

# TEHRAN TIMES



Iran's Greco-Roman wrestling team will shine in Rio: Mohammad Bana **11**

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## Putin to Arab League: Status quo on Palestine unacceptable

In a message of greeting to the heads of state of the Arab League assembling in Nouakchott, Mauritania on Monday, Russian President Vladimir Putin announced that Moscow considers the existing status quo on Palestine unacceptable and called for re-launching the negotiation process.

"We also intend to continue to provide all possible assistance in resolving the Palestinian problem acting through both the bilateral channels and within various multilateral formats," Putin said, adding, "we believe the existing status quo is unacceptable and favor creating the conditions for the speedy re-launching of the negotiation process that will be aimed at creating an independent, viable and integral Palestinian state with its capital in East Jerusalem (al-Quds) peacefully coexisting with its neighbors."

The annual Arab League summit's agenda includes combating terrorism and the ongoing civil wars in Libya and Syria. Political analyst Youssef Cherif told Daily News Egypt that the Arab League is having one of its weakest meetings ever, since so many of its member nations are facing internal turmoil. **→9**

# It's essential to fight ISIS ideology, Iran says

**POLITICAL** TEHRAN — Supreme National Security Council Secretary Ali Shamkhani said on Monday that it is necessary to fight the ideology of ISIS.

The brutalities committed by ISIS, also called Daesh in its Arabic acronym, have shocked the world. Its savagery has proved more shocking than al-Qaeda. Just on July 14 at least 84 peo-

ple were killed and 100 injured in the French city of Nice when a member of the shadowy group drove a lorry into a crowd celebrating the country's main national holiday.



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## Iranian businessmen talking trade in Africa

**ECONOMY** TEHRAN — A delegation comprising representatives of 35 Iranian commercial, economic, and trade companies left Tehran on Sunday for a six-day visit to Africa. Headed by Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and organized by the Trade Promotion Organization of Iran (TPOI), the delegation seeks to increase economic and trade relations with their African counterparts, according to TPOI website.

The companies are active in various areas such as technical and engineering services; oil, gas and petrochemicals; mineral resources; food products; healthcare products; and medicine.

The delegation is scheduled to hold meetings with businessmen, investors, and economic officials in Nigeria, Ghana, Guinea-Conakry, and Mali to discuss ways of improving relations.

TPOI official Reza Abbaszoli said on Saturday that Iran plans to establish trade centers in several African countries, ISNA reported.

"Setting up trade centers in Kenya and Nigeria has been finalized and the centers will be inaugurated by the next month," he explained. Moreover, setting up centers in six other countries is on the agenda, he added. "We are planning to establish trade centers in South Africa, Ghana, Tanzania, Uganda, Senegal, and Sudan in order to expand exports of goods services to target markets in Africa," he said.

## Iran insists that Boeing, Airbus deals will go ahead

The Iran Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) has insisted that recently announced deals with the world's two big aircraft manufacturers, Boeing and Airbus, can still go ahead, despite strong opposition to the deals from some U.S. politicians. Reza Jafarzadeh, a senior spokesman for the ICAO, has said that although no formal contracts have been signed all sides remain committed to the undertakings they have given, according to remarks reported by IRNA news agency. He added that the Ministry of Transport and Urban Development and the Foreign Ministry were together working on the issue.

Iranian airlines need to buy around 500 planes over the next ten years to replace their ageing fleets and to take advantage of the expected growth in air travel in the coming years. Iranian carriers currently own a 250-strong fleet, but at least 100 of their planes have either broken down or been stripped for spare parts. In January, Airbus agreed to sell 118 aircraft to Iran in a deal worth up to \$27 billion. That was followed in June by Boeing tentatively agreeing to sell 80 planes to Iran Air, in a deal worth \$17.6 billion at list prices.

Farhad Parvaresh, managing director of Iran Air, told Fars news agency on July 17 that it hoped to finalize the deal with Airbus and another, smaller deal with France's ATR by the end of August. The first planes could be delivered by the end of the year. (Source: Forbes)

## Delhi does not want to be part of any military alliance against China: Indian expert

India recognizes China as a challenge but not as a threat

**INTERVIEW**  
By Vahid Pourtajrishi

TEHRAN — Bakthi Desai, an assistant professor at the University of Pune, says India has no intention to side with the U.S. in any alliance to counter China, noting that New Delhi's relationship with Washington is shaped by business and technological interests. "India does not want to be a part of any military alliance with the U.S. especially against Chi-

na," Desai tells the Tehran Times.

