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Saudis seeking to undermine nuclear deal benefits: Larijani

Majlis speaker says what Saudis are doing is 'open hostility'

POLITICAL TEHRAN — Iranian Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani said on Saturday that Saudi Arabia and cer-

tain Western countries are taking "obstructive" measures to prevent Iran from benefiting the advantages of the nuclear deal which removes

sanctions on Iran. "Evils of Saudis and certain Western countries have created obstacles so that Iran would

not be able to use the post-nuclear deal conditions," Larijani told a gathering in Qom, the city which he represents in the Majlis. →2

Banking reform bills in Majlis by mid-August: CBI governor

ECONOMY TEHRAN - Two proposed bills aiming at banking system reform have been prepared and will be sent to the parliament (Majlis) by the end of the current Iranian calendar month of Mordad (August 21), IRNA quoted Central Bank Governor Valiollah Seif as saying on Sunday.

"The two bills have been drafted in line with the country's financial and monetary reform plan and after being approved by the government they will be presented to Majlis," he added.

Determining various types of banking operations and services, establishing branches of foreign banks and assessing foreign banks' shares, determining the structure of bank shares in terms of individual ownership and classification of the banks, requiring credit institutions to provide correct information, setting standards to select professional banks' CEOs and board members and setting up risk and internal audit committees are among the features of the banking reform bill.

Earlier this month, President Hassan Rouhani announced that banking reform as the most important financial and monetary plan to foster economic growth will start in the current Iranian calendar year.

The reform plan prioritizes domestic production, creating jobs, reducing unemployment, developing economy and tackling recession.

First Kiarostami prize awarded to "Fish and Cat" director

ART TEHRAN — The director of the acclaimed movie "Fish and Cat", Shahram Mokri, has won the Abbas Kiarostami Prize, which was established by the organizers of the 16th Hafez Awards this year to be presented to an innovative filmmaker in honor of Abbas Kiarostami, the renowned Iranian filmmaker who died early in July.

The Hafez Awards was held at Tehran's Vahdat Hall on Saturday night and Mokri received the award from veteran director Masud Kimiai, who was deeply affected by Kiarostami's death. →12



"Flying Shams" coming for outdoor performance in Tehran

ART TEHRAN — Veteran director Pari Saberi plans to restage her "The Flying Shams", the vibrant story of Rumi's first encounter with his mentor Shams, in an open-air setting at Tehran's Sadabad Cultural Historical Complex from August 4 and 7.



Saberi, whose plays typically revolve around stories from classical Persian literature, premiered the play in Tehran in 1999. Afterwards, it went on stage for theatergoers in Italy and France.

Her troupe also performed it at Vahdat Hall in Tehran in 2007. "The Flying Shams" also went on stage in Konya, Turkey in September 2010 during Rumi's birthday celebration.

Persian poet and mystic Molana Jalal ad-Din Rumi had an encounter with dervish Shams-i Tabrizi in November 1244 while on a journey to Syria.

They forged a strong relationship under whose massive impact Rumi composed "The Divan of Shams".

Amir-Abdollahian takes new post in Majlis

POLITICAL TEHRAN — Former diplomat Hossein Amir-Abdollahian on Sunday was introduced as the new director of international affairs of the Majlis, Mehr reported.

The former deputy foreign minister for Arab and African affairs replaced Hossein Sheikholeslam, who some news outlets have speculated will be named as Iran's ambassador to Syria.

Amir-Abdollahian was recently replaced by Hossein Jabbari Ansari, who had acted as the Foreign Ministry spokesman.

Amir-Abdollahian was made advisor to Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif after removed from the post. Shortly af-



ter, he was made advisor to Majlis Speaker Ali Larijani for international affairs. Amir-Abdollahian had previously acted as Iran's ambassador to Bahrain. He also represented Tehran in the Syrian peace talks.

Iran's position on coup shows depth of ties: Turkish ambassador

By Ali Kushki
TEHRAN — The Turkish ambassador to Tehran on Sunday hailed Iran's prompt condemnation of the failed coup attempt in Turkey as an indication of robust ties between the two regional powerhouses.

"The stance of Iranian officials on the coup shows how deep-rooted bilateral ties between the countries are," said Riza Hakan Tekin, fielding numerous questions at a press briefing in the Turkish embassy in Tehran nine days after the coup.

Iran was the first country which laid into coup plotters in its neighboring country, voicing strong support for the democratic and legitimate government of Ankara.



While the position declared openly and promptly by Iranian officials was "quite satisfactory," but it seems that Ankara was not unmindful of different messages inside Iran by Friday prayer leaders. →2

Armenian investors ready to boost presence in Iran

ECONOMY TEHRAN — Armenian ambassador to Tehran Artashes Tumanyan has said that his country is ready to boost investment in Iran.

In a Sunday meeting with the chairman of Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Masoud Khansari, the Armenian official said that investment in the field of information technology is prioritized, IRNA reported.

The central bank of Armenia has developed plans to expand banking and monetary coop-



eration with Iran, Tumanyan added. He went on to say that Armenia will organ-

ize an exclusive expo in Tehran in the seventh Iranian calendar month (Sept. 22-Oct. 21).

Armenian companies are also interested in investing in Iran's poultry farming industry, he stressed.

Khansari, for his part, said that cooperation between the two countries should be planned so that it leads to presence in a third market. He proposed that holding joint exhibitions and dispatching trade delegations should be increased.

FAO strengthens statistical systems within ECO countries

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in collaboration with the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) has organized a five-day (24-28 July 2016) refresher training of focal points on the CountrySTAT system for ECO countries including Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Iran.

In his opening remarks, Mr. Ibrahim Khalil Akca, Secretary General of ECO highlighted that the CountrySTAT project and other related initiatives have matured into a valuable resource in strengthening the FAO Statistics

Division's capacity to provide technical assistance to countries and regions, and ensuring increased access to agricultural and food security data worldwide. "ECO has been proud of its partnership with the FAO, Member-States of ECO, and several other international, regional and national partners in the world to take the challenges posed by modern times in the spirit of the "Open Data" concept and approach" he added.

"We are fully committed to the cause of socio-economic development of the ECO Region, as reflected through our nascent ECO Vision

2025" Mr. Akca underscored.

During the opening ceremony of the workshop, Mr. Fabio Grita, the CountrySTAT team leader of the FAO Statistics Division also stated in his remarks that the workshop has fallen during a special period of technological and conceptual breakthrough of the CountrySTAT system and FENIX platform as a whole, which has opened a wide range of possibilities to better use information technologies and human expertise for addressing environmental and socio-economic problems at national and regional levels.

"In this workshop those participants who were familiar with the previous system will be confronted with a very different one that discontinues with the past and strengthens sharing, analysis and comparison of a large variety of data sources, as opposed to purely disseminating data" he noted.

CountrySTAT is a web-based information system on food and agriculture which provides easy access to statistical data of good quality that can aid decision-makers in better, evidence-based policy-making and greater efficiency in development politics. →9

ARTICLE

By Mahmood Khaghani
Oil expert

Caspian Energy Grid (CEG) - a Plan B for the region

Return to Baku
Since my mother is an Azeri, Azerbaijan is literally in my blood. In fact the Islamic Republic of Iran views the people of Azerbaijan as brothers rather than simply as friends and neighbours. I was therefore genuinely pleased to accept the kind invitation of the Caspian Center for Energy and Environment, ADA University to visit Baku to address their 10th Baku Summer Energy School on the subject of Iran's Caspian Perspective.

My first visit to Baku decades ago was during a mission as a member of Iran's negotiating team from Ministry of Petroleum. At that time after the fall of the Soviet Union, times were hard, and Azerbaijan's oil industry was in deep trouble, both financially and environmentally. My report led to a delegation to Baku led by Iran's Oil Minister and in time to a 10% share-holding in the Shah Deniz gas field. From this base, my colleagues and I developed an Iranian doctrine of energy co-operation through a range of innovative energy swaps such as gas for gas, oil into Northern Iran exchanged for oil delivered from the Persian Gulf (the Caspian Oil Swap); and a gas for power swap with one of Iran's Northern neighbours which became known as Energy for Peace.

Since I last addressed the Summer School gathering (now over 50 participants) of the global oil & gas industries brightest and best students in 2009 I found myself struck by the new Baku which has been built. But I also observed that the stream of oil and gas wealth which financed this wave of construction has now slowed dramatically as oil prices collapsed and the Azeri currency fell with it. Having suffered the effects of physical and financial sanctions in Iran for so long, I knew precisely how my hosts must have felt when financial flows are cut off. →4

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Zarif: Shia and Sunni are both victims of terrorism

Iran lambastes terror attacks in Kabul

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — The Iranian Foreign Ministry on Saturday strongly condemned suicide attacks against peaceful demonstrators in Kabul, Afghanistan.

"Terrorism, extremism and jeopardizing the lives of the innocent people have always been unjustifiable and condemned," ministry spokesman Bahram Qassemi said.

Reiterating the Iranian position, Qassemi said it is impossible to eradicate terrorism without the international community's cooperation.

Also in a tweet on Saturday Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said, "Afghanistan terror bombings another instance of Daesh depravity: Shia and Sunni are both victims and must unite to defeat extremists."

Twin explosions occurred through a demonstration by members of Afghanistan's mainly Shiite Hazara minority in Kabul on Saturday and left at least 90 people killed and over 230 injured.

The Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant claimed responsibility for the attack.

"Two fighters from Islamic State detonated explosive belts at a gathering of Shiites in the city of Kabul in Afghanistan," a brief statement on the group's Amaq news agency said, according to Reuters.

Iran's embassy in Kabul also condemned the terrorist act.

"Undoubtedly, the great Afghan nation will pass this important exam and will be able to foil enemies' plot hatched to create atmosphere of desperation in the country," the embassy said in a statement.

Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, the special advisor to Majlis Speaker Ali Larijani, also condemned the terrorist attacks.

"All the international capacities should be activated in order to make sure that the terrorists are at the end of the road and have no future," Amir-Abdollahian remarked.

He added, "Continuation of some regional and extra regional actors' strategic mistake prevents realization of peace."



It is essential for all countries to use all their capacities in order to help establish international peace and stability, he said.

He added, "Fortunately, Iran's parliament has high capacity to help achieve such an objective."

Tehran to protest IAEA over leak of confidential documents

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Behrooz Kamalvandi, spokesman for the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, said on Sunday that Tehran will protest the International Atomic Energy Agency over the leakage of confidential documents.

Kamalvandi's comments followed publication of a document by the AP on July 18 which says, "Key restrictions on Iran's nuclear program imposed under an internationally negotiated deal will start to ease years before the 15-year accord expires."

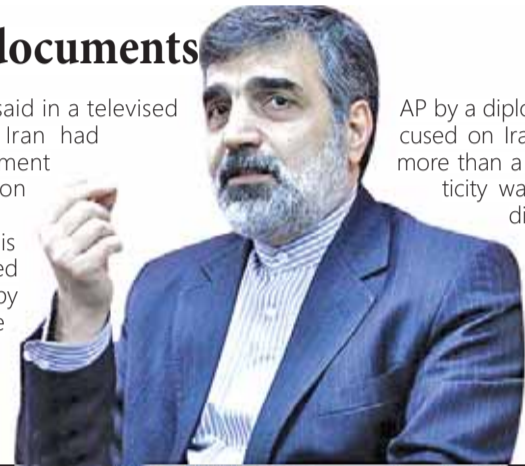
Kamalvandi said, "The published parts were supposed to be classified. Our assumption is that they are leaked by the agency [the IAEA]."

Ali Akbar Salehi, the AEOI chief, said in a televised interview aired on Saturday that Iran had asked the IAEA to keep the document classified, because there is no reason to make it public.

"We do not intend to announce this plan and if they did so, they breached their promise. Another point is that by publication [of the document], people will be informed about our suitable predicts to develop our country's nuclear industry," he said.

The document was given to the

AP by a diplomat whose work has focused on Iran's nuclear program for more than a decade, and its authenticity was confirmed by another diplomat who possesses the same document. Both diplomats demanded anonymity because they were not authorized to share or discuss the document, according to ABC News.



MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS



Rafsanjani calls for empowering knowledge-based firms

TEHRAN — Ayatollah Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, chairman of the Expediency Council, said on Sunday that the knowledge-based corporations should be empowered.

During a meeting with presiding board of the University of Applied Sciences and Technology, Rafsanjani said the cornerstone of the 20-year vision plan is based on science and technology.

Pointing to scientific and industrial development of certain countries such as Germany and Japan, he said this issue should be given due attention.



Former Tehran attorney to face trial on Sept. 4

TEHRAN — Saeed Mortazavi, the former chief prosecutor of Tehran, will stand trial on September 4, Judiciary spokesman Qolamhossein Mohseni Ejei told a press conference on Sunday, Nasim reported.

In another part of his speech, Ejei said General Inspection Office chief Nasser Seraj has recently written a letter to President Hassan Rouhani asking him for the formation of a new board of trustees for the National Development Fund as former members resigned following a financial scandal.



Iran, Iraq discuss anti-terrorism cooperation

TEHRAN — Iranian Ambassador to Iraq Hassan Danayefar and Iraqi Parliament Speaker Salim al-Jabouri in a meeting in Baghdad on Sunday discussed mutual cooperation in the war on terrorism and extremism.

They underlined the need for collective efforts by all Muslim countries to uproot terrorism in the region, Tasnim reported.



IRGC troops kill 23 terrorists in NW Iran

TEHRAN — IRGC forces on Sunday dismantled two terrorist groups in northwestern Iran, killing 23 of their elements in clashes, Press TV reported.

Majid Arjmandfar, an IRGC commander, said on Saturday that the two terror cells were successfully busted in the provinces of Kordestan and West Azerbaijan.

They were among five terror groups in total operating in northwestern Iran with the aim of destabilizing the country, he added.

The Iranian troops also engaged the remaining terror groups, inflicting losses on them and forcing their elements to flee the scene, Arjmandfar noted.

In a relevant bid the same day, the IRGC arrested 3 people suspected of being behind a recent terrorist attack against MP Heshmatollah Falahatpisheh in Kermanshah province.



Iran unveils new chopper simulator

TEHRAN — The Army on Sunday unveiled a new simulator for its tactical helicopter at the presence of Ground Force chief Ahmadreza Pourdastan in Tehran.

The new simulator of the 209 tactical military helicopter, dubbed Qader 5, was put on public display, Fars reported.

The simulator helps 209 helicopter pilots boost their flying skills while firing the TOW missiles mounted on their combat aircraft.



Pakistan's national security adviser in Iran for official visit

TEHRAN — Pakistan's National Security Adviser Nasser Janjua on Sunday left his country for Tehran to hold talks with senior Iranian officials on a range of issues, including ways to boost bilateral relations between the two neighboring countries.

Nasir Khan Janjua, a retired general, will discuss security issues in the region as well, ISNA reported on Sunday.

A statement issued by the Pakistani Prime Minister's House in Islamabad said that the adviser is visiting Iran at the invitation of the country's government.

Iran's position on coup shows depth of ties: Turkish ambassador

TEHRAN — "Naturally, paying attention to some different stances expressed by Friday prayer leaders is required and I should say that the stances have been a source of concern for us," said Haka Tekin in reply to a Turkish reporter.

On if Ankara has any intention to share the concern with Iranian officials, the ambassador said, "... we share this with our Iranian side."

Most likely, the Turkish journalist was referring to Ayatollah Ahmad Khatami, the interim Friday prayer leader of Tehran on July 22, who had said condemnation of the coup in Turkey does not mean President Erdogan should not be criticized.

