iranians without exaggeration or sloganeering," Moradi Kermani said in Ketab-Baz, a Nasim TV program that promotes reading.

He also added that his works have never intended to tell non-Iranians that Iranians are better than them.

"I raised non-Iranians' awareness about Iranians and Iranian culture," he noted.

An English translation of his autobiography "You're No Stranger Here" (also known as "Believe It

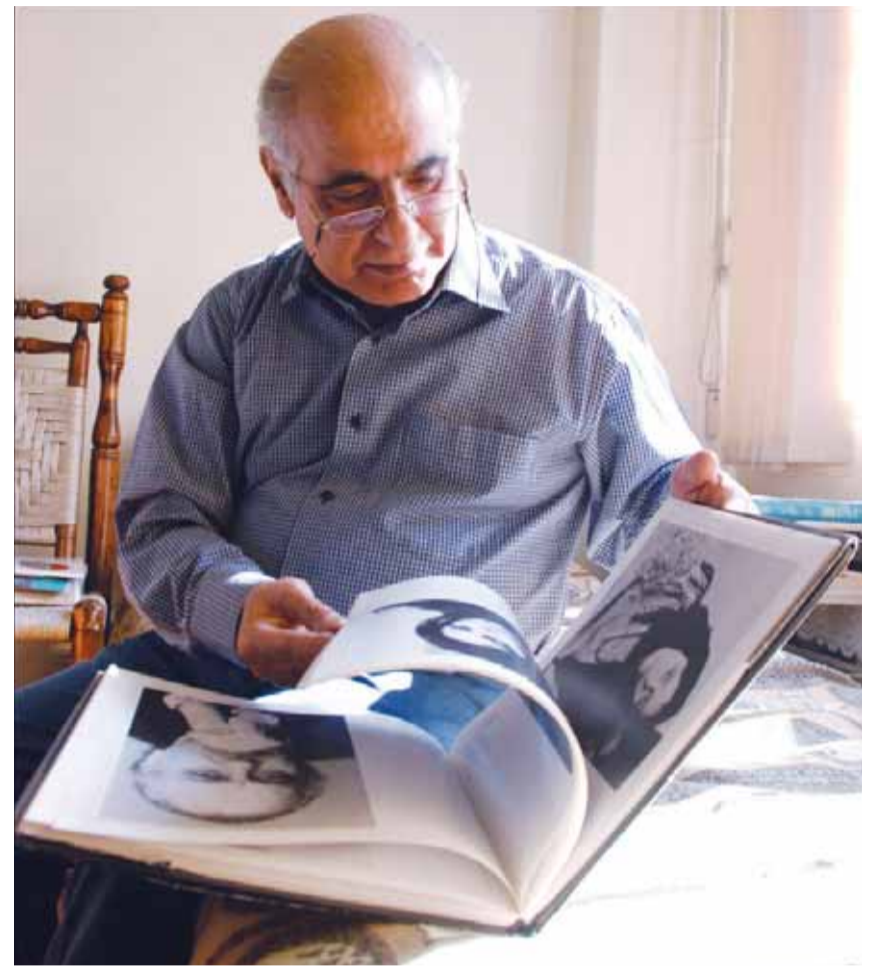
or Not") by Caroline Croskery was released by Candle & Fog Publishing Ltd. during the London Book Fair this year in April.

In this book, he recounts how his life in Sirch, his little village in the southern Iranian province of Kerman, paved the way for his writing.

"I was raised in a village located in a valley; I was raised with mountains, sky, birds, river and cows, for all of which I had stories," he said.

"I went to sleep with stories from my grandfather who was a good storyteller. He usually fell asleep before he finished his stories, but in my mind, I continued the stories, which sometimes were very fictional," he stated.

His "The Water Urn" and "A Sweet Jam" had previously published into English.



Iranian children's book writer Hushang Moradi Kermani in an undated photo

WHAT'S IN ART GALLERIES

Multimedia

■ A collection of prints and paintings by Ramin Qorbi is on display in an exhibition at Dastan Basement Gallery.

The exhibit named "Continuous Perceptible" runs until July 30 at the gallery, which can be found at 6 Bidar St., off Fereshteh St.

■ Soqol Javaheri is showcasing her latest paintings and sculptures in an exhibition at Mehrva Gallery.

The exhibit titled "Nature of Being" runs until August 1 at the gallery located at 38 South Aban St. off Karimkhan Ave.

Painting

■ An exhibition of abstract paintings by Marjan Yazdian is currently underway at Ehsan Gallery.

Her exhibit will be running until July 27 at the gallery located at No. 22, East 14th St. in the Ajudanieh neighborhood.

■ Sayeh Gallery is playing host to an exhibition of paintings by Ebrahim Barfarazi.

The exhibition runs until August 1 at the gallery located at 3 Aqakhani Alley, Omidvar St. in the Niavaran neighborhood.

■ Paintings by Ilia Tahamtani, Hanieh Sadri, Milad Mokhtari and several others artists are on display in an exhibition titled "Identity" at Jorjani Gallery.

Laleh Firuzi is the curator of the exhibit that runs until August 1 at the galley located at 4 Khayyam Alley off Vali-e Asr Ave near the Parkway Intersection.

■ Paintings by Marzieh Ziaian are on display in an exhibition at Shokuh Gallery.

The exhibit named "Color and Fantasy" runs until August 3 at the gallery located at 19 Amir Nuri Alley, North Salimi St. near Andarzgu Blvd.

"Tenant" to go to Paris

T I A R T TEHRAN — Iranian director Setareh Aminian will take an adaptation of French writer Roland Topor's novel "The Tenant" to Paris in the upcoming months.