Full text of the interview is given in below:

**■ Would India assist the United States in its strategy to contain or counter the growing influence of China in Asia?**

A: India's former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's quote that "you can Change your friends, But not your neighbors" reflects India's concern and priority of maintaining cordial relations with its neighbors and its commitment

to peaceful settlement of disputes and peaceful co-existence. Under the Modi government there is an increase in bilateral consensus between India and the U.S. but this is more on the lines of trade, investment, defense, etc. India's increasing proximity with the U.S. is designed to generate inward investment, business and technology for domestic growth and development and not to control or counter China. **→9**

**The Chabahar project should not be evaluated as a threat to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor or to the interests of Pakistan.**

## Austrian duet to perform in Tehran

**ART** TEHRAN — Viennese cellist Matthias Bartolomey along with his compatriot, violin virtuoso Klemens Bittman, are scheduled to perform a duet at Tehran's Vahdat Hall on August 15.

Earlier in February, their performances of rock and pop jazz elements were warmly welcomed by a majority of concertgoers in Tehran during

the 31st Fajr International Music Festival, the Persian service of Fars announced on Monday. A multi-award winning solo cellist for several years, Bartolomey enjoyed a purely classical education with Austrian maestro Nikolaus Harnoncourt.

In contrast, Bittman, a native of Graz who specializes in classical violin, received training from French jazz violinist Didier Lockwood in Paris.



## Tajikistan, UN-DESA co-organize symposium on sustainable water management

By Maryam Qarehgozlou

TEHRAN — The government of Tajikistan and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA) have co-organized a high-level symposium on sustainable management of water, which is scheduled to be held in Dushanbe on August 9.

The Tajik ambassador to Iran Nematullo Emomzoda made the announcement over a press conference held in the Embassy of the Republic of Tajikistan here on Monday.

In adopting the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development, member states highlighted the vital importance of water and sanitation. They incorporated a standalone sustainable development goal on water (SDG 6) which ensures availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all as part of the foundation of sustainable development.

The high profile three-day symposium will be discussing SDG 6 and its targets ensuring that no one is left behind in access to water and sanitation, Emomzoda said.

So far more than 75 countries have ex-



pressed readiness to take part in the event and some 300 experts in water-related fields will attend the symposium, the Tajik ambassador noted.

One Iranian water research center will also take part in the symposium as well, he noted.

The Symposium will undertake an evidence-based assessment of recent country experiences in advancing integrated water resource management, by sharing lessons learned and good practices in improving access to water, sanitation and hygiene, in increasing water use efficiency, reducing water pollution,

protection of water basins and ecosystems and advancing international cooperation and partnerships.

It offers a platform for government officials, water policy makers and experts, businesses and civil society representatives to discuss how to implement SDG 6 and its related targets, including through an international decade of water for sustainable development, currently under consultation initiated by Tajikistan.

Achieving universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all; substantially increasing of water-use efficiency across all sectors; expanding international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries in water- and sanitation-related activities and programs, including water harvesting, desalination, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse technologies; and supporting and strengthening the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management are of the targets adopted by the member states to be implemented by 2020.

The Tehran Times new pocket-sized glossary is now available on the market. The reader-friendly is a rich source of the most common journalistic terminology collected by the daily's retired staff. It can benefit a wide range of tastes from students to professional journalists.



**MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS**



**Iran urges China, Philippines to show self-restraint**

**TEHRAN** — The Iranian Foreign Ministry has called on China and the Philippines to show self-restraint following a dispute over the South China Sea.

Hoping they could resolve the dispute through talks, ministry spokesman Bahram Qassemi hoped that the two Asian countries try to show good neighborliness, ISNA reported on Monday.



**Iran warns Saudi Arabia over Hajj quota**

**TEHRAN** — Saudi Arabia does not have the right to reallocate Iran's Hajj quota to other countries, the head of Iran's Hajj and Pilgrimage Organization said on Sunday, Press TV reported.

"The Organization of Islamic Cooperation determines the Hajj quota of Muslim countries. So, Saudi Arabia has no right at all to reallocate this quota, as a legitimate right of the Iranian people of which they have been deprived due to the negligence of the Saudi government, to other countries," Saeed Ohadi said.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran will definitely demand this legitimate right from Saudi Arabia during next year's Hajj season," he added.