Condemning the coup, Khatami had said Erdogan owed one apology for its "hypocritical behavior" towards Israel as well as one to "the victims of Daesh all around the world."

'No U-turn foreign policy shift in post-coup Turkey'

Pointing to the recent remarks of Turkish Prime Minister Binali Yildirim and President Erdogan, the ambassador rejected the possibility of a U-turn change in the Turkish foreign policy following the aborted coup.



On July 13, Yildirim had remarked, "It is our greatest and irrevocable goal: Developing good relations with Syria and Iraq, and all our neighbors that surround the Mediterranean and the Black Sea."

"We normalized relations with Rus-

sia and Israel. I'm sure we will normalize relations with Syria as well. For the fight against terrorism to succeed stability needs to return to Syria and Iraq," Yildirim further had said.

Also, in a phone call with President Rou-

hani, Erdogan had called for more cooperation between Iran, Russia, and Turkey.

However, Haka Tekin believed these comments should not be taken to mean a big change in Turkey's foreign policy, particularly with President Assad.

Iran and Turkey disagree over the future of Bashar al-Assad and this is not something hidden. Iran has also been supporting the Syrian government while Turkey backing the armed opposition groups.

"There is disagreement between Iran and Turkey over some regional issues and we believe attempts should be made to minimize disagreements in the current situation," the ambassador stressed.

However, he suggested, for regional efforts to succeed all countries should take "one step back."

'Turkey's recent regional stance not induced by economic downturn'

In reply to the Tehran Times question on if Turkey's recent regional policies have been influenced by the economic drag Ankara has been feeling over the years of conflict in the region and Daesh-affiliated terror attacks in the country, the ambassador said, "No, I don't think that is the case. Of course, it can be one factor but the real reason is beyond that."

Turkish ambassador to Iran Riza Hakan Tekin says, "The stance of Iranian officials on the coup shows how deep-rooted bilateral ties between the countries are."

Saudis seeking to undermine nuclear deal benefits: Larijani



TEHRAN — Justice Minister Mostafa Pourmohammadi said on Sunday that Iran is acting as a powerful nation at the global stage, naming the inching of nuclear deal with great powers and defiance of the hegemonic system as examples.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran acts powerfully in the main international arenas and the JCPOA (the official name for the nuclear deal) and resistance against the global powers were clear examples," he said in a conference.

Pourmohammadi also lent support for the implementation of resistance economy, saying Iran has great economic capacities.

Elsewhere, the minister said global powers are seeking to dominate international institutions and the Islamic world.

"The enemy seeks to dominate the whole world, especially the Islamic countries, politically, militarily, economically and culturally; we should act contrary to this movement and be aware of the value of our acts through precise understanding of the hegemony," he pointed out.

Minister: Iran is a powerful global actor



Also, in a phone call with President Rou-

hani, Erdogan had called for more cooperation between Iran, Russia, and Turkey.

Anger, mourning in Afghanistan after Kabul suicide attack

Afghanistan is observing a day of national mourning after a ISIL (Daesh) terrorist group-claimed bomb attack left 80 dead during a demonstration in the capital, Kabul.

People held funeral processions on Sunday for those killed at the Deh Mazang Square during a peaceful demonstration by Shia Hazaras against a controversial power line project.

The Daesh Takfiri terrorists claimed responsibility for the bombing.

According to Afghan authorities, at least 231 people were also wounded, some in critical condition, in the Saturday attack.

Police said one of the attackers successfully detonated his explosives, while the second one only managed to defectively explode himself. A third assailant was shot dead by security forces before he could detonate his vest.

President Ashraf Ghani condemned the bombings and said he was "deeply saddened" by the terrorist attack.



President Ghani's office, however, noted that the organizers of the demonstration had been warned to cancel the protest after intelligence said that an attack was likely. Daud Naji, from the Enlighten Movement

that arranged the protest, said the government told them that there was a "heightened risk" of attack, and that they had cancelled nine of the 10 planned routes. He added that the funeral procession

would go ahead despite the government's 10-day ban on all protests and public gatherings.

The power line project, which is scheduled to be implemented by 2018, would see the establishment of a 500-kilovolt transmission line from Turkmenistan to Kabul.

Originally, the line was to pass through the impoverished provinces of Bamyan and Wardak, which host large Hazara populations. However, it was later rerouted, with the government alleging that the redesigned course cut costs.

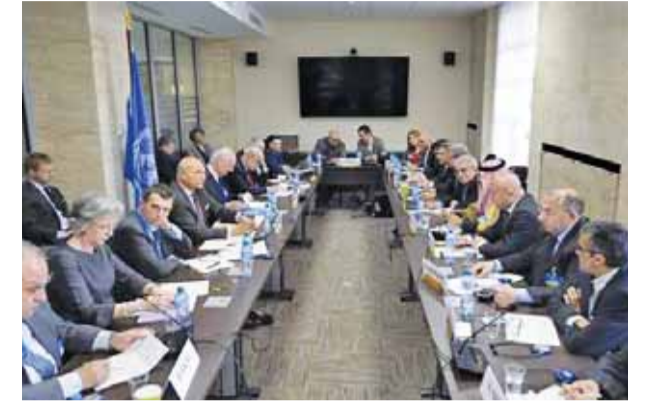
The Hazara say they want the line to pass through Bamyan and Wardak, west of Kabul, where many of them live, to ensure their power supply.

The Hazara community, the poorest of Afghanistan's ethnic groups, accounts for about nine percent of Afghanistan's population and is the country's third-largest minority.

(Source: agencies)

Syria govt. ready to resume peace talks: official

A Syrian government official say Damascus is prepared to restart United Nations-brokered negotiations aimed at resolving the crisis in the Middle Eastern country.



"Syria... is ready to continue the Syrian-Syrian dialogue without any preconditions... and without foreign interference, with the support of the United Nations," SANA news agency quoted the Foreign Ministry official as saying on Sunday.

The official further said that the Syrian government was intent on finding a political solution to the conflict gripping the Arab state.

Earlier this week, United Nations Special Envoy for Syria Staffan de Mistura expressed hope that a new round of intra-Syrian peace talks will be held in Geneva in August.

The latest round of the indirect UN-mediated negotiations between Syria's warring sides began in Geneva on April 13.

However, the talks were brought to a halt after the main foreign-backed opposition group walked out of the discussions and declared a "new war" on the government.

A "cessation of hostilities" brokered by the U.S. and Russia went into effect in Syria on February 27, but it does not apply to the Nusra Front and ISIL (Daesh) terrorist groups.

Despite the ceasefire, fighting still rages on in some parts of Syria, particularly around the city of Aleppo.

Syria has been gripped by foreign-sponsored militancy since March 2011.

According to De Mistura, over 400,000 people have been killed in the Syrian conflict. The UN has stopped its official casualty count in the Middle Eastern state, citing its inability to verify the figures it receives from various sources.

(Source: SANA)

Deadly Baghdad suicide bombing targets Shia area

At least 17 people have been killed and scores of others wounded in a bomb attack that struck Kadhimiyah, a Shia district of the Iraqi capital, Baghdad, official sources say.

According to Iraqi police, a bomber detonated his explosives near a security checkpoint at one of the entrances of Kadhimiyah in northern Baghdad on Sunday morning, leaving 17 people, mostly civilians, dead.

Over 20 others were also wounded in the terrorist attack.

The ISIL (Daesh) terrorist group has claimed responsibility for the fatal incident.

Baghdad has seen a dramatic rise in such terror attacks over the past weeks. Most of the assaults were claimed by Daesh terrorists, who mainly target security forces and public places in Shia-populated areas of the capital.

In the deadliest incident, nearly 300 people lost their lives after a bomber detonated an explosives-rigged vehicle at a shopping district in the Iraqi capital's Karradah

neighborhood on July 3. Daesh claimed that assault.

The Karradah bombing is said to be the deadliest to hit the city since the US-led invasion of the country in 2003.

The fresh wave of violence in Baghdad prompted Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi to sack a number of high-ranking officials responsible for security in the capital, including the head of the Baghdad Operations Command.

Since 2014, Daesh has swathes of land under control in the northern and western parts of Iraq.

The Iraqi army, backed volunteer fighters, has been engaged in large-scale military operations to liberate the militant-held areas.

They have managed to retake major areas which used to serve as major Daesh bastions in the country, most notably the city of Fallujah in Anbar Province.

The surge in Daesh bomb attacks comes as the terrorists desperately seek to make up for their losses on the battleground.

Earlier this week, Iraqi Defense Minister Khalid



al-Obeidi said less than 10 percent of the Iraqi territory remains in the hands of Daesh, calling for better security inside the country as the military continues making gains against the terror group.

(Source: Al Jazeera)

Vice President: Urban Sustainable Development, Main Mission of Bank Shahr

Vice President and Head of the Department of Environment (DoE) Ma'soumeh Ebtekar said that achieving sustainable development in urban areas is the main mission of Bank Shahr.

Speaking in the presence of ranking officials of UN Habitat, head of Majlis Article 90 commission, governor general and mayor of Qazvin and also deputies of the Department of Environment (DoE), he said: "Bank Shahr has always been considered as pioneer and vanguard in supporting urban projects."

As an operating bank of Intl. Fund of City Prosperity Initiative, the bank plays a key and important role in this respect, he said, adding: "CPI has been delegated to the bank thanks to its high capabilities and potentials in implementation of projects in urban development field."

It is hoped that the plan entitled "City Prosperity Initiative" will be put into operation successful at the initiative taken by Bank Shahr in the best form possible, she added.

Undoubtedly, giant stride should be taken in the country especially after implementation of Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) since a bright future has opened in the country to carry out projects in international level, she said and called on all responsible officials to make their utmost effort in line with strengthening the role in the best form possible.

Opening 1st Regional "CPI" Bureau in Cooperation with Bank Shahr

The first Regional Bureau of City Prosperity Initiative (CPI) was inaugurated in Tehran in cooperation with Bank Shahr as operating bank.

In the inaugural ceremony, Governor General of Qazvin Province Hemmati expressed his special thanks to the management of Bank Shahr for unpausing support for implementation of this plan in Qazvin and appreciated the move taken by the Chief Executive of the bank for the first time in the country."

It is hoped that inauguration of Regional Fund with membership of 45 countries will have positive aftereffects for the country and region, he maintained.

The next speaker was the Chief Executive of Bank Shahr Dr. Pourzarandi



who expressed his special thanks to the unflinching efforts of members at UN Habitat and said: "Today, Bank Shahr plays an important role in all cities in

the field of development of infrastructures especially public transportation."

In the contemporary world of today, cities are grappling with serious

problems in the field of providing financial resources, he said, adding: "As a pioneer bank in the country, Bank Shahr is honored to have an effective role in settling problems through establishing City Prosperity Initiative."

The last speaker was Chairman of the Board of Directors of Bank Shahr Morteza Khami who pointed to the services of this bank in development and prosperity of cities and said: "Participating in international arenas is very important for materializing objectives of banking system in the country, so that UN Habitat and CPI have created a golden opportunity, moreover attaining success in this field, to offer quality municipal services."

Bank Shahr Plays an Important Role in Implementing Prosperity at Cities

Head of UN Habitat Tehran Office Siamak Moghaddam pointed to the key role of Bank Shahr as the first Iranian operating bank in implementation of City Prosperity Initiative.

Turning to the activity of this organization and its relationship with Bank Shahr, he said: "Qazvin city was selected as pilot city for the implementation of CPI in

global level, so that Bank Share is selected as operating bank for launching this giant municipal project."

He pointed to the key role of Bank Shahr in this field and said: "The bank enjoys high capability which can provide some part of financial resources needed for implementation of this plan due to its specialized field of activity in financing

urban projects and also implementing technical projects in macro cities."

In the end, he said: "City Prosperity Index is a tool which specifies progress of cities observing requirements of international standards, based on which, pertinent measures will be executed at cities and country."

Bank Shahr Enjoys Significant Capacities to Guide CPI Successfully

Bank Shahr has significant capacities for heading World Urban Prosperity Fund, the issue of which is of paramount importance.

Deputy UN Habitat Research and Capacity Building Affairs Prof. Edward Lopez announced the above statement and said: "City Prosperity Index Program initiated in 2012, so that capacity-building and research sector of "Habitat" provided the index. According to the UN General Assembly regulation, a report

was provided, so that several cities urged UN Habitat to implement the program. Broadly speaking, this program became international."

It was envisioned that this program should be executed in Iran regionally, he said, adding: "Thanks to its best performance, Bank Shahr was appointed to finance implementation of this comprehensive program."

Under the cooperate agreement inked between Bank Shahr and UN Habitat, the bank was selected as pivot-

al partner in the region, he maintained.

Bank Shahr was selected to finance the project as delineated by UN Habitat, he said, adding: "It is hoped that financial resources will be provided in other cities in world with the cooperation of Bank Shahr in line with implementing "City Prosperity Initiative (CPI)".

Once this Fund is set up, 45 countries will take membership at the Fund, so that implementation of the said program will be accelerat-

ed, he opined.

Qazvin is considered as the first city which will host the implementation of the program, he said, adding: "Since Qazvin Municipality is equipped with the most appropriate management, golden opportunity has been provided in this province for implementation of this program."

In the end, he said: "It is hoped that this comprehensive program will be generalized in other cities in the country."

MPO Backs Implementation of CPI Plan Wholeheartedly



Deputy Management and Planning Organization (MPO) for Development Affairs Dr. Seyyed Hamid Pour-Mohammadi said: "With the coordination made in this regard, MPO will throw its heavyweight on successful implementation of City Prosperity Initiative (CPI)."

As responsible body for achieving sustainable development in the country, he said: "Islamic Republic of Iran will back this plan suitably."

Coincidence of this program with Sixth Five-Year Development Program will create this opportunity to support the implementation of this plan comprehensively and categorically, he maintained.

MPO is missioned to formulate Sixth Five-Year Socioeconomic and Cultural development Program, he said, adding: "The final plan has been formulated and submitted to the Islamic Consultative Assembly."

In the end, he said: "This comprehensive program has focused on the following topics such as sustainable development, environment, etc."



Qazvin Governor General: Successful Implementation of CPI Requires "National Support"

Governor General of Qazvin Province Fereydoun Hemmati said that successful implementation of City Prosperity Initiative (CPI) requires national supports and effort of managers in municipal affairs.

He pointed to the unsparing supports of Bank Shahr in implementing "City Prosperity Initiative" and called on all responsible organizations and institutes to take effective steps for successful implemen-

tation of the plan."

Getting aid from UN, providing financial resources and compatibility of local development programs with world program should be taken into consideration for execution of CPI, he maintained.

In the end, he expressed his thanks to the senior management of Bank Shahr who took effective steps for implementing this comprehensive program in the country.



Head of Majlis Article 90 Commission: Bank Shahr, Safe Sponsor for Development of Cities

Bank Shahr is considered as "safe" and "confidant" sponsor for development of urban areas.

Announcing the above in an interview, Head of Article 90 Commission of the Islamic

Consultative Assembly Davoud Mohammadi said: "Qazvin was selected as pilot city for implementing City Prosperity Initiative due to its attractions with breathtaking views."

JUMP

**Caspian Energy Grid (CEG)
- a Plan B for the region**

So, it was that I came to be presenting to the assembled students and experts the Caspian Energy Grid initiative, following its Tehran launch on 20th June and London launch on 14th July before Iran's Energy Minister H. E. Hamid Chitchian and his delegation.

Perspectives – the U.S.