"The Tenant" is currently on stage in Tehran's Hafez Hall in Persian with French supertitles, Aminian told the Persian service of MNA on Friday, adding that the play will go on stage in French in Paris with Persian supertitles.

Réformances, a Paris-based company founded by Iranian choreographer and director Afshin Ghaffarian in 2010, has collaborated in the project.

The actors will not change in their French performances, Aminian said, adding, "We will not be faced with any language problems with these actors."

Ghaffarian, who is also a member of the cast,



Setareh Aminian's troupe performs "The Tenant" at Tehran's Hafez Hall.

speaks French. Rahim Noruzi has begun taking classes in French, and the other actors will be ready for their performance in Paris."

Morteza Esmaeil-Kashi, Sara Olya, Mona Sharifi, Samira Toluei, Borna Etemadi and Saeid Oveisi are the other members of the cast.

"The Tenant" chronicles a harrowing, fascinating descent into madness as the pathologically alienated Trelovsky is subsumed into Simone Choulet, an enigmatic victim of suicide whose presence saturates his new apartment.

Aminian, who is also the writer of the play, has included flashes of inspiration from Russian author Fyodor Dostoevsky's novella "Notes from Underground" in the play.

PICTURE OF THE DAY

IRNA/Marzieh Musavi



The Shams Ensemble, mostly known for its mystic musical performances, gives a concert at Tehran's Vahdat Hall on July 20, 2016.

"Snowden" director Stone talks NSA, Pokemon GO at Comic Con

SAN DIEGO, CALIF. (Reuters) — Pokemon GO may seem a long way from the spy networks of the U.S. National Security Agency, but for Oliver Stone, director of NSA whistleblower movie "Snowden", the gaming app represents "a new level of invasion" of our digital privacy.

The Oscar-winning director made the comments at a panel discussion promoting his latest film "Snowden" at San Diego's Comic-Con pop culture event on Thursday. The movie follows the 2013 events that led former NSA contractor Edward Snowden to expose the U.S. government's mass surveillance programs.

Snowden fled the United States in May 2013 after the government filed espionage charges against him. He was granted asylum in Russia later that year, where he has since lived.

Joseph Gordon-Levitt plays the title character of the movie and met Snowden in Moscow two years ago to prepare for the role, spending four hours with him and his friend Lindsay Mills, saying he found him to be "very polite."

Dying on stage: comedian Marx has come closer than most

GREENWICH, ENGLAND (Reuters) — Like most stand-up comedians, Carey Marx has stories about "dying on stage", but in his case they are almost literally true.

Just weeks after a heart attack at the age of 46 which he put down to smoking, drinking and poor diet, economic necessity forced Marx back to work. But the crowd reacted badly when he tried to make jokes about his illness, chanting: "Die! Die! Die!"

He shuffled off stage and into an ambulance. He survived but only after a second operation to keep his arteries open.

"I tried to do material about the heart attack and I think if you do material like that badly you just embarrass the audience," Marx told Reuters ahead of a gig in south London.

"And I was also was genuinely afraid of

hecklers, and that's when comedy becomes frightening. You should never be afraid of the heckler. When you feel your heart racing and you're aware that you could go down at any moment then it's pretty scary."

Just hours after his heart attack, Marx told hospital staff he intended to get to a gig that evening. The doctor, astonished that he was contemplating rushing back into such a high-stress occupation, inadvertently gave him his first heart joke.

"He said: 'You can't do comedy! What he hadn't bargained for is I've been told that loads of times!' Marx says in "Intensive Carey", a show about his heart attack which he performed at the Edinburgh Festival and BBC radio.

These days the Londoner, a combative, confident performer who is both lauded

and criticized for his "dark" subject matters, rarely does material about his heart attack, partly because "I don't want to ruin their night" but more because it is so personal.

"I found it embarrassing to talk about at first. I am able to criticize the world and behavior and rules normally (during my comedy) because they don't affect me personally and I don't mind how the audience react to it."

"But if I had an audience I didn't really like, I didn't want to tell them the story, because it was personal. I felt like I had an investment in it."

One of the most touching stories in "Intensive Carey" is when Marx recalls walking to the local shop to buy a bag of sugar.

Severely weakened by his heart disease, he has to clutch it desperately to his chest

as he staggers home, aware that people around him must be thinking: "Look at that poor old man. He really loves sugar."

Research published in the "International Journal of Cardiology" (tinyurl.com/gkpbuy) that found standup comedians were particularly at risk of fatal illness, with "an inverse association between comedic ability and longevity", is something of a double-edged sword for Marx.

"Should I be putting 'has had a heart attack' amongst the reviews on my flyers?" he asked.

Marx rejects the idea that stress levels and personality traits are to blame for comedians' poor health, and says it is more to do with lifestyle.

"Nowadays there's a lot of very healthy people on the circuit. When I started it was a lot more rock and roll."

NEWS

Pavarotti's family tells Trump to stop using beloved aria

New York (Reuters) — Luciano Pavarotti's family says the late opera singer would not have approved of Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump's use of his recording of Giacomo Puccini's aria "Nessun Dorma", or "None Shall Sleep", in his election campaign.

After the Rolling Stones, Adele and R.E.M. and other artists asked Trump to stop using their music, Pavarotti's family in Italy made the same request about the maestro's work, according to a statement.

"As members of his immediate family, we would like to recall that the values of brotherhood and solidarity which Luciano Pavarotti expressed throughout the course of his artistic career are entirely incompatible with the world view offered by the candidate Donald Trump," the statement said.