**Sheikholslam made Zarif advisor**

**TEHRAN** — On Monday Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif appointed Hossein Sheikholslam as his advisor, Mehr reported.

Sheikholslam was foreign policy advisor to Majlis Speaker Ali Larijani who was replaced by Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, the former deputy foreign minister for African and Arab affairs.



**S. Arabia, Iran must resume dialogue: French senator**

**TEHRAN** — Tehran and Riyadh have to make efforts to bear each other and restart a dialogue, vice chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the French Senate told Trend on Monday.

"The most challenging issue is to restore trust and get rid of irrational fears or feeling of superiority between Iran and Saudi. The world security needs both KSA and Iran," Nathalie Goulet said.

She added, "The recent gathering of exiled Iranian terrorist group in France known as MKO and presence of some Saudi figures hopefully shall not be interpreted as position of current administration of KSA."

She said the MKO is "a big imposture" that tries to appear as a replacement of the Islamic Republic.



**Israel, Saudis in cahoots to harm Iran: ex-Syrian minister**

**TEHRAN** — A former Syrian information minister has pointed to the growing partnership between Saudi Arabia and Israel, saying the two regimes are engaged in close intelligence cooperation against Iran and its allies in the axis of resistance.

Israel, Saudi Arabia and the U.S. have been developing intelligence cooperation to support terrorism in the face of Iran, Syria and other nations defying the hegemonic system, Mahdi Dakhllallah, also a former Syrian ambassador to Riyadh, Tasnim reported on Monday.



**Revocation of JCPOA will be embarrassing: American journalist**

**TEHRAN** — Richard Stone, international news editor of the American Science magazine, has said that a revocation of the JCPOA for mere political reasons will be very embarrassing.

Speaking to the IRIB while in Tehran on Monday, Stone also praised Iran's scientific progress under sanctions over the past years.

Iran's scientific community has showed a lot of ingenuity and flexibility to overcome shortcomings and preserved its competitiveness in the scientific field, he said.

ISNA

PRESSTV

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# Nigeria praises Iran's role in the world

**Zarif says Iran will stand beside Nigeria in fighting al-Qaeda and Boko Haram**

**POLITICAL DESK TEHRAN** — Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari said on Monday that Iran is a very good role model for developing countries and praised the Tehran's role at the global stage.

During a meeting with Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif in Abuja, Buhari said that Iran has achieved many advances in economic, social and technological areas.

For his part, Zarif said Iran attaches importance to expansion of economic relations between the two countries.

He added that Iran is ready to expand cooperation with Nigeria in fighting terrorism.

The Iranian foreign minister also met separately with Nigerian Foreign Minister Geoffrey Onyeama.

Zarif said that Iran will stand beside Nigeria in fighting al-Qaeda and Boko

Haram. "Our cooperation are not restricted to bilateral ties and we have cooperation at international organizations such as OPEC, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the Non-Aligned Movement," Zarif remarked.

He also said that Iran is interested in expanding cooperation in both state and private sectors.

Commenting on cultural relations, he said that Iran-Nigeria ties are at good level in this area.

Onyeama said Iran is an important country which Nigeria seeks to expand ties with in various political, economic, scientific and cultural areas.

He said that the two countries have always had good relationship.

The Nigerian official also expressed satisfaction over the removal of sanctions against Iran following the conclusion



**Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari**

of nuclear deal between Iran and great powers. Zarif started a tour of West Africa on

Sunday. He is accompanied by representatives of 35 companies from private sector.

## Defense chief: No missile provisions in JCPOA, Resolution 2231

**POLITICAL DESK TEHRAN** — The Iranian defense minister said on Tuesday that the JCPOA and the UN Resolution 2231 contain no provisions for curbs on Iran's missile program.

The U.S. and some of its Western allies claim that Iran's missile tests are a breach of the UN Security Council Resolution 2231 which endorsed the JCPOA.

"The JCPOA and UN Resolution 2231 include no terms and conditions or even provisional commitments which can be used as a basis for halting Iran's defense program," said Hossein Dehqan. These are "all excuses," he noted.



Earlier Dehqan had said that Tehran would keep upgrading its deterrent capability, not yielding to the enemy's media hype.

The minister linked recent comments on Tehran's missile plan to presidential election campaigns in the U.S. and pressures by Saudi and Israeli lobbies.

"They keep raising the missile debate as an excuse now for domestic use as the presidential election is approaching."