It was a pleasure to meet once again and hear from former U.S. Special Envoy on Caspian Sea Energy Affairs H.E. Ambassador Steven R. Mann with whom I had many differences of opinion at international conferences during my tenure as Director General for Caspian Sea Oil and Gas Affairs at Iran's Ministry of Petroleum. However, Ambassador Mann now advises Exxon Mobil and we both view regional energy from a more neutral business perspective, leaving geopolitical differences behind.

He made some interesting strategic observations beginning with International Oil Companies (IOCs) compared to National Oil Companies (NOCs). He pointed out that for IOCs, everything comes down to shareholder value (shareholder imperatives) while for NOCs, the long-term exploitation of the fields and an array of social and political considerations determine the company's choices (societal imperatives).

He then observed that the corporate culture of particular companies shapes their behaviour. In the case of ExxonMobil a bottom-up approach enables engineers on the ground to make choices and suggest company-level decisions (such as investment on a particular field etc.).

He then gave his forward-looking 2040 perspective, where he foresaw steep growth in developing countries leading to growth in energy demand. However, he suggested that oil would remain a primary source of energy – driven by transportation, principally for heavy duty (trucks, planes and ships). However, he envisaged demand for car transport would decrease (due to much more energy-efficient cars, despite a sharp rise in their number) and to energy efficiency from growth in hybrid cars, plus other technologies (Natural Gas, hydrogen fuel cells, full electric etc.). He also foresaw growth in the chemical industry.

He envisaged that natural gas will have the fastest growth particularly for electricity generation where Chinese gas demand will skyrocket. He also foresees the rise of unconventional gas supply (fracking). He observed that energy efficiency allows and will allow for reductions in energy consumption equivalent to the discovery of a whole new energy source (the "Fifth Fuel").

He concluded by observing that higher living standards coincide with higher energy needs. Since urbanisation is energy intensive, the growth of the middle class in developing countries (with urbanisation) will lead to growth of energy demand. In OECD countries, on the other hand, energy efficiency will lead to steady/slightly decreasing energy demand.

SOCAR perspective

My friend Elshad Nassirov Vice President of SOCAR (who speaks Farsi) outlined SOCAR's Strategy and said their focus is on vertical integration internationally in order to contribute to the Republic of Azerbaijan's development. In order to achieve this, SOCAR aims to increase exports of natural gas and international activity, while increasing and consolidating domestic activities (refining, marketing, petrochemical activities) and enhancing operational efficiency.

He added that the Republic of Azerbaijan enjoys a reputation as a reliable business partner, illustrated by the fact that contractual terms had never been modified without the written agreement of all parties.

He provided the participants with historical background of the Republic of Azerbaijan recent petroleum history, beginning with the 1994 "contract of the century" Production Sharing Agreements with major IOCs such as BP. In 1999: the Shah Deniz gas field (one of the world's largest) was discovered offshore in the Caspian Sea and Iran holds 10 percent of its share capital.

In 2006 the BTC oil pipeline (Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan [Turkey]) became an outlet for the Republic of Azerbaijan's landlocked oil reserves. He explained that Russia would have preferred the Republic of Azerbaijan to double its Baku-Novorossiysk pipeline capacity, but SOCAR decided against this because of the long waiting time for tankers to transit the Bosphorus strait due to the high volumes of oil traffic. He added that Georgia wished for a future pipeline Baku-Supsa, but this would be subject to the same Bosphorus marine traffic congestion issue.

A gas doubling of the BTC is now under construction which will create the "Southern Gas Corridor": giving new gas supply for Europe (Baku-Turkey-Greece-Albania-Italy). This will provide a gas Superhighway for gas from different sources, not only the Republic of Azerbaijan, but also Central Asia, Iraq, East Mediterranean on the basis of reaching additional markets in Europe & Balkans.

Other perspectives

The Turkish perspective (exemplified by the fact that the speaker had been banned from attending as a result of recent events) was given by the well known expert oil & gas journalist, John Roberts, who noted the departure of 300 senior staff of Turkish Ministry of Energy and spoke of the consequences for gas export projects from the Caspian region.

New energy diplomacy= energy cooperation

Add to this the recent differences of view between Baku and Athens as well as Baku and Tbilisi and the ground was well prepared for me to suggest that the time is ripe for a new energy diplomacy initiative as proposed by Iran Petroleum Minister. Possible initiatives in this field have been proposed by scholars such as Chris Cook a senior research fellow at University College London as the Energy Co-operation.

Costs are neutral

While Ambassador Mann shared the IOC/SOCAR perspective in relation to development strategy he said that ExxonMobil currently has no plans for investment in the region. The crucial reason – which is at the heart of the Caspian Energy Grid initiative that I presented and which attracted considerable attention – is that of costs.

While nations and great IOCs (with ExxonMobil as the greatest of all) compete ruthlessly in relation to supply and demand of oil and gas as commodities, costs are a different matter, where co-operation is not only possible but mutually profitable. Ambassador Mann made clear that ExxonMobil had no higher priority than the reduction of Exploration & Production (E & P) costs and that for the time being the combination of low prices and high E & P costs renders the Caspian region uneconomic for ExxonMobil.
(See the rest of the interview on the Tehran Times website)

South Pars daily output to rise to 540mcm by Mar. 2017

ECONOMY TEHRAN — "Having six more platforms online in South Pars gas field by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2017), the daily output of the field will reach 540 million cubic meters (mcm)," an official with Pars Oil and Gas Company said on Sunday.

According to Shana news agency, Farrokh Alikhani said that for the time being, 415mcm to 430mcm of gas is extracted from South Pars per day. Once the six new platforms come on stream, the output will rise by 100-110mcm per day, he noted.

"Some 40 other platforms should be installed in South Pars," he added.

Explaining the ongoing installation and operation procedures of the six new platforms in the gas field, the official said that platform 19A has been fixed for a week and platforms B18, B17, B19 and B20 will be fixed based on schedule following the installation of platform 21.

South Pars field, which Iran shares with Qatar in the Persian Gulf, is estimated to contain a significant amount of natural gas, accounting for about eight percent of the world's reserves, and approximately 18 billion barrels of condensate.

Iran, which sits on the world's largest gas reserves, intends to enhance gas production by increasing foreign and domestic investment, especially in its South



Pars gas field.

The country produced 192.5 billion cubic meters (bcm) of natural gas in 2015, up 5.7 percent from 182bcm in 2014, British Petroleum reported in its June 2016 Statistical Review of World Energy.

Natural gas output in Iran also witnessed rise in 2014 from 166.8 bcm in 2013, according to the BP's report.

Meanwhile, the country maintained its rank as the third natural gas producer in the world after the U.S. and Russia for the second consecutive year.

Trade volume at IFB up 33%

ECONOMY TEHRAN — The volume of securities traded on the Iranian over-the-counter market, known as Iran Fara Bourse (IFB), rose by 33 percent during the first four months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-July 21, 2016), compared to the same period last year.

Some 29.654 billion securities valued at 137.46 trillion rials (above \$3.9 billion) were changed hands at IFB, recording 33-percent and 8-percent increase respectively year on year, Tasnim news agency reported on Sunday.

In the IFB primary market, above 3.58 billion of securities, worth 7.27 tril-

lion rials (above \$206.6 million), were traded in transaction rounds in the said time, illustrating a rise of 91-percent and 33-percent respectively, compared to the same period in the preceding year.

In IFB secondary market, more than 9.9 billion of securities at the total price of 33.64 trillion rials (above \$956.2 mil-

lion), were traded, showing a growth of 12 percent and 43 percent respectively, compared to the same time of the year before.

IFB is a market for securities and other financial instruments. It operates under official supervision of Securities and Exchange Organization.

Iran approves 40% discount on Nakhchivan-Persian Gulf cargo transit fees

Iran has approved to 40 percent discount to railroad cargo transit fees from Nakhchivan to Persian Gulf ports, Hossein Ashoori, vice president of operation and international transportation of Islamic Republic of Iran Railways told Trend July 23.

"The Azerbaijani side has requested Iran to provide facilities to help start transporting cargoes from Nakhchivan to southern Iranian ports and we approved to a 40 percent discount on fees," he said.

Ashoori also said that the first experimental cargo transiting

from India to Russia through Iran and Azerbaijan will be carried out in August.

"The cargo will be shipped from India to Bandar Abbas port by the Persian Gulf, then it will be transited via rail to the city of Qazvin, then carried by trucks to Azerbaijan's city of Astara near the border with Iran. Finally the cargo will be delivered to Russia through the Azerbaijan-Russia railroad," he said.

The testing of the cargo will come as a pragmatic step toward the realization of the combined transportation goal of the

North-South Corridor.

The North-South transportation corridor is meant to connect Northern Europe to South-East Asia. It will serve as a link connecting the railways of Azerbaijan, Iran and Russia.

Currently Iran should complete Rasht-Astara sector for completion of the corridor. By that time, which was estimated to take about three to four years, the participant countries would carry the cargoes by combined transportation way.

(Source: Trend)

PICTURE OF THE DAY SHANA/Reza Rostami



In their Sunday meeting in Tehran, Iranian Oil Minister Bijan Namdar Zanganeh (R) and Sri Lankan Petroleum Resources Development Minister Chandima Weerakkody conferred on expansion of Tehran-Colombo oil and petrochemical relations and resumption of Iranian gas and crude oil sales to the Southeast Asian country. Iran used to export 40,000 barrels of oil per day to Sri Lanka before the sanctions were imposed on Iran in 2012.

Iran begins to draw from floating oil storage

Iran has started drawing on oil reserves in floating storage, according to ship-tracking data, a move which could mark a turning point for the country this year.

The data from Marine Traffic show a 1.4 million-barrel overnight decline on the Iranian floating storage tanker Hilda.

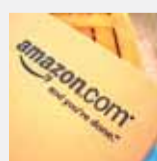
Iran boosted its oil production after international sanctions against the nation were removed early this year as part of a nuclear deal with six world powers. However, global crude prices plummeted, in part on expectations of Iran's increased output, and the nation has struggled to unload its production as quickly as it had hoped in the pre-sanctions era.

Market participants had estimated Iran's floating storage in February at 35 million to 50 million barrels.

In July, Iran's gasoline consumption hit record highs, suggesting refineries could be ramping up their use of crude to meet demand.

(Source: WSJ)

NEWS IN BRIEF



Amazon to enter student loan business

E-commerce giant Amazon has entered the student loan business, teaming up with US bank Wells Fargo to offer lower interest rates to subscribers of its "Prime Student" services.

For an annual fee "Prime Student" gives subscribers discounts, free delivery and access to Amazon's video streaming.

Wells Fargo is one of the largest providers of student loans in the U.S.

The deal should help the bank promote products and Amazon attract students.

"Prime Student" subscribers will be eligible for a 0.5 percent discount on Wells Fargo student loans.



Downward pressure still high but China can hit GDP target: central bank adviser

Downward pressure on the Chinese economy remains fairly large but it should be able to expand more than 6.5 percent this year, Bai Chongen, a policy adviser to the central bank and professor at Tsinghua University, told Reuters on Sunday.

"The pressure (on the economy) is still fairly large but there shouldn't be any problem for us to achieve growth of more than 6.5 percent," Bai said.

China's policymakers have already done a lot on the monetary policy front, Bai said, adding he agreed with the assessment that tax cuts would be more effective at spurring growth than interest rate cuts at this point.



Verizon emerges as front-runner in Yahoo auction: sources

Yahoo Inc. is focusing on U.S. telecommunications company Verizon Communications Inc. as the buyer of its core business after reviewing final bids that it received this week, people familiar with the matter said on Friday.

A deal would boost Verizon's AOL internet business, which the company acquired last year for \$4.4 billion, by giving it access to Yahoo's advertising technology tools, as well other assets such as search, mail, messenger and real estate. These synergies have made Verizon the favorite among industry analysts to prevail in the auction.

In Annual Ordinary General Assembly: BIDC Closes Fiscal Year by Paying Rls.200 Dividend per Share (DPS)

The Annual Ordinary General Assembly of Behshahr Industrial Development Corp. (BIDC) was held on July 20, 2016 in the presence of more than 79 percent of its shareholders. As headed by Mr. Mahmoudi, the meeting was supervised by Messrs. Goudarzi and Mohammadi. It should be noted that Eng. Moghimi-zadeh was introduced as the secretary of the meeting. After reading the report of the Board of Directors and also legal inspector of the company, the following cases were approved by the majority of shareholders: 1) Financial statements for the fiscal year closing on March 19, 2016 were approved. 2) Rls.200 dividend per share (DPS) was distributed among shareholders. 3) State Audit Organization was appointed as auditor and main inspector of the company for the fiscal year in current year (started March 20, 2016). 4) Ettela'at Persian Daily was selected as widely circulated paper for publishing the upcoming advertisements and bulletins of the company.



dairy industries, sugar, detergent and hygienic industries due to its success and long-term presence in food industry and also its pivotal capability i.e. distribution of products. Totally, annual sales volume of the corporation stands at approx. 30,000 billion rials.

Moreover the aforementioned industries, the corporation, as a supplementary of supply chain, has embarked on investing in industries such as banking, building insurance and investment companies according to the specialized and management capacities available in its long-term investment portfolio and in line with creating a durable income flow.

Capital and Combination of Shareholders

The initial capital of the company during its establishment stood at 250 million rials, divided into 25,000 stocks, each worth 10,000 rials, totally paid. It should be noted that the capital of the company has increased in several stages. The registered capital of the company for the fiscal year closing on March 19, 2016 stood at 5,080,032 billion rials, divided into 5,080,32 million stocks, each worth 1,000 rials (registered capital). Following approval of shareholders in the Extraordinary General Assembly dated on Dec. 21, 2015, the capital of the company increased from 5,080,32 billion rials to 7,021 billion rials, as much as 38.2 percent, out of cash demands and income of the shareholders.

It should be noted that that capital increase of the company was registered on June 18, 2016.

Visions

According to its vision, the corporation is considered as one of the top investment companies in terms of market value. Thanks to its best achievements, the corporation managed to create highest value for its shareholders with attracting and managing capital in industries and profitability services which have competitive advantage.

Strategy

The five strategies of the company include as follows:

1. Diversification of structure of mid- and long- term investments,
2. Increase of capability of holding company in the field of identifying and managing investment opportunities, transferring and merging strategic companies,
3. Strengthening mechanisms and methods of financing the holding company and optimizing management of resources and mid- and long- term consumptions,
4. Focusing on independency of subsidiary companies through the application of financial control approach through designing and deploying management per-

formance system according to the strategies and approved budgets.

5. Increasing productivity of management- based investment with converting nonproductive assets into the sales productive assets as well as transferring inefficient and unprofitable companies, etc.

Future Plans

1. Increasing productivity and return on assets, transferring nonproductive assets, completing distribution industry chains, managing and promoting level of motivations,

2. Making effort to develop management capabilities in the unit through the application of competent, able and most experienced managers, transferring experiences and technical know-how and also holding purposeful courses in the macro and operational field,

3- Participating in the capital market strongly and effectively and promoting transparency of activities of the company through dissemination of information services at stock market,

4- Replacing and moving investments, financing new investments through proceeds obtained from transferring some of available investment in line with attaining industries with relative advantage of the performance of the Group,

Status of Behshahr Industrial Development Corporation in Industry

It should be noted that Behshahr Industrial Development Corporation (BIDC) (Public Joint Stock) is considered as food production company and/or food industries holding company in terms of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE). A glance at combination of investment of the Group, it can be concluded that, moreover investing in food industrial companies, the company has launched significant investment in other industries such as hygienic and detergent industries, building, banking and insurance sectors as well.

It is worth mentioning the management of the company will make all its utmost efforts in line with materializing most objectives in the current Iranian calendar year 1395 (started March 20, 2016).

Message of the Board of Directors A General Overview on Situation and Developments of Industry and Status of Co. in Industry in Last Year

As one of the oldest and largest production and service complexes, Behshahr Industrial Development Corporation (BIDC) was tasked with helping development of the country along with profitability. The corporation is thinking of active and powerful presence in the business field. Although boom and recession is inevitable and unavoidable issue which has jeopardized economic situation of many companies and private sector in the country, this issue can be considered as an opportunities in some industries. For this purpose, Behshahr Industrial Development Corporation has tried to increase productivity and efficiency for group member companies. Broadly speaking, the management of the corporation tries to bring about profitability for its shareholders in terms of competition power for group companies as well.

A General Overview on Status of Company in Industry and Its Competitive Situation in Reported Fiscal Year Period

Presently, the corporation is known a food and beverage industrial holding company except sugar and lump sugar. In general, the corporation is an investment holding company, focusing on food and detergent industrial companies. Currently, the company is regarded as large active companies in Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE) in terms of market capital and value.

History

Behshahr Industrial Development Corporation (Public joint Stock) was registered in 1970, under Reg. No. 14393, at Tehran Industrial Ownership and Companies Registration Department. Stocks of the company were accepted at Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO) in 1974. This corporation is considered as the first company whose stocks were offered to public by the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran in line with the privatization policy. Moreover its relative significance as one of the largest industrial hubs in the country, success of the corporation is of paramount importance in the field of privatization.

The subject of corporation, according to its articles of association, is as follows: Investing in stocks of the company through buying and selling (transacting) their stocks, buying and selling (transacting) bonds and securities, participating in stocks of banks and other economic enterprises, etc.

Presently, the corporation has focused its investments in edible oil industry,

Behshahr Industrial Development Corp. (BIDC) (P.J.S) Profit and Loss Account For the Fiscal Year Closing on March 19, 2016

	March 19, 2016 Million rials	March 19, 2015 Million rials	March 19, 2015 Million rials
Income obtained from investments made	1,870,010	0	2,022,407
Profit obtained from sales and investments	0	0	9,442
Gross profit	1,870,010	0	2,031,849
Administrative and general costs	(61,009)	0	(46,771)
Operational profit	1,809,001	0	1,985,078
Other incomes and operational costs	9,774	0	1,638,158
Profit before taxation	1,818,775	0	3,623,236
Income tax	0	0	0
Net profit	1,818,775	0	3,623,236
Basic profit of each share:			
Operational profit - rials	324	0	411
Nonoperational profit - rials	2	0	355
Basic profit of each share - rials (based on stock average)	326	0	766
Basic profit of each share (based on number of stocks in reported date)	259	0	713
Cumulative Account			
Net profit		1,818,775	3,623,236
Cumulative dividend in the beginning of year	3,766,551		2,864,915
Yearly adjustment	(6,311)		(6,311)
Cumulative dividend in the beginning of year - adjusted	3,760,240		2,858,604
Approved dividend	(2,553,533)		(2,721,600)
Profit appropriation:		1,006,707	137,004
Legal reserve		2,825,482	3,700,240
Cumulative dividend in the year-end		1,145,152	-
		2,680,330	3,760,240

Behshahr Industrial Development Corp. (BIDC) (P.J.S) Balance Sheet For the Fiscal Year Closing on March 19, 2016 (Revision Presented)

Assets	March 19, 2016	March 19, 2015	Liabilities and Owner's Equity	March 19, 2016	March 19, 2015
	Million rials	Million rials		Million rials	Million rials
Current assets			Current liabilities		
Cash balance and inventory	73,612	26,280	Trade and nontrade payables	145,917	159,761
Trade and nontrade receivables	2,999,690	2,794,812	Dividend paid	1,253,280	1,365,654
Payment in advance	183,841	183,061			
Total current assets	3,257,143	3,004,153	Total current liabilities	1,399,217	1,525,415
Noncurrent Assets:			Noncurrent liabilities:		
Long-term receivables	1,390	1,448	End-service reserve	3,079	2,563
Long-term investments	8,294,133	7,660,307	Total noncurrent liabilities	3,079	2,563
Intangible assets	8,370	6,909	Total liabilities	1,402,296	1,527,978
Tangible fixed assets	28,030	27,858			
Total noncurrent asset	8,331,923	7,696,522	Owner's equity:		
			Capital:	5,080,320	3,628,800
			Capital increase underway	1,918,868	1,420,557
			Legal reserve	508,032	362,800
			General reserve	220	220
			Cumulative dividend	2,680,330	3,760,240
			Total owner's equity	10,187,738	9,172,697
Total assets	11,590,066	10,700,675	Total liabilities and owner's equity	11,590,066	10,700,675



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German interior minister: 'No constitutional state can prevent every crime'

By Jörg Schindler
Wolf Wiedmann-Schmidt

After last week's attack on a train near Würzburg, fears of terror in Germany are growing. In an interview, German Interior Minister de Maizière says greater security precautions at

major events are needed, but that acts of violence cannot be completely eliminated.

On Monday, Riaz Khan Ahmadzai, a 17-year-old refugee living with a foster family in Germany, perpetrated an attack on a regional train near Würzburg using an axe and a knife. Ahmadzai attacked a group of five travelers from Hong

Kong, leaving five wounded, two critically. Police shot and killed the teen on the scene. Evidence found after the attack suggests it may have been motivated by Islamist hatred. Ahmadzai, a devout Sunni, left behind a handwritten document, several pages long, which investigators believe to be a goodbye letter to his father. In it, he com-



A regional train passes the site near Würzburg, Germany, of an attack on Monday. (file photo)

plaints about infidels and says he will take revenge on them. "Please pray that I go to heaven," he is said to have written. Although it has not been determined if the young man had connections to the Islamic State, he did leave behind a video in which he claimed responsibility for the attack and affiliation with the group. →9

Pars Diplomatic Real Estate

Apartment

Apt. in Zaferanieh
350 sq.m, 4 bdrs, furn, SPJ,
Diplomatic Bldg., 5000 Euro
Diba: 09128103206

Apt. in Jordan
2nd Fl., 150 sq.m, 3 bdrs,
fully furn, Pkg, 1800 USD
Diba: 09128103206

Duplex Apt. in Farmanieh
220 sq.m, 3 bdrs, furn & unfurn,
nice balcony with flower boxes, Pkg,
Diplomatic, 4500 USD
Diba: 09128103206

Super luxury apt. in Jordan
New Bldg., 3rd Fl., 100 sq.m,
2 bdrs, fully furn, 2300 USD
Diba: 09128103206

Apt. in Southern-Dibaji
Super luxury, 4th Fl., 125 sq.m,
2 bdrs, fully furn, SPJ,
Diplomatic, 2500 USD
Diba: 09128103206

Apt. in Velenjak
1st Fl., 170 sq.m, 3 bdrs,
fully furn, quit & cozy, \$2500
Diba: 09128103206

Apt. in Zafranieh
1st Fl., 160 sq.m, 3 bdrs, furn,
Diplomatic, 2700 USD
Diba: 09128103206

Villa

Duplex Villa in Pasdaran
1800 sq.m built up in 2200 sq.m land,
5 bdrs, furn & unfurn, big salon,
meeting room, Pkg, pool, renovated,
garden, **Suitable for Embassy &
Residency**
Diba: 09128103206

Duplex Villa in Farmanieh
900 sq.m built up in 2000 sq.m land, 6
bdrs, beautiful garden, extra apt at the
end of garden
150 sq.m, Pkg
Diba: 09128103206

Duplex Villa in Farmanieh
500 sq.m built up in 600 sq.m land,
4 bdrs, semi furn, renovated, small
garden, Pkg, outdoor pool, **Suitable
for Residency**, \$6000
Diba: 09128103206

Duplex Villa in Shahrak-Qarb
600 sq.m built up, 8 bdrs, outdoor
pool, green garden, Pkg,
**Suitable for Embassies &
Residencies**, 15000 USD
Diba: 09128103206

Duplex Villa in Niavaran
1000 built up, 6 bdrs, semi furn, green
garden, outdoor pool, Pkg,
completely renovated, **Suitable for
Embassies & Residence**
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the best area, Pkg lot
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land, lobby, 3 level Pkg, SPJ, **Suitable
for Embassy & Residency**
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Nice Office in Jordan
220 sq.m, renovated, lobby, Pkg
Suitable for Foreign Company
\$40 per each sq.m
Diba: 09128103206

Whole Bldg. in Farmanieh
Brand New, 12 Apts., 2400 sq.m
built up, 42 rooms, Pkg, **Diplomatic**,
Suitable for Residency
Diba: 09128103206

Occasion

Apt. in Jordan
4th Fl., 125 sq.m, 2 bdrs,
semi furn, **Good access**,
Suitable for guesthouse, \$1600
Diba: 09128103206

Apt. in Qeytarieh
120 sq.m, 2 bdrs, furn,
International Bldg., 1200 USD
Diba: 09128103206

Apt. in Shahrak-Qarb
2nd Fl., 120 sq.m, 2 bdrs,
fully furn, renovated, 1300 USD
Diba: 09128103206

Apt. in Qeytarieh
150 sq.m, 3 bdrs, fully furn, Pkg,
International Bld., 1700 USD
Diba: 09128103206

Apt. in Jordan
90 sq.m, 2 bdrs, fully furn, Pkg,
Good access to highway,
Diplomatic Bldg., 1500 USD
Diba: 09128103206

Apt. in Zaferanieh
170 sq.m, 3 bdrs, furn, \$2500
Diba: 09128103206

Apt. in Velenjak
1st Fl., 170 sq.m, 3 bdrs, fully furn,
renovated, 2000 USD
Diba: 09128103206

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The olympian and the terrorist: A story of two Belgian brothers



MOURAD LAACHRAOUI

The older brother detonated a bomb at the Brussels airport. The younger one is representing his country at the Olympic Games in Rio. The story of two Belgian siblings who long ago parted ways.

He was standing in the laboratory of his university when a fellow student passed his smart phone over to him. A breaking news alert was on the screen: "Explosion at Brussels-Zaventem Airport." It was the morning of March 22.

The airport is located only a few kilometers away from the Haute École, the College for Business and Technology where Mourad Laachraoui studies. Breaking news: The authorities believe it was an attack.

One of the four bombers had been identified, it said. The man was 24 years old. Then Mourad read the name: Najim Laachraoui.

This is how Mourad Laachraoui tells the story, two months after the attack that killed 35 and injured over 300.

'It was unimaginable'

When the topic moves to that of his older brother, Najim Laachraoui, the suicide bomber, his voice changes and he begins biting his fingernails. "It was unimaginable to me that my brother could do something like this. We were advised to change our last name. But that's no solution either. It is my name, the name of my father."

The story of Mourad and Najim Laachraoui is one of two brothers who parted ways long ago. One is competing for Belgium at Taekwondo matches and will soon be traveling to the Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro. The other detonated a nail bomb on March



22 on behalf of Islamic State (IS) terrorist group at the Brussels airport.

Growing up with Taekwondo

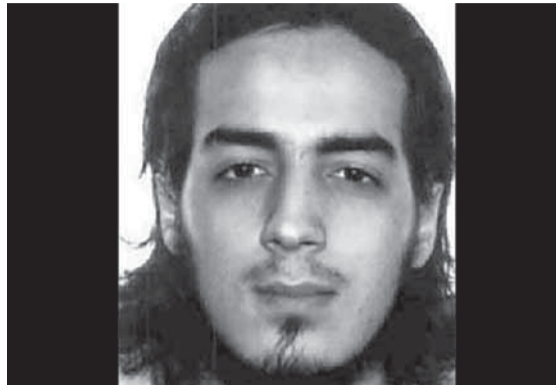
Mourad and Najim Laachraoui grew up together in the same house in the Brussels' Schaerbeek neighborhood, which is home to a large number of immigrants. Their father, who came from Morocco, loves films with Bruce Lee and Jackie Chan. He didn't want his sons loitering on the streets, so he sent them to Taekwondo. "The sport was my upbringing," says Mourad. "You always had to be on time, you had to respect the rules and that became part of my life."

Taekwondo isn't just about beating your opponent. The sport demands that its fighters devote themselves to values like integrity and fairness. Taekwondo offers training for life. It worked with Mourad, but not with Najim.

Mourad began competing at the age of 14. Najim, who was already 18 by then, had quit the sport. He grew a goatee and stopped shaking hands with women. He often visited the Ettaouba d'Evere Mosque in northern Brussels, where he became radicalized, as indicated in court documents from a case in which Najim Laachraoui had been tried in absentia in connection with 30 other terrorists.

"He read books about contemporary politics," says Mourad, "but also books by Victor Hugo. We didn't see

Najim had contact with a Moroccan who recruited followers for the terrorist fight in the notorious Molenbeek neighborhood.



NAJIM LAACHRAOUI

each other as often anymore because I was often at practice. But when we did meet at home, there was always something to laugh about. He was not at all unhappy. He lived well and had no problems."

Najim enrolled in college in 2011 and chose electromechanics as his major, the same area of study pursued by Mourad today. Najim worked as a cleaner in the European Parliament and later got a job as a temporary worker on the taxiway of the same airport where he would detonate a bomb years later. He had contact with a Moroccan who recruited followers for the terrorist fight in the notorious Molenbeek neighborhood. On Feb. 17, 2013, Najim boarded a flight from Brussels to Antalya, Turkey. A day later he called his parents from a Syrian telephone number. Two weeks after that, his father went to the police to report that his son had traveled to Syria.

There, Najim joined a terrorist group and lived north of Aleppo, fighting for IS on the front. Later he was promoted to oversee hostages, guarding journalists who had been captured by the terrorists. Some former hostages would later report that Najim had been less brutal than others, but that he "wouldn't have delayed for a second if someone had ordered him to perform an execution."

Najim once posted from Syria on Twitter that, "Muslims live in a situation of total war." Belgian justice authorities issued an international arrest warrant for him in March 2014.

"We were afraid for him," Mourad says. He attempted to contact his brother, but he was no longer able to find him on Facebook. Every now and then, Najim would get in touch with his father, but it was always from a different telephone number.

(Source: Spiegel)

COMMENT

Turkey could be taking a big step backwards in human rights

By Katy Pownall

It's rush hour on Istanbul's Bosphorus Bridge. Queues of cars jostle for position, the noise of horns fills the air, a young man selling Turkish flags weaves through the traffic carrying dozens of fluttering pieces of red fabric, emblazoned with the country's striking crescent and star.

Looking at the bustling scene, it's difficult to believe that just a week ago, this same bridge was the scene of bloody carnage; the place where heavily armed soldiers and tanks were first stationed, and Istanbul's inhabitants realized that a military coup was underway.

But while a façade of normality has returned to the streets of Istanbul, there can be no doubt that its citizens are living in a very different world to the one they inhabited this time last week.

In the past seven days some 60,000 public sector employees, including civil servants, judges, police and academics and have been removed or suspended from their posts. Over 10,000 individuals have been held in detention centers – both official and unofficial – amid allegations of widespread ill-treatment. Dozens of media houses and journalists have been stripped of their licenses.

An exceptional crackdown

An exceptional crackdown by any standards – and of a scale not witnessed in Turkey since the dark days of military dictatorship in the 1980s. Such purges and arrests clearly expand well beyond those directly responsible for the crimes perpetrated last week during the attempted coup. And yet there are worrying indications that these actions are just the beginning.