"Also, the missile excuses of these countries (the ones objecting to Iran's missile agenda) are made as a response to requests by reactionary Arab states led by Saudi Arabia and the Zionist regime," the brigadier general remarked.

After the signing of the nuclear deal between Iran and global powers, the threat of missile debate leading to a second political confrontation between the two looms large.

Early July, Chancellor Angela Merkel told the German parliament that missile launches by Iran earlier this year were inconsistent with a UN resolution.

Also, in his first bi-annual report to the 15-member Security Council on the implementation of remaining sanctions and restrictions on July 18, the UN secretary general said, "I call upon Iran to refrain from conducting such ballistic missile launches since they have the potential to increase tensions in the region."

However, Iranian officials have deemed the concerns unwarranted as none of the missiles test-fired by Iran were designed to carry nuclear warheads, rejecting them as "unfounded" and "hackneyed."

## ASEAN agrees to accession of Iran to Treaty of Amity and Cooperation

**POLITICAL DESK TEHRAN** — Member states of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) have acceded to the accession of Iran to the bloc's Treaty of Amity and Cooperation (TAC) during its 49th ministerial meeting.

Iran had submitted its formal accession request to its parliament three years ago, motivated by political and economic goals.

President Rouhani has been a supporter of closer ties with ASEAN countries. "Expansion of political and economic ties with ASEAN is a goal of Iran's foreign policy," Rouhani had said, according to IRNA.

TAC underpins the 10-member panel and commits signatories to the peaceful settlement of disputes and non-interference in domestic affairs.

In addition to Iran, the league agreed to the accession of Chile, Egypt, Iran, and Morocco to the TAC, as well.

Contained in the TAC document



**President Rouhani has said "expansion of political and economic ties with ASEAN is a goal of Iran's foreign policy."**

signed in 1976 are mutual respect for the independence, sovereignty, equality, territorial integrity, and national identity of all nations, adaptation of a non-interference policy, peaceful settlement of disputes through peaceful tools, renunciation of the threat or use of force, and effective cooperation among member states.

The 49th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting (AMM 49) commenced in Vientiane, capital of Laos, on July 24 under the chair of Laos, the rotary chair of ASEAN this year.

The bloc was established on 8 August 1967 in Bangkok, Thailand, with the signing of the ASEAN Declaration (Bangkok Declaration) by the founding father of the body, namely Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand.

Now, Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam are member states of the Asian league.

## It's essential to fight ISIS ideology, Iran says

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Also on July 23 a suicide bombing in Kabul, Afghanistan, killed at least 90 people and injured more than 230 others, many of whom were taking part in a political demonstration.

"Countering the ideology of Daesh is the most important priority in fighting terrorism without which no country will be safe and stable in the region [the Middle East] or Europe," Shamkhani said during a meeting in Tehran with Nasser Khan Janjua, the National Security advisor of Pakistan.

Shamkhani said that terrorism has turned into an international problem and calling it a "common threat" to Iran and Pakistan.

He also called for expanding cooperation and working out a joint plan to counter any kinds of threats.

The top Iranian security official also highlighted the necessity of monitoring the borders and taking joint actions in fighting drug trafficking and arms smuggling.

In an indirect reference to Saudi Arabia, Iran's security chief also said Tehran and Islamabad will not allow third countries to damage the friendly relationship between the two neighbors.

"We will not let some countries to negatively influence the two countries' relationship through sending arms and using terrorists to undermine security in border areas," he noted.

Elsewhere, Shamkhani expressed regret over the fact that "an Islamic country" is spending money based on the wishes of the enemies of the Islamic world to spread terrorism.

For his part, the Pakistani official said Islamic countries

should be vigilant against foreign plots aimed at spreading division among Muslims.

Janjua also said that Pakistan will expand cooperation with Iran in economic and security areas.

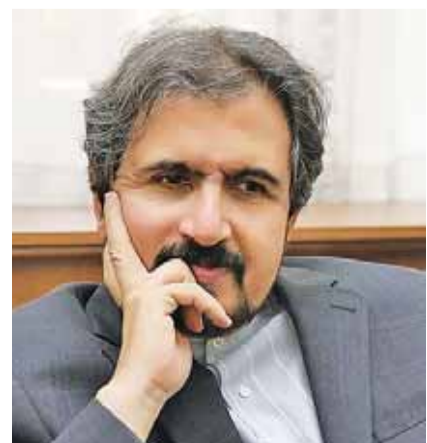
He expressed concern over the current situation in Islamic countries and said that crises are intended to undermine Islamic countries.