Last Wednesday, President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan declared a state of emergency for at least three months, effectively giving the Prime Minister and his cabinet the power to rule by decree and bypass Parliament. The following day, a government spokesperson announced that Turkey will formally restrict certain rights under the European Convention of Human Rights.

President Erdogan has repeatedly stated, to rapturous cries from crowds seeking revenge that he is prepared to bring back the death penalty.

While there is overwhelming relief among residents here that the coup failed, the government's actions over the past week have created new fears among the population. To criticize the government's actions or speak out against violations, now carries with it the risk of being labelled pro-coup. And that is a dangerous label in times of heightened passions, mass detentions, suspensions, and the closure of education and press institutions.

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BOTANICAL SECRETS

Descurainiasophia

By Soraya Ghoddousi

Descurainiasophia, commonly known as Flixweed is native to Europe and northern Africa. This plant's common names are Flixweed, Flax weed, Herb-Sophia, Tansy mustard, Flaxweed tansymustard, Flixweed tansymustard and Pinnate tansymustard.

Flixweed, a species of the Mustard family, is adapted to grow in dry environments, waste ground, roadsides and disturbed sites up to 900-2000 m elevation. It is an annual/ biennial 10 to 75 cm high herbaceous plant, possessing an erect, often branching stem with 2 to 3 times pinnately compound leaves, which have dissected margins and basal attachments. The inflorescence of yellow petal small flowers is raceme. The 1.5 to 3 cm long, green to brown, silique fruits contain 10 to 20 long narrow seeds, which become sticky when moistened. Flixweed is reproduced by seeds in spring.



■ Uses

Warm and cold syrups of the seeds are known as favorite drinks in many countries, and the salad of its flowers and leaves as antiscorbutic and astringent are consumed in some other countries. Fried, powdered and decocted seeds, and poultices of the plant are wholly utilizable for treatment of many diseases, and in fitness and beauty.

■ Ingredients

Since different classes of secondary metabolites are present in seeds and aerial parts of Flixweed, this plant shows various pharmacological and remedial properties. The seed contains 25.5 - 29.9% protein, 26.9 - 39.7% fat and 3.6 - 3.9% ash on a zero moisture basis.

■ Functions

According to Traditional Persian Medicine (TPM) evacuation of surplus black bile, which causes many disorders such as palpitation, varicocele, dyspepsia, varicose vein, hematologic disease, constipation, and hemorrhoid is done by the seeds of Flixweed drinks. Mucilage as a water absorbent exopolysaccharide carbohydrate is the most important feature of the seeds of Flixweed. It has several effects on digestion system as a digestive tonic:

- 1) It causes as slimming to feel of fullness for 3-4 hours for the sake of presence of inflated seeds in stomach by absorbing the water
- 2) Bonding with bad cholesterol in small intestine
- 3) A muscle relaxant removal of constipation by producing laxation in large intestine.

This latest feature causes ripening of cervix in the last month of pregnancy by drinking warm syrup of the seeds and facilitation of vaginal delivery. The powdered seeds are considered as a blood sugar reducer, for cardiotoxic feature. The warm syrup of the seeds is used as an anti-pruritic in remedy of urticaria, and measles eruption, as an expectorant, a demulcent, and an analgesic in treatment of chronic coughs, bronchitis, asthma, hoarseness, and throat irritation, as a febrifuge in remedy of fevers, as a diuretic in treating oedema and blood pressure reducer, and as a laxative in treatment of constipation.

Because of weak presence of mucilage property of the seeds in cold water or fried seeds, the cold syrup is used as an astringent for treating of the anti-diarrheal disease, and the fried seeds are used in remedy of dysentery. A poultice of the flowers and leaves is used as a demulcent for treating of toothache, sciatica pain, and also as an anti-inflammatory for treatment of outer sores and ulcers. Anti-inflammatory, antipyretic, anti-pruritic, and analgesic activities refer to extracted phenolic compounds. Flavonoids of the seeds cause anti helminthic, antioxidant features. Cardiotoxic feature of the seed is because of cardiac (bitter) glycosides of the seeds which are released by decoction. Allyl disulfide compounds in seeds act as the muscle relaxant.

■ Recipes

A: Warm syrup:

1. Add 1 tea spoon of Manna; dried sap of Alhajicamelurom (Camelthorn) as the reformer to half cup of warm water. Mix and filter it after 2-3 min and keep it away.
2. Ablute 2-3 of the seeds (depending on body weight in adults) 7 times with cold water to lose their outer bitterness.
3. Add ablated seeds to hot boiled water.
4. Leave it for 15-20 minutes.
5. Add liquid part 1 to it liquid part.
6. You can add 1 table spoon of honey, just if your temperament is cold (for assuring check your pulse. Strong pulse equals hot temperament and vice versa). This can be repeated up to 40 days before breakfast, and repeat the period after 7 days again.

B: Decoction

Add washed seeds to boiling water (300cc) and boil it for 15 min. Add A-1 liquid to it. You can add rock candy to reduce the bitter taste.

C: Add seeds of part A-2 to cold water (1/4 lit), honey (1 TS), Rose water (1 TS) and ice cubes. Mix it to drink.

D: Add some well ground fresh flowers and leaves to boiling (2-5 min) /dried ones to cold water to gain warm/cold poultice. Anti-spasmodic Demulcent

■ Side effects

The effect rarely reported from Flixweed's seeds was headache that should be accompanied by Astragalus tragacantha (Milkvetch) in the family of Fabaceae (Pea).

Ancient Silk Road hygiene sticks lead to a "fluke" discovery

Thousands of years ago, travelers and traders carried goods across the vast distances between Europe, the Middle East and Asia along routes that collectively became known as the Silk Road.

Named after the silks that were exported from China, the routes helped spread news, art and culture through a large part of the world. Now, a new study focused on a 2,000-year-old Silk Road latrine shows that the routes also helped spread something else -- disease.

A team of researchers from the University of Cambridge and China's Academy of Social Sciences and Gansu Institute for Cultural Relics and Archaeology investigated latrines at the Xuanquanzhi relay station, an archeological site in northwestern China that once served as a rest stop of sorts along the Silk Road.

(Source: Gizmag)

Exoped robot to help paraplegic people walk again

MEDICAL TEHRAN — A team of researchers and graduate students at a center in Tehran's Sharif University of Technology have designed a robot, Exoped, to help those with lower body disability walk, sit or get up off the floor.

A faculty member of the university said that the result of a three-year research was 'Exoped', a rehabilitation device assisting individuals cope with disability in lower limbs, IRNA reported on Saturday.

The good news is, Saeed Behzadipoor said, the robot can replace wheelchairs.

The Iranian company Pedasis, with a background in mobility aid and rehab robotic system came up with the robot to assist people with paraplegia or senior citizens who have difficulties getting around.

Paraplegia is impairment in motor or



sensory function of the lower extremities.

Few companies in the U.S., Japan and Israel have been able to make such robots so far, Behzadipoor explained.

The robot is meant to somewhat normalize the lives of those paralyzed from waist down, uplifts their spirit and brings hope back to them.

More movement in such individuals improves blood circulation, regulates blood pressure, enhances respiration, prevents digestive and kidney problems, heals bedsores and chronic pains, and last but not least strengthens muscles.

Exoped is comprised of four powerful electronic motors employed in the hip joints and knees of a patient, helping him move his feet with desired pace. The effective tool assists the user walk with no sweat.

World's most efficient EV could cover 11,000km on energy equivalent to 1l of gas

Road cars are getting more efficient, but they've still got a serious drinking problem compared to the super light creations coming out of the world's universities. The TUfast Eco Team has proven a little bit of energy can go a long way, having just achieved the Guinness World Record for the most efficient electric vehicle (EV).

The car chosen to topple the Guinness World Record was a modified TUfast eLi14, initially created for the 2014 Shell Eco Marathon. In search of even more efficiency, the motor was upgraded with a custom controller, revised magnet placement and silver wire coils. Meanwhile, the original rims made way for a new set, accompanied by ultra-low friction bearings.

After fixing a few minor issues on the installation lap, the team managed an average energy use of 1142 km/kWh



(710 mi/kWh). Having banked one run, the team tweaked the speed controller and tire pressure in search of more.

What they got was 1232 km/kWh (765.53 mi/

kWh). That's the equivalent of about 0.009l/100km (26,135 U.S. mpg), which would theoretically allow the car to cover 10,956 km (6808 mi) on just one liter of 95 RON petrol.

The team behind this flying teardrop is made up of students and alumni from the Technical University of Munich. TUfast cars have been regulars in the Shell Eco Marathon since 2011, while the team's sister group competes in the combustion and electric categories at Formula Student each year.

Thankfully, they didn't have to carry out the record attempt on the university campus. Instead, Audi offered up its test track, where the team completed their run under the watchful gaze of Guinness World Record judges.

(Source: Gizmag)

More CO2 won't help northern forests or stave off climate change



We've heard the predictions of how greenhouse gas emissions will drive changes in the temperatures and precipitation people experience. But how these changes affect the world's forests has broad implications for the future as well.

Could warmer winters, and thus longer growing seasons, cause trees to grow faster? If so, perhaps faster tree growth could slow the pace of climate change, since trees suck carbon out of the air as they grow.

Or perhaps hotter summers will mean more drought-like conditions, thereby hampering trees' ability to grow and thus cause deterioration of our woodlands.

In a recent paper, my colleagues and I set out to make a map of how climate change might influence tree growth across the entire continent of North America. To do this, we dug into historical records of tree growth over the period 1900-1950 collected by many dedicated field ecologists over the decades and deposited in the International Tree Ring Data Bank.

■ Potential benefits

What we found was that the daily life of trees across much of North America will become more challenging, despite

the potential benefit that rising carbon dioxide concentrations may have for trees. This is contrary to some scientists' hopes that climate change will strongly benefit northern latitude forests.

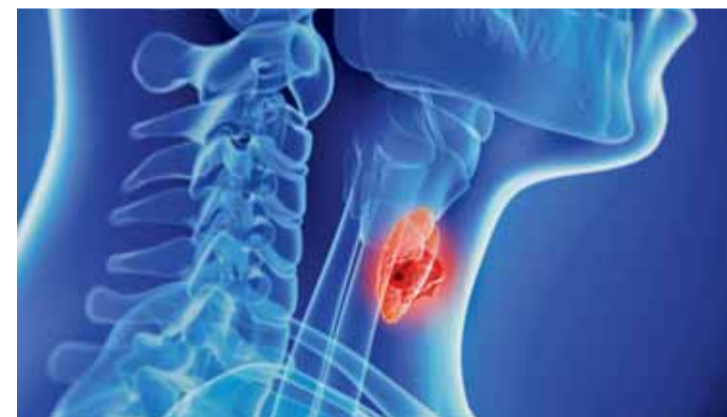
The first hurdle in predicting future tree growth is to understand how trees in different ecosystems respond to climate fluctuations.

You might guess that in cold northern forests, a little heat might help trees grow, whereas more heat in the desert Southwest is likely the last thing trees there want. This observation motivated previous scientists to formulate a "boreal greening" hypothesis -- that global warming will cause northern boreal forests to grow faster and help mitigate climate change.

As the climate changes, we might expect the response of trees to change as well. For example, in Fairbanks, our models actually predict that, in the future, above-average June temperatures will be bad for tree growth there, which is opposite of the historic relationship. Why? Fairbanks warms up so much that it shifts to a new climatic zone in which additional warming is now a detriment. Other researchers have actually started to see such a shift occur on the ground in Alaska.

(Source: SFGATE)

Drug targeting BRAF mutation slows thyroid cancer, too



In the era of precision medicine, targeting the mutations driving cancer growth, rather than the tumor site itself, continues to be a successful approach for some patients. In the latest example, researchers from Penn Medicine and other institutions found that treating metastatic thyroid cancer patients harboring a BRAF mutation with the targeted therapy vemurafenib -- originally approved for melanoma patients with the mutation -- showed promising anti-tumor activity in a third of patients.

The phase II clinical study included results from 51 patients enrolled at 10 centers around the world with progressive, radioactive iodine-refractory (RAI) papillary thyroid cancer and a BRAF mutation who were no longer responding to prior therapies.

"For this group of patients, who have little to no options, that's a significant improvement," said Marcia Brose, MD, Ph.D., an associate professor of Otorhinolaryngology: Head and Neck Surgery and Hematology/Oncology and director of the Center for Rare Cancers and Personalized Therapy and Penn's Abramson Cancer Center. "This promising clinical trial is the

next step in a series of trials to identify new drugs that are fundamentally shifting the horizon -- improving the outcome for patients with advanced differentiated thyroid cancer."

■ Thyroid cancer

About 62,450 people were diagnosed with differentiated thyroid cancer in 2015. BRAF mutations, which occur in about 40 to 50 percent of these patients, have been associated with aggressive tumors and decreased ability of tumors to respond to radioactive iodine, typically the first line of treatment in these patients. Patients are often cured by surgery, without or without RAI, but 50 percent of them with residual, recurrent or metastatic ultimately do not respond to RAI.

Vemurafenib joins other multi-targeted kinase inhibitors (MKIs) (sorafenib, lenvatinib) shown to be effective in this patient population; in spite of responses to these drugs, the responses are temporary and additional treatment options are needed.

For the study, researchers enrolled a total of 51 patients between January 2011 and January 2013.

(Source: EurekAlert)

Hernia surgery to get 360-degree interactive treatment by Iranian doctor

A new mobile application in the U.S. would allow doctors and common people to lively watch hernia operation to be conducted by an Iranian doctor.

In 1955 an estimated six to nine million people in the US watched the live broadcast of open heart surgery on a child with a heart malformation. On July 28, 2016, a partnership between GIBLIB, Livit and 360fly will make it possible for medical professionals and the public alike to view a live hernia surgery from just about anywhere in the world, and from a 360-degree interactive point of view.

A single camera made by 360fly will be mounted on a boom just above the patient's feet to provide the best viewing angle of the operation and the surgical team. Anyone watching the surgery will be able to choose the angle they want to see via an app developed by 360fly for iOS and Android devices.

That's a long way from one or more bulky static cameras in an operating room over 60 years ago, and a significant



Dr. Shirin Towfigh

departure from recorded surgeries today that are shot mostly from the point of view of the surgeon, where all you see is the organ or area of the body being operated on.

The live video in this case will be provided via a camera developed by 360fly that captures stitchless 360-degree 4K

video with a high definition image sensor that provides up to a 2880x2880 pixel video resolution and a recording rate of 50Mbps.

GIBLIB is spearheading this project, and has made a name for itself as a multi-channel network that allows surgeons to more easily share their videos with the rest of the medical community, particularly with those in developing countries who may not have such access.

The group brought on 360fly, which then invited Livit because of its experience in streaming live events.

The surgery will be performed by Dr. Shirin Towfigh at the 90210 Surgery Medical Center in Beverly Hills, California. Dr. Towfigh is a nationally recognized hernia surgeon and is affiliated with that surgery center. Besides hernia surgeries, the center is also known for general surgery, breast cancer, gynecology, hand, head & neck, ophthalmology, orthopedics, pain management, plastics, podiatry, spine, and urology.

(Source: ISNA)

The world's biggest economies will work to support global growth and better share the benefits of trade, policymakers said on Sunday after a meeting dominated by the impact of Britain's exit from Europe and fears of rising protectionism.