Ali Akbar Velayati, a senior foreign policy advisor to the Leader, also met separately with Janjua on Monday.

Velayati said that Iran and Pakistan have many capacities to expand relations.

"Our relations as two brothers are very good and we should seek more opportunities to boost relations between the two countries," he added.

Janjua said that Iran and Pakistan can help resolve crises in the Mideast region.



## Tehran to lift ban on Turkey travelling ASAP

**POLITICAL DESK TEHRAN** — The Iranian Foreign Ministry said on Monday that Tehran will lift a ban on travelling to Turkey as soon as situation get normalized in the country.

The remarks come after Turkish Ambassador to Tehran Riza Hakan Tekin asked Tehran on Sunday to lift the travelling ban as situation is now normalized in Turkey.

Ever since the aborted military coup on July 15, Iran has told travelling agencies inside the country not to organize tours to Turkey.

On July 17, Iran's Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicraft Organization released a statement calling on travel agencies not to organize tours to Turkey due to insecure situation in the wake of the recent coup attempt in the country.

"Certainly communications between the two countries cannot be brought to a halt by the recent developments in Turkey... as soon as the situation gets normalized in the country, the ban will be lifted," said the Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Qassemi.

"We expect Iran to lift the ban as no tourists were killed during the coup time in Turkey," the ambassador said.

# Attacks in Germany: Four strikes in a week

Syrian blows himself up outside German music festival, 12 wounded

By Staff & agencies

A 27-year-old Syrian man denied asylum in Germany a year ago blew himself up on Sunday outside a crowded music festival, injuring 12 people in the country's fourth violent attack on members of the public in less than a week, Reuters reported.

A spokeswoman for the Bavarian state police force said on Monday it was unclear whether the man was an extremist militant, and that investigations were continuing.

Germany is reeling after a spate of bloody attacks in the south of the country in the last week.

Although refugees were suspected in three of the four assaults, Chancellor Angela Merkel's government warned against branding migrants a general security threat after the country let in a record 1.1 million asylum seekers last year, AFP reported.

Here is what we know about the attacks:

- July 24, 2016: Festival suicide bombing -

A failed Syrian asylum seeker set off an explosive device near an open-air music festival in the southern city of Ansbach that killed himself and wounded a dozen others.

The 27-year-old had spent time in a psychiatric facility, while the regional authorities said there was "likely" an extremist (jihadist) motive for the attack.

However a spokesman for the interior ministry later said there was as yet "no credible evidence" of a link to extremism.

- July 24, 2016: Knife attack -

A Syrian refugee was arrested after killing a Polish woman with a large kebab knife at a snack bar in the southwestern city of Reutlingen, in an incident police said did not bear the hallmarks of a "terrorist attack" and was more likely a crime of passion.

Three people were also injured in the assault, which ended when the 21-year-old assailant was deliberately struck by a BMW driver, believed to be the snack bar



owner's son, trying to stop the man.

- July 22, 2016: Munich mall mass shooting -

David Ali Sonboly, 18, shot dead nine people at a Munich shopping mall before turning the gun on himself, having spent a year planning the rampage.

Police said that the German-Iranian was "obsessed" with mass killers like Norwegian right-wing fanatic Anders Behring Breivik and had no links to the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Daesh) terrorist group.

- July 18, 2016: Train axe attack -

A 17-year-old migrant wielding an axe and a knife went on a rampage on a regional train, seriously injuring four members of a tourist family from Hong Kong and a German passer-by.

The ISIL terrorist group subsequently released a video purportedly featuring the assailant, named by media as Riaz Khan Ahmadzai, announcing he would carry out an "operation" in Germany, and presenting himself as a "soldier of the caliphate".

He is believed to have been Afghan or Pakistani.

■ **Germany put on edge after unprecedented string of attacks**

Germany was put on edge after an unprecedented series of four attacks in

the last week left many dead and wounded, placing pressure on German Chancellor Angela Merkel's government to stem the violence.

"We're shaken by the events that occurred over the weekend," government spokeswoman Ulrike Demmer told reporters on Monday, adding that Merkel is closely following the developments from the countryside outside of Berlin. The four assaults don't offer a "clear picture" about motives, Demmer said.