Philip Hammond, Britain's new finance minister, said the uncertainty about Brexit would begin to abate once Britain laid out a vision for a future relationship with Europe, which could become clearer later this year.

But there could be volatility in financial markets throughout the negotiations in the years ahead, Hammond said after the meeting of finance ministers and central bankers from the Group of 20 (G20) major economies in China's southwestern city of Chengdu.

"What will start to reduce uncertainty is when we are able to set out more clearly the kind of arrangement we envisage going forward with the European Union," Hammond told reporters.

"If our European Union partners respond to such a vision positively - obviously it will be subject to negotiation - so that there is a sense perhaps later this year that we are all on the same page in terms of where we expect to be going. I think that will send a reassuring signal to the business community and to markets."

A communique issued by the G20 ministers at the end of the two-day meeting said Brexit, which dominated discussions, had added to uncertainty in the global economy where growth was "weaker than desirable". It added that members, however, were "well positioned to proactively address the potential economic and financial consequences".

"In light of recent developments, we reiterate our determination to use all policy tools - monetary, fiscal and structural



- individually and collectively to achieve our goal of strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth."

The International Monetary Fund this week cut its global growth forecasts because of the Brexit vote.

Need to lift growth

Whereas monetary policy figured prominently in previous meetings of G20

financial officials, Bank of France Governor Francois Villeroy de Galhau said there was very little debate this time and discussions focused instead on growth.

That was echoed by others.

There was broad consensus that the global economy needed more growth, U.S. Treasury Secretary Jack Lew told reporters, while Chinese Finance Minister

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FAO strengthens statistical systems within ECO countries

1 → Nationally owned and maintained, it serves as a one-stop centre that enables the collection and harmonization of timely and reliable official data from different sources and their integration in a common location.

Data provided through CountrySTAT serves researchers, policymakers, development organizations, and the

private sector to design and implement better policy and investments in agriculture.

The purpose of the training is to provide national delegates from the ECO Member States with skills and experience on how to use the CountrySTAT platform for the dissemination of official statistics on food and agriculture and the comprehensive process to upload data.

The workshop is expected to provide a platform for the participants to assess the current situation, identify possible gaps and future needs, and to make recommendations to further promote the use and visibility of the CountrySTAT system for official data related to food and agriculture, at regional and national levels.

ISIL fighters captured while fleeing besieged town dressed as women

Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) terrorist group fighters disguised as women were reportedly caught by opposition forces while attempting to flee Manbij, Syria. It came after the terrorist group was given 48 hours to leave the strategic city.

The men, dressed in full black veils, attempted to blend in with civilians fleeing the northern city, after coalition forces issued an order to leave Manbij within two days.

Footage of the three men was published online by the U.S.-backed Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), which consists of predominantly Kurdish fighters.

The video begins with the men sitting in front of the opposition fighters, with their faces still covered. They are then shown walking with their face veils removed, and eventually stripping down to their underwear.

One of the captured fighters said he was a sniper, according to Storyful news verification service, as cited by Middle East Eye.

The attempted escape came after the Manbij Military Council (MMC) - part of the SDF - gave IS fighters 48



hours to leave the strategic town with their "individual weapons" on Thursday, saying that was their last chance to leave alive.

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"This initiative is the last remaining chance for besieged members of Daesh [Arabic acronym for ISIL]

Lou Jiwei said it had been easier to forge consensus because the global recovery remained weak.

The specter of protectionism, highlighted not only by Brexit but also by U.S. Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump's "America First" rhetoric and talk of pulling out of trade agreements, was also a focus for the policymakers.

"Not only Brexit but various risks of low growth remain, and there was a lot of debate on the need of monitoring developments including terrorism, geopolitical risks and refugees," said a Japanese finance ministry official. "A lot of concerns were voiced over spreading measures for protectionism."

In the communique, the G20 underscored "the role of open trade policies and a strong and secure global trading system in promoting inclusive global economic growth, and we will make further efforts to revitalize global trade and lift investment".

It recognized problems wrought by industrial overcapacity, particularly the steel sector, which had a negative impact on trade and workers. Overcapacity was a "global issue which requires collective responses".

"We also recognize that subsidies and other types of support from governments or government-sponsored institutions can cause market distortions and contribute to global excess capacity and therefore require attention," the communique said.

Persistent concerns about the potential for competitive currency devaluations were discussed, and the agreement to refrain from them was in the communique but did not appear to figure as prominently as in the ministers' February meeting in Shanghai. (Source: Reuters)

to leave the town," the MMC said, as quoted by AFP.

Most ISIL fighters ignored the warning, remaining in the city and using civilians as human shields.

Ahead of the 48-hour warning, at least 56 civilians were allegedly killed by coalition airstrikes in Manbij, located in the east of Aleppo province. Reports of the civilian casualties prompted the head of the opposition Syrian National Coalition (SNC) to urge the U.S.-led coalition to suspend its aerial campaign against ISIL.

Manbij is situated on a key supply route to the ISIL stronghold of Raqqa, and is therefore seen as a highly-strategic city in the fight against the terror group.

It's not the first time ISIL fighters were found attempting to escape an area dressed as women. In February, fighters fleeing Ramadi were captured despite wearing burqas and made-up faces.

At least 250,000 people have been killed and 12 million displaced since the Syrian civil war began in 2011, according to UN figures. (Source: RT)

Turkey could be taking a big step backwards in human rights

7 →

The human rights violations

In the past week, Amnesty International has had a small delegation in Istanbul trying to get to the bottom of the extent of the human rights violations that have occurred during this last week, starting with what transpired on the Bosphorus Bridge and elsewhere last Friday. After all, some 265 lives were lost and hundreds more injured before order was restored and the coup defeated; some of those killed have been labelled "coup plotters."

There are images circulating showing "coup plotters" being beaten or even killed, apparently the victims of lynch mobs and violence by members of the public. These acts took place in the presence of police officers. And witnesses to those events are in many cases too

afraid to talk.

At least two journalists were on the Bosphorus Bridge reporting on clashes between the crowds and soldiers who seized the bridge in the early stages of the coup attempt. It seems that one of them was killed by soldiers opening fire; the other beaten to death by an angry mob.

Many journalists we tried to speak to about the government's actions to stamp out, and respond to, the coup were terrified. One told us that there was a lot of hate speech circulating on social media and that he feared reprisals by both the authorities and government supporters if he spoke out.

It was a similar story for lawyers, doctors and the relatives of those who had been detained. Their fear is palpable and as a result, an entire narrative is currently missing from the events of Friday night and the govern-

ment crackdown that followed it. Who was killed and who was injured? Who is responsible for these casualties and how did they take place?

The President has claimed that democracy has been victorious in Turkey, but the government's repressive measures this past week are endangering the rule of law, human rights protections and a vibrant civil society, including a free media that can scrutinize and criticize government actions.

The government has set itself on a dangerous course; the choices that it makes in the coming weeks and days will be crucial in determining whether the legacy of the failed military coup will be an affirmation of the primacy of the rule of law and human rights, or a return to the dark days of mass repression, torture and arbitrary detention. (Source: Time)

First FDI Made in Iran's Auto Industry

ECONOMY Iran Khodro Industrial Group and French Peugeot Company have already offered for sales their shares in the joint venture company named IKAP as the first Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) officially made in Iran's auto industry.

Opening IKAP's share market in Tehran Stock Exchange, IKCO's CEO Hashem Yekehzare said IKCO and Peugeot have

offered for sale their shares in IKAP. Addressing the reporters, he also noted that the two companies have established a joint venture in their new round of cooperation with each investing nearly 14.9 million dollars over the past few days.

"After the nuclear deal between Iran and P5+1 group of countries, we have put considerable efforts to develop our relations with international companies.

And IKAP has been established to this end," he added.

Yekehzare also said as announced earlier, Peugeot won't be IKCO's sole foreign partner as IKCO is now involved in talks with Mercedes Benz as well as a number of foreign leading companies with high technology for further cooperation.

He emphasized that IKCO and Peugeot are seriously pressing ahead with their joint

projects within IKAP adding, the next step is official registration of IKAP which would become finalized in the upcoming days.

IKCO to Release Peugeot 207 Sedan in Winter

Yekehzare also referred to a new IKCO product saying the company is set to release Peugeot 207 Sedan in the winter. He noted that the new product will be built based on the Iranian experts' know-how

JUMP

German interior minister: 'No constitutional state can prevent every crime'

6 → "In the name of God, I am a soldier of IS and am beginning a holy operation in Germany," he says. "You can see that I lived in your country and in your house. With God I have created this plan in your own house, and with God's will, I will slaughter you in your own home."

Investigators are currently pursuing leads suggesting Ahmadzai may have had links to the terrorist scene.

Spiegel spoke with German Interior Minister Thomas de Maiziere about the general threat of terrorism in the country and whether the government's refugee policies have made Germany a more dangerous place.

Mr. Minister, after Nice and Würzburg, is Germany going to become like Israel, with bollards, security checks and a police presence on every street corner?

A: No, but we will have to get used to more intensive security precautions at major public events like Carnival parades, football matches, church congresses or Oktoberfest. That, unfortunately, is true.

What will that look like?

A: That will have to be decided locally. It could be stricter entrance controls or large-scale barriers. It will also mean in some cases that there are longer lines at major events. But the measures have to be appropriate for the situation and proportionate. I am opposed to making any fundamental changes to our freedom, particularly when it comes to cheerful occasions.

The perpetrator in Würzburg had not been identified by anyone as radical prior to the attack. Is there anything security agencies can do to prevent an incident like this?

A: No constitutional state in the world is in a position to prevent every crime, every massacre or every terrorist act with absolute certainty. But our duty is to do everything possible. And that's what we are doing. It is essential that our security agencies gather information about people who represent a potential threat or about dangerous developments early on and put it to use.

It appears that no such information was available about the perpetrator in Würzburg. Was he a typical lone wolf attacker?

A: The ongoing investigation will have to determine that. But imagine for a moment that Facebook entries from the perpetrator are discovered that show evidence of radicalization. Some would certainly immediately ask why we didn't recognize that. But as a democratic, constitutional state, we cannot perform blanket monitoring of Facebook entries from the entire population. I also do not believe anyone wants that. I certainly do not.

You are calling for more video surveillance in public spaces. How will that prevent terrorist attacks?

A: Video surveillance in train stations, trains or in high crime areas like Cologne's cathedral square can have a deterrent effect on potential offenders. Primarily, though, it makes it massively easier to solve a crime once it has been committed.

This applies especially to the question as to whether there were accomplices involved or determining how exactly the crime unfolded. Everyone accepts that they are constantly being filmed when they are inside a department store in order to prevent shoplifting. But when we attempt to do the same in high crime areas or street cars, the commotion in some circles is big. I consider this to be a conflict of values.

Members of the police union have called for the deployment of officers in civilian clothing to patrol trains -- similar to sky marshals who provide security in airplanes. What do you think of this idea?

A: I don't think it's realistic. Over 40,000 trains travel each day in Germany, and that's not even including the trams. What I do consider essential is an increase in the number of ticket collectors and conductors, because they, too, are people you can turn to in instances of harassment or public disorder -- thus providing an additional degree of security. But that has nothing to do with the fight against terrorism.

Is the attack in Würzburg proof that the German government's refugee policies have made the country less safe?

A: No. The threat of terror was already high and it continues to be. We have indications that there may be individual terrorists among the refugees. Any tip is investigated quickly and carefully by the authorities -- and most have not turned out to be true. In a few other cases, investigations are underway.

Was it a mistake to allow so many migrants to enter into Germany last year without knowing who they were?

A: We cannot forget: For years, we haven't had a complete picture of who was traveling into Germany -- and this was not out of negligence. That is the principle behind Schengen. But the challenges have changed today -- and their solution lies in protecting the EU's external borders and in a European registry of entry and departure in which all border crossings are registered. In exchange for a considerably strengthened external border protection, we are directly taking in a significant number of refugees in legal ways, from refugee camps in the countries neighboring Syria, for example. That has the advantage that a security review can be performed on site. And it means that a refugee's opportunity is once again based on their need for protection rather than their ability to pay traffickers.

Is the conclusion unavoidable that we, as a society, just endure such attacks?

A: We were shocked by the murders of the NSU. We have also seen young people commit massacres in schools. Such instances leave you stunned and asking yourself: Is it not possible to recognize this earlier? Can it be prevented? That there are such excesses of violence is, unfortunately, a fact of life. We do everything we can to prevent something like that, but to a certain extent, a society must endure it -- as bitter a pill as that may be to swallow. (Source: Spiegel)

IRAN'S WILDLIFE

On the web of Iran's new arachnid genus

By Farnaz Heidari

M.Sc. of environmental science engineering

Arachnids are joint-legged invertebrate animals that have eight legs. The term "arachnid" is derived from a Greek word meaning "spider".

There are eleven orders of arachnids. These include the scorpions; mites and ticks; harvestmen; pseudoscorpions; whipscorpions; solpugids; and spiders. It's like the relation of beetles with insects: beetles constitute one order of insects, the Coleoptera, but not all insects are beetles.

Similarly, not all arachnids are spiders. Each arachnid's leg has seven segments. The legs are powered by sets of muscles and blood pressure. At the end of each leg are usually 2 or 3 sharp claws for gripping surfaces.

From the outside, arachnid's body is very different from ours. It has eyes and mouth, but no ears, nose or tongue. Instead, it relies on a variety of "hairs" and bristles to touch, taste and hear things with microscopic pores on its feet. Inside, arachnids have many features common to other animals, such as blood, nerves, brain and a digestive system. They also have special glands for spinning silk (notice not all of them! Only spiders, pseudoscorpions and certain groups of mites) and for making and storing venom (again, not all of them, only spiders, scorpions and pseudoscorpions).



Male arachnids use taste hairs to pick up scent trails left by females. Arachnids sometimes scuttle swiftly away but they cannot keep going for long. Their breathing system is not very efficient, so they soon run out of puff.

Male arachnids use taste hairs to pick up scent trails left by females. Arachnids sometimes scuttle swiftly away but they cannot keep going for long. Their breathing system is not very efficient, so they soon run out of puff.

Sticky traps of a widely distributed family

Hersiliidae is a relatively small (181 species in 16 genera), widely distributed family, mostly restricted to temperate, subtropical and tropical zones. This family is relatively well studied due to large-scale revisions of Australasia, Asia, Africa, New World and several regional surveys in Yemen, the Iberian Peninsula, Iran, the East Mediterranean and Turkey. Currently, 10 species of four genera of Hersiliidae are known from Iran.

Omid Mirshamsi, Alireza Zamani and Yuri M. Marusik in the article of "A survey of Hersiliidae (Arachnida: Araneae) of Iran" that was published in "Journal of Natural History" addressed to description of one new genus and two new species: genus Bastanius, with the type species of B. kermanensis and Hersilia talebii from south and south-eastern Iran. In addition, Hersiliola macullulata (Dufour, 1831) was recorded for the first time from Iran, and Hersiliola foordi was transferred to Bastanius.

The importance of new genus in Iran

The fauna of Iran, especially in the case of arachnid's taxonomy remains poorly studied. Arachnids are often confused with insects, but they belong to a completely different group. An arachnid has 8 legs, but an insect has 6. Its body has 2 parts while an insect's has 3. Many insects have wings and antennae, but arachnids do not.

Spiders are some of the most feared and least understood creatures in the animal world. These hairy hunters are famous for spinning webs and giving a venomous bite. There are more than 46,000 known species of spiders, with scientists discovering new ones each year. Only about 200 species, however, are dangerous to people. All spiders are very useful to humans, because they eat insect pests and keep their numbers in check.

Although there are several recent publications about arachnids and Hersiliidae of the Middle East, the fauna of the region remains poorly studied. Alireza Zamani, who has recorded more than 120 species of arachnids as new to the fauna of Iran and has described about a dozen of new taxa, about the importance of description of this new genus (Bastanius) said: "The fauna of the region remains poorly studied in regards of Hersiliidae and the same is true for Iran."

"Its fauna was considered in four publications, with ten species of four genera being reported from the country," he said, adding, "The current studies of spiders of Iran conducted in Ferdowsi University of Mashhad and University of Tehran revealed two species new to science, and another species previously unrecorded from Iran."

"Of the two undescribed species, one belongs to a genus previously unknown from Iran, and the other represents an undescribed genus, in addition we have at least two more new species of this family which are under progress of being described."

Zamani also mentioned "the genus name is a patronym, suggested by my colleague, good friend and the first author of the paper, Dr. Omid Mirshamsi, honoring the late emeritus professor of the University of Tehran, Dr. Mohammad Ebrahim Bastani Parizi (1924-2014), who was an Iranian historian, translator, poet, essayist and author of non-fiction books whose numerous publications are mostly popular reads on the history of Iran and the history of his hometown, Kerman, where this new species was collected."

Great gain from a poorly studied family

Zamani as a second author of "A survey of Hersiliidae (Arachnida: Araneae) of Iran" told the Tehran Times "According to the literature, the fauna of Hersiliidae in Iran should be considered poorly studied as the first records of these spiders in the Iranian Plateau have been provided only recently."

"In spite of this lack of data, our recently published works have shown the highest species diversity of Hersiliidae in the whole Palaearctic region," he added.

The results of this study and another recently published faunistic paper increase the number of hersiliids of Iran to ten species in four genera: Bastanius kermanensis, B. foordi, Duninia baehrae, D. darvishi, D. rheimsae, Hersilia talebii, Hersiliola sternbergi, H. simoni, H. turcica and H. macullulata.

Although all of the above species are morphologically distinct, the application of molecular markers, such as cytochrome c oxidase, subunit I (COI), may lead to the discovery of more new species of this taxon in this geographic area. Furthermore, considering the fact that comprehensive faunistic studies on spiders in much of the Iranian Plateau and Zagros Mountains have not been conducted, any newly collected material from these regions is therefore valuable and may represent new records or species.

Climate change brings about harmful effects on species

ENVIRONMENT TEHRAN — Species diversity have sharply fell under the negative impacts of climate change either directly or indirectly, director general for natural history museums and genetic data storage division of the Department of Environment (DoE) has said.

Though climate change is an issue of importance, its connection with the biodiversity has not been much discussed so far, Asghar Mobaraki said, Mehr news agency reported on Saturday.

Temperature rise affects fetal gender

Mobaraki went on to explain that "a temperature of 28.5 centigrade would result in male green sea turtle and a temperature of 30.5 centigrade in female ones."

In other words, a one-centigrade temperature change can affect fetal gender in these species, he said, warning, "if the temperature rise or fall merely one centigrade for an hour in one habitat we would only have male or female green sea turtles in that site."

"If it keeps happening over a 10-year



period in a habitat then you'll see that in one habitat there are 2,000 female and 2 male turtles and the habitat will be totally ruined," he lamented.

Unseasonable immigration

Mobaraki also noted that climate

change can have some damaging impacts on the animals as it leads to unseasonable immigration.

"Normally when the temperature reaches 25 centigrade in [Iranian calendar] months of Esfand and Farvardin (February

20 to April 19) many of the species would immigrate," he said, stating "if the temperature rises to 25 centigrade in the middle of the winter this will constitute some challenges for the animals."

For instance, he said, the birds which are flying from north to south would face cold weather and can't find any food and ultimately die.

Islands may disappear

As announced by International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) the sea levels may increase by one meter which means many islands can disappear into the seas, he pointed.

Mobaraki regretted "we may lose all of our islands to rising seas as the climate change hits and since they are habitats to some species we would lose them all as well."

Recurrent environmental disasters

"It is projected that such unexpected disasters will happen more frequently and subsequently we don't have much time to make up for the loss in the future," he warned.

Trump resumes fight against windfarm near Scottish golf course

Donald Trump has vowed to continue fighting the windfarm development off the coast from his Aberdeenshire golf course, branding the project an act of "public vandalism".

The US presidential candidate returned to the fray after Swedish Energy Company Vattenfall confirmed on Thursday that it is going ahead with its £300m investment, despite last month's EU referendum vote.

The offshore windfarm has been dogged by years of bitter legal wrangles between Trump and the Scottish government over its impact on his golf course, which the tycoon ultimately lost in the courts last year.

A spokesperson for the Trump Organization insisted that several of planning conditions associated with the project had yet to be fully satisfied. They said that the New York-based billionaire would be lodging formal objections with Marine Scotland, as well as pursuing addi-



tional remedies before the European courts if necessary. Vattenfall said on Thursday that it had all the planning consents in place for the development.

The 11 turbines in the development will send clean

energy back to the grid, but will also be a key testing ground for reducing the cost of the technology, which is around twice as expensive as land turbines.

But Trump has long argued that the technology has become outdated due to the length of time taken to reach an agreement on the scheme. The spokesperson added: "We remind those who care about this coastline that the European Offshore Wind Deployment Centre (EOWDC) was promoted as an experimental test station, and after more than 10 years of floundering through the planning process, the technology behind the scheme is exceptionally outdated."

"The gross incompetence demonstrated by Aberdeen city council officials is disturbing and they have failed to protect the safety and best interests of their residents, which will become their tragic legacy should the EOWDC proceed."

(Source: The Guardian)

Tigers maul woman to death and wound another at Chinese Wildlife Park

Siberian tigers at a wildlife park in Beijing have mauled a woman to death and wounded another when they stepped out of their car in an enclosure, a Chinese state-run newspaper said.

A tiger pounced on one of the women after she got out of a private car in which she was touring the Beijing Badaling Wildlife World on Saturday, the Legal Evening News reported.

The second woman was killed by another tiger that leapt at her after she stepped out of the vehicle to try to help her companion, the report said.

The Yanqing district government con-

firmed in an official microblog post that the tiger attack took place at the park, which lies at the foot of the Great Wall. It offered few details but said the injured person was being treated.

Visitors are allowed to drive their own vehicles around the park, but are forbidden from getting out while in certain enclosures, the report said.

A woman who answered the phone at the park refused to comment on the attack, saying only that the park was closed for two days due to forecasts of heavy rain.

(Source: Fox News)

Surfer survives crocodile attack after friend fights it off with his bare hands

A surfer in Costa Rica has survived a crocodile attack after his friend fought off the reptile with his bare hands.

The two men were crossing a river by a popular tourist beach in Tamarindo when the crocodile struck.

Pat McNulty, a lifeguard in the area, said the victim — a US citizen named locally as 59-year-old John Becker — remained conscious after the attack and was taken to the provincial capital for emergency medical attention.

"He was bitten several times in the leg as well as the head," Mr McNulty told the Associated Press. "They were able to get him

free, swim him to safety and then trained lifeguards responded... and we administered first aid and called an ambulance."

The victim was said to be in a serious but stable condition following the attack.

"His friend saved his life... and then we the lifeguards helped keep him alive," said Mr. McNulty.

Costa Rican news site The Tico Times reported that the victim has had his right leg amputated and remains in a critical condition. He is also said to have lost large quantities of blood and suffered minor injuries to his face.

(Source: Independent)

IN FOCUS IRIB/ Ehsan Jazini



Isfahan Birds Garden with an area of 17000 square meters hosts more than 5000 birds from 130 different species. The birds belong to the different parts of Iran and also other countries like Australia, Indonesia, China and Tanzania.

IPL new season to kick off on Monday

SPORTS The 2016-17 Persian Gulf Pro League (also known as Iran Pro League) will start on Monday with four matches.

It will be the 46th season of Iran's Football League and the 16th as Iran Pro League since its establishment in 2001.

The season features 13 teams from 2015-16 Persian Gulf Pro League and three new teams promoted from 2015-16 Azadegan League: Paykan as champion and Machine Sazi Tabriz and Sanat Naft as second and third place teams.

Branko Ivankovic (Persepolis), Yahya Golmohammadi (Zob Ahan), Amir Ghalenoei (Tractor Sazi), Faraz Kamalvand (Gostaresh Foolad), Farhad Kazemi (Siah Jamegan) and Mohammad Reza Mohajeri (Padideh) are six coaches who remained at their post for the new season while Esteghlal, Esteghlal Khuzestan, Foolad, Naft Tehran, Paykan, Saba, Saipa and Sepahan all appointed new coaches. Among the three promoted clubs only Paykan has changed the head coach following the departure of Alireza Marzban.

The number of foreign players is restricted to four per Persian Gulf Pro League team, including a slot for a player from AFC countries. A team can use four foreign players on the field in each game, including at least one player from the AFC country.

Machine Sazi and Persepolis are the only teams in the league who have used all of the four allowed slots to sign foreign players.

The league will begin on Monday July 24, 2016. Here is the first week fixture of Iran professional League:



Monday

- Tractor Sazi – Esteghlal Khuzestan (18:00 IRDT)
- Siah Jamegan – Zob Ahan (18:15 IRDT)
- Saba Qom – Naft Abadan (20:45 IRDT)
- Esteghlal – Naft Tehran (20:45 IRDT)

Tuesday

- Gostaresh Foolad – Paykan (18:15 IRDT)
- Sepahan – Padideh (20:30 IRDT)
- Foolad – Machine Sazi (20:45 IRDT)
- Saipa – Persepolis (20:45 IRDT)

Naft coach Ali Daei : We are ready to beat Esteghlal

SPORTS Naft Tehran head coach Ali Daei is confident of winning the league opener against Esteghlal despite his lack of time to prepare his team.

"We had very little time to get prepared for the league as I joined Naft just two weeks before the start of the season but we tried our best to sign new players and prepare for the league. Esteghlal had more time and they are definitely ahead of us in terms of preparation but we are not going to start the league with a defeat," Naft Tehran coach Ali Daei said.

"The match will be held in the empty Azadi stadium but it would have been a more interesting match with the fans as they can inspire the players and make a different



atmosphere," he added.

On the other hand, Alireza Mansourian who was in charge of Naft Tehran for the last two years, will take on his former team for the first time.

"I owe my coaching career to Naft and I respect them a lot but tomorrow we will fight to take the three points. We don't have our captain Mehdi Rahmati in the goal due to suspension while unfortunately we will not have our fans in the match. I hope this never happen again during the season as football is nothing without the fans," Mansourian said.

Esteghlal will host Naft Tehran in the first week of Iran Pro League on Monday at Tehran's Azadi Stadium.

Iran's flag to be raised at Olympic village on August 2

SPORTS Iran's national flag will be unfurled at the Olympic Games Athletes Village on August 2.

The Iranian Olympic mission comprises 63 athletes representing 14 sports federations including the Athletics, Archery, Boxing, Cycling, Fencing, Judo, Rowing, Shooting, Swimming, Table Tennis, Taekwondo, Volleyball, Weightlifting, and

Wrestling federations.

The Iranian delegation looks forward to outdo its performance at London 2012, when it won four gold medals, five silvers and three bronzes.

Iran left London finishing seventeenth in the overall medal standings. This was also the most successful Olympics for the Middle East, winning the largest number of medals at a single

games, and surpassing by just double the record from Athens.

Notable accomplishments included the nation's first gold medals in men's Greco-Roman wrestling, and the nation's first ever medal in athletics, won by discus thrower Ehsan Haddadi.

The 2016 Summer Olympic Games will begin on August 5 and runs until August 21.



FIBA Asia U18 Championship: Iran beaten by Japan



SPORTS TEHRAN — Host Iran was defeated against Japan on Day 3 of the 2016 FIBA Asia U18 Championship on Sunday.

Deputy Minister of Youth and Sport and head of National Team Support Committee Nasrollah Sajjadi attended the match in Tehran's Azadi Hall.

The Iranian team, who had already defeated Indonesia (106-

40) and Kazakhstan (90-59), lost to Japan 81-77 in Group B.

Iran will meet Japan on Tuesday.

The top four teams from each group will advance to the Quarter-Final.

The top three teams from the 24th FIBA Asia U18 Championship will represent Asia at the 2017 FIBA U19 World Championship.

Dortmund making no more signings, says Watzke



Borussia Dortmund CEO Hans-Joachim Watzke has made it clear the Bundesliga side have no plans to further add to their squad this transfer window, saying they already have too many players.

Dortmund have lost Mats Hummels, Ilkay Gundogan and Henrikh Mkhitaryan this summer but have been busy in their recruitment to replace those departures.

Marc Bartra, Sebastian Rode, Mario Gotze, Andre Schurrle, Ousmane Dembele, Emre Mor, Mikel Merino and Raphael Guerreiro

have all arrived at Signal Iduna Park, but that will conclude Dortmund's business for now.

"As things stand, there will be no more new arrivals before the end of the transfer window," Watzke told Bild am Sonntag.

"If anything, we already have too many players at the moment."

Although their outlay has been significant, Watzke is adamant Dortmund will not do anything to endanger their financial situation.

(Source: Goal)

Mehdi Taremi named Iran Professional League Player of the Year



Persepolis striker Mehdi Taremi has been named the Player of the Year of Iran Professional League (IPL) for his outstanding season.

In the ceremony held in the Tehran's Milad Tower Saturday night, Taremi was named as the best player of the 15th edition of the Iran Professional League.

Taremi was also named as top scorer of the IPL with 16 goals.

Former Esteghlal Khuzestan goalie Fernando de Jesus Ribeiro collected the

IPL best goalkeeper of the year.

The Brazilian goalie helped Esteghlal Khuzestan win first-ever title in Iran Professional League.

Abdollah Veisi was named as the Coach of the Year for leading Esteghlal Khuzestan to IPL title.

Mohsen Toriki won the award of the Best Referee of the Year.

The 16th edition of the Iranian Professional League will kick off on Monday.

(Source: Tasnim)

FOOTBALL

Man United boss Jose Mourinho: I want to win Premier League this season

Jose Mourinho says he is targeting the Premier League title with Manchester United this season.

Mourinho takes charge of a United side that has not won the league since Sir Alex Ferguson's retirement in 2013, with Louis van Gaal's fourth-place finish in 2014-15 their best since.

However, after reinvigorating the squad with the arrivals of Zlatan Ibrahimovic, Henrikh Mkhitaryan and Eric Bailly -- and with Paul Pogba potentially following -- he is optimistic that United are ready to challenge once more.

"I want to be champion," Mourinho said in The Sun on Sunday. "To say before the season starts that the top four is the target? The top four is not the target. We want to play to be champions."

"If during the season we realise the points difference doesn't allow us to fight for the title, we are going to establish a new title, and when you can't be champion on the next target is to finish top four."

"But day one, I don't want to hide behind a bad season or no Champions League football to say we want to finish top four."

He said United's executive vice-chairman, Ed Woodward, had not set specific targets on where the team should finish.

"There was no ultimatum," he added in The Sunday Times. "The message from the owners and Mr Woodward was: get your three years, do your work, improve the team and bring us back where we belong during a three-year period."

"My message was that I wanted to win the title in the first season."

However, United finished fifth under Van Gaal last season, which means they will take part in the Europa League group stage in Mourinho's debut campaign.

The former Real Madrid and Chelsea boss said playing on Thursday nights will have an impact on their Premier League campaign and said: "You need to rotate players."

He added: "[It] is very, very difficult for the Premier League. We play on the Thursday, you travel a lot. Then the Premier League doesn't make any favours."

"You play Thursday and then I don't think they are going to play us Monday, they are going to play us Sunday, probably at 12 o'clock. For the Premier League it is the worst. It is much easier to be a Champions League team than that."

"Obviously it is much easier to be what Liverpool were two years ago -- no Champions League -- and what Chelsea are next season with no Champions League."

"One complete week to work every week -- that is a dream, that is a dream for a manager who wants to improve his team."

"So we are in the worst possible situation, but in this moment I want my players to think: 'Every day I want to be champion and want to fight for the title.'"

(Source: ESPN)

Leicester boss Claudio Ranieri confident Riyad Mahrez won't join Arsenal

Leicester City manager Claudio Ranieri is "confident" star winger Riyad Mahrez will not leave the Premier League champions this summer.

Mahrez, who was named the PFA Player of the Season last campaign, has reportedly received interest from Arsenal, with some outlets claiming he's agreed to a deal with the Emirates club.

Speaking to reporters after Leicester's friendly defeat of Celtic on Saturday, the former Chelsea and Juventus boss expressed his certainty that the Algeria international would remain at the King Power stadium this season.

"I'm confident, of course," Ranieri said, when asked if he believed Mahrez would stay.

"We know very well there are other teams who must win the Premier League. We just have to defend it."

"I changed him at last because I said 'okay, his job is done, it's better to avoid injury!'"

"I'm very happy, we have a very good dressing room. The players who came in are very good."

Mahrez scored his side's lone goal in the friendly victory at Parkhead with a fine dribble and curled shot into the far corner, impressing Foxes captain Wes Morgan.

"That's what he's all about, he can score something out of nothing," said Morgan. "He did that today, it was a great goal and his performance was good today."

Ranieri's side ultimately needed penalties on the day, but he praised his side's performance in their first of three International Champions Cup matches, which will also include dates with Barcelona and Paris Saint-Germain.

"I'm super happy, we played against a team ahead of us [in preparation] and I didn't see a difference," he said. "We're on the right way for our fitness, our preparation."

"We were so concentrated, had good shape, I'm very happy. Now we have to think about international matches -- Barcelona and Paris Saint-Germain play in different styles."

"My players have come back with the same mentality." (Source: Soccernet)



Doping: IOC will not impose blanket ban on Russia for Rio Olympics

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) will not impose a blanket ban on Russia for next month's Rio Olympics over the nation's doping record but will leave decisions on individual athletes' partici-

pation with their relevant sports federations, it said on Sunday.

The IOC's announcement follows the World Anti-Doping Agency's (WADA) call for a Rio ban in re-

sponse to an independent report that found evidence of widespread state-sponsored doping by Russian athletes at the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi.

(Source: Reuters)



Poem of the day

That pearl is from a mine unknown to thee,
That ruby bears a stamp thou canst not see,
The tale of love some other tongue must tell,
All our conjectures are mere fantasy.

Khayyam

Prayer Times

Noon:13:11 Evening: 20:34 Dawn: 4:29 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:08 (tomorrow)

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NEWS

Sadi Foundation hosts Persian literature aficionados from Armenia

CULTURE TEHRAN — The Tehran-based Sadi Foundation that promotes Persian language overseas is hosting 20 visiting students from the Armenian Hafez Association, the foundation announced in a press release on Saturday.



The program organized under the auspices of the Iranian cultural attaché's office in Yerevan encapsulates a four-day refresher course in Tehran as well as a visit to the historical city of Isfahan in central Iran.

Founded in 2015, the Hafez Association led by George Abrahamian constantly runs colorful courses and other programs such as screening Iranian movies and Persian calligraphy.

NEWS IN BRIEF

"The Beatles" on stage in Tehran



A R T TEHRAN — Director Nina Nafisi is directing "The Beatles" by prominent Iranian playwright Mohammad Charmshir at Tehran's Niavaran Cultural Center.

The play is about four friends who come together to spend a night with each other.

Tabassom Hashemi, Shahrzad Vojdani, Haleh Gorji and Shokufeh Hashemian are the members of the cast for the play, which will be on stage until August 21.

"Zinky Boys" comes to Iranian bookstores



A R T TEHRAN — A Persian version of Belarusian investigative journalist Svetlana Alexievich's "Zinky Boys" has recently been published by Negah Publications in Tehran.

Translated by Abolfazl Allahdadi, the book is about Soviet soldiers who engaged in a devastating war in Afghanistan from 1979 to 1989.

Alexievich won the 2015 Nobel Prize in Literature.

Iran's national library to unveil new inscription of Shahnameh



A R T TEHRAN — A new manuscript version of Ferdowsi's epic masterpiece Shahnameh, which has been inscribed by female calligrapher Fariba Maqsudi, is scheduled to be unveiled during a ceremony at the National Library and Archives of Iran (NLAI) this evening.

Veteran calligrapher Nasrollah Afjeii, vocalist Shahram Nazari, Ferdowsi expert Mir Jaleddin Kazzazi, and a number of literati and cultural officials have been invited to attend the ceremony.

According to the NLAI, this is the first time that the Shahnameh has been inscribed by a female calligrapher.

Maqsudi spent seven years inscribing the Persian national epic.

"Guardians of the Galaxy" tease sequel, Disneyland ride

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Next summer the "Guardians of the Galaxy" are taking over theaters and Disneyland.

Marvel Studios Chief Kevin Feige announced Saturday at Comic-Con that a Guardians of the Galaxy ride, Mission Breakout, is in the works. It will take over what is currently the Tower of Terror at Disneyland starting next summer in conjunction with the release of the sequel.

Stars Chris Pratt, Zoe Saldana, and Dave Bautista attended the annual fan convention with director James Gunn to tease new footage focusing heavily on the Baby Groot character in addition to a new trailer for the irreverent space crew. The trailer confirmed Kurt Russell's previously hush-hush role: Star Lord's father.

Pratt, reprising his role as Star Lord, said the film picks up a few months after the first left off.

First Kiarostami prize awarded to "Fish and Cat" director

The name of Mr. Kiarostami has always earned credit for Iranian cinema," Mokri said after accepting the award.

The Hafez Awards is organized annually by the Persian cinematic monthly Donya-ye Tasvir (Picture World) to honor the best productions in Iran's motion picture industry and television.

Saeid Rustai directorial debut feature "Life+1 Day" about poverty and drug abuse was named best film and producer Saeid Malekan received the award from director Saman Salur and actors Ali Owji and Samira Hassanpur.

The film also brought the award for best screenwriter to Rustai while leading star Navid Mohammadzadeh shared the award for best actor with Farhad Aslani, the star of "Binam Alley".

"Life+1 Day" also won Bahram Dehqani the award for best editor.

Mahtab Keramati was crowned best actress for her role in "Ice Age".

The Hafez Award for best director went to Alireza Raissian for "Time to Love".

"Now, Kiarostami is no longer among us, then let Taqva, Beizai and Mehrjui make films," Raissian asked Iranian cultural officials after accepting the award.

Director Saman Moqaddam was honored with the jury special award for his comedy drama "Sperm Whale" and Christophe Rezaei won best composer award for his collaboration on "What's the Time in Your World?" by Safi Yazdani.

The award ceremony went on with honoring Jamshid Hashempur, the star of Iranian thrillers of the 1980s and 1990s, for his lifetime achievements.

In the section for TV productions, the award for best director was presented to Hassan Fat'hi for his popular series "Shahzad".

Ali Nasirian won the award for best actor for his role in



"Fish and Cat" director Shahram Mokri (L) accepts the Abbas Kiarostami Prize during the 16th Hafez Awards at Vhadat Hall in Tehran on July 23, 2016. Director Masud Kimiai is also seen in the photo. (IRNA/Marzieh Musavi)

the series that centers on a love story set in Tehran during the early years of the 1950s when Iran encountered one of its darkest historical periods.

"Shahzad" was also selected as best series and producer Mohammad Emami received the award from actress Behnush Tabatabai and makeup artist Abdollah Eskandari.

The award for best actor went to Ahmad Mehranfar while Nasrin Nosrati received the best actress award, both

for their roles in the comedy series "Paytakht 4".

Masud Behbahaniinia received the best screenwriter for his collaboration on the series "Kimia".

Comedy actor and director Mehran Modiri was named best TV figure.

"Trucker and the Fox" by Arash Lahuti and "Pruning Season" by Loqman Khaledi shared the award for best documentary.

Iran's first virtual art gallery launched

A R T TEHRAN — Iran's first virtual art gallery website was launched during a ceremony held at the Iranian Artists Forum on Saturday.

The ceremony was attended by the Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Ali Jannati who purchased the first artwork, a calligraphic-painting by Ghaffar Qanbarpur worth 70 million rials (about \$2000), Persian media reported on Sunday.

Speaking at the ceremony, the director of the gallery's policy-making council Jamal Hadian said that the gallery has been launched promoting the motto "An Original is Better than a Copy", adding, "The gallery is not only intended for the display or sale of artworks; it also aims to function as a good databank for the artists."

"Based on the gallery's statute, part of the revenue from sales will be dedicated to those artists suffering



from rare and incurable diseases," he added.

He also said that the gallery offers artworks in four categories of painting, calligraphy, sculpture and manuscript, adding, "Rare and valuable manuscripts kept by individuals can be posted for sale by them on

the virtual gallery's website."

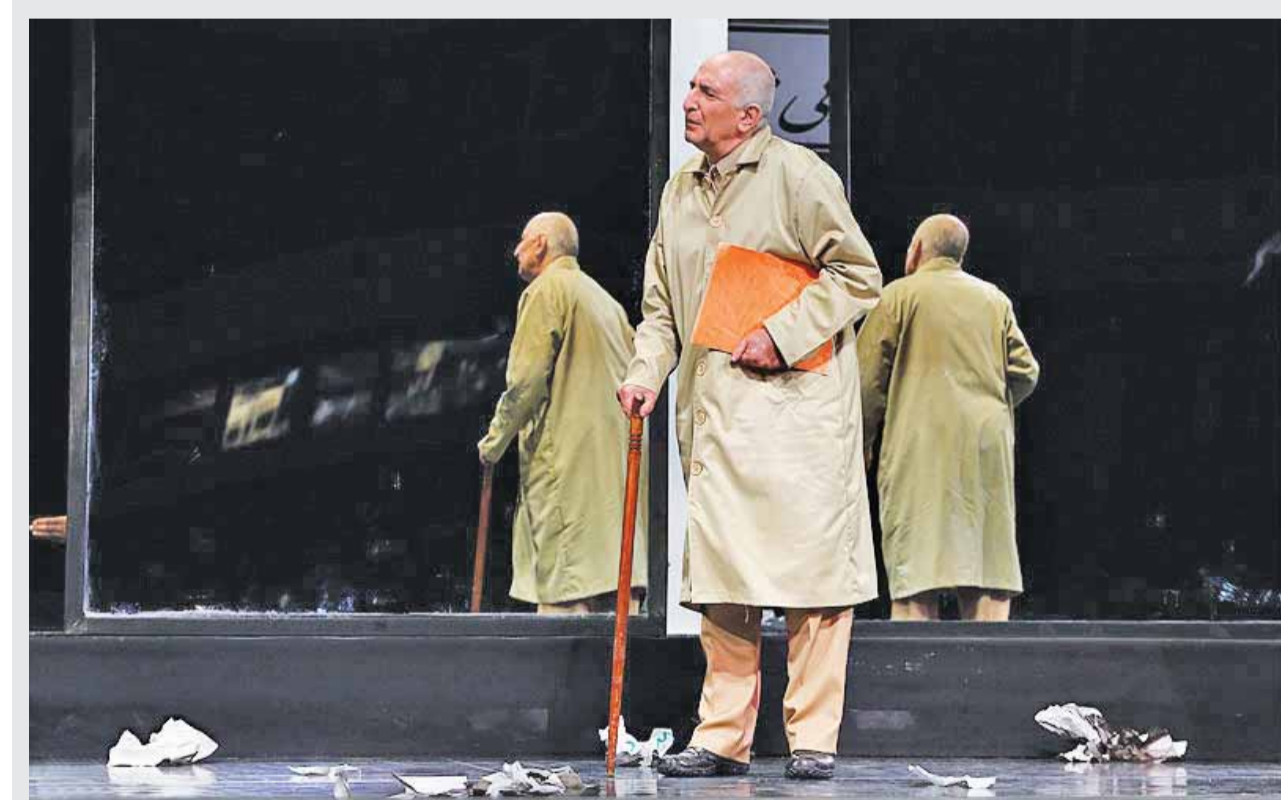
In addition, the website holds a great sale every season for interested visitors.

The minister also in his brief words praised the move, calling it a great idea established by the private sector to promote visual arts.

"A great number of people are not able to purchase artworks even at lower prices, but they enjoy looking at them. This gallery helps artworks go on display and the public sectors can support and purchase the artworks, which they can use to decorate a number of large rooms," the minister said.

Virtual art galleries can display ten times more works than the other physical galleries and offer comprehensive information about the art and the artists, the minister concluded.

PICTURE OF THE DAY Honaronline/Gatha Ziatabari



Farhad Aish plays Mohammad Mosaddeq in "Mosaddeq's Night Reports" by director/writer Asghar Khalili at Tehran's Vhadat Hall on July 23, 2016. The play chronicles the efforts made by the former prime minister to nationalize the oil industry in 1951, which were nullified by the CIA coup d'état against the national icon in August 1953.

Magic lights up Warner Bros' Comic-Con panel, superheroes reign

SAN DIEGO, CALIF. (Reuters) — Oscar-winning actor Eddie Redmayne brought the wizarding world of "Harry Potter" to real life briefly on Saturday, as he helped hand out wooden wands to the 6,500-plus audience at a Comic-Con panel and made everyone perform a spell.

Redmayne, the lead actor of

"Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them", asked the audience to shout the incantation for the light-up spell "Lumos Maxima" to unveil a new trailer. "Fantastic Beasts", due out in November, is a spin-off from the magical "Harry Potter" universe created by J.K. Rowling.

The movie's cast remained tight-

lipped about the plot and their characters, but the trailer shows "magizoologist" Newt Scamander (Redmayne) arrive in New York in 1926 with a case of magical creatures that escape, wreak havoc and face threats from the non-magical humans in the city.

Warner Bros showcased its upcoming

blockbuster films at the annual four-day San Diego convention for film and pop culture fans, including "Kong: Skull Island", "King Arthur: Legend of the Sword", "Suicide Squad" and the rest of its expanding DC Comics superhero universe, following in the footsteps of Disney's blockbuster Marvel Cinematic Universe franchise.

Administrator of Prince's estate dismisses more inheritance claims

NEW YORK (Reuters) — The administrator of Prince's estate has further solidified the inheritance claims of the pop superstar's six surviving siblings by dismissing more than a dozen other claimants, according to court documents released on Friday.

Among the most colorful claims dismissed in the latest filings in Minnesota state court was one from a Georgia resident, Claire Boyd, who said she was a secret bride to Prince, but that her marriage records were kept secret by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency.

David R. Crosby, an attorney for the special administrator Bremer Trust, said the materials filed by Boyd "do not provide any corroborating basis" for her claim.

The administrator also dismissed seven people who claim a link to Prince as the descendants of the sister of the pop star's great-grandfather. Prince's siblings have been identified, so claims from more distant relatives are invalid, Crosby wrote in the court papers.