Germany has largely avoided large scale terrorist attacks on its soil, in contrast with the assaults that killed hundreds in Paris, Brussels and Nice over the last year. While the spate of violence in Germany is smaller in scale, the incidents could revive pressure on Merkel over migration as she struggles to confront a range of crises buffeting Europe.

■ **Public anxiety**

Stephan Mayer, a lawmaker in Merkel's Christian Democrat-led bloc, urged calm and warned against hasty judgments, particularly over the chancellor's refugee policy, which triggered public anxiety after more than a million migrants made their way to Germany in 2015.

"There is a rising nervousness among our public," Mayer, who sits on parlia-

ment's internal affairs committee, told BBC Radio on Monday. "You have to differentiate -- the events of Friday have nothing to do with our refugee policy. It is completely wrong to blame Angela Merkel and her refugee policy for this incident."

Merkel convened an emergency meeting of her security cabinet on Saturday to address the violence and reassure the public. Anxieties over the influx of asylum seekers, the vast majority arriving through Bavaria, had subsided as numbers dwindled, the result of border closings along the Balkan route and a European Union accord with Turkey.

"We will find what exactly was behind this," Merkel told reporters in the Chancellery on Saturday. "The state and its security forces will continue to do everything to protect the security and freedom of everybody in Germany."

From the lone wolf shooting at an Orlando nightclub to the three terrorist attacks in France, Europe and the United States have been engulfed by waves of violence carried out by ISIL sympathizers at a time when there is a populist backlash against immigrants and the political establishment, be it bureaucrats in the European Union or lawmakers in Washington. Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump called on NBC's "Meet The Press" on Sunday for "extreme vetting" for people entering the U.S. from countries hit by terror attacks, including European nations.

However there are a lot of speculations regarding what is beneath the lone wolf attacks recently taking place in the U.S. and Europe. Is it all related to terrorism?

As some countries used to brand terrorism as good and bad (moderate), it seems that terrorism does not consider itself as good or bad. Terrorism is simply terrorism. Terrorism and terrorists good or bad or as some say moderate are now hunting the nations that once their politicians said we have moderate militants and terrorists.

## Democrats in disarray on eve of convention to nominate Clinton

The head of the Democratic Party resigned amid a furor over embarrassing leaked emails, hoping to head off a growing rebellion by Bernie Sanders supporters on the eve of the convention to nominate Hillary Clinton for the White House.

Lingering bitterness from the heated primary campaign between Clinton and Sanders erupted after more than 19,000 Democratic National Committee emails, leaked on Friday, confirmed Sanders' frequent charge that the party played favorites in the race.

In a statement, DNC (Democratic National Convention) Chairwoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz said the best way for the party to accomplish its goal of putting Clinton in the White House was for her to step aside after the convention.

Sanders had demanded earlier in the day that Wasserman Schultz resign.

The furor was a blow to a party keen on projecting stability in contrast to the volatility of Republican candidate Donald Trump, who was formally nominated at a raucous convention in Cleveland last week.

It also overshadowed preparations in Philadelphia for Clinton's coronation as the nominee to face Trump in the Nov. 8 presidential election. She will be the first woman nominated for president by a major United States political party.

The four-day Democratic convention will open on Monday. In some good news for Clinton, The New York Times reported that businessman and former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg will endorse her in a

prime-time speech on Monday, saying she will be the best choice for moderate voters in 2016.

The cache of emails leaked on Friday by the WikiLeaks website disclosed that DNC officials explored ways to undermine Sanders' insurgent presidential campaign, including raising questions about whether Sanders, who is Jewish, was really an atheist.

Sanders said Wasserman Schultz, a U.S. representative from Florida, had made the right decision for the future of the Democratic Party. "The party leadership must also always remain impartial in the presidential nominating process, something which did not occur in the 2016 race," he said.

■ **Russian connection?**

The Clinton camp questioned whether Russians may have had a hand in the hack attack on the party's emails and were interested in helping Trump, who has exchanged words of praise with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

"What's disturbing to us is that experts are telling us that Russian state actors broke into the DNC, stole these emails and other experts are now saying that Russians are releasing these emails for the purpose of helping Donald Trump," Clinton campaign chairman Robby Mook said on CNN's "State of the Union."

Trump campaign manager Paul Manafort said the Clinton camp was trying to distract from its party discord ahead of the convention.

"What's in those emails show that it was a clear-



Debbie Wasserman Schultz

ly rigged system, that Bernie Sanders ... never had a chance," Manafort said on ABC.

Clinton, 68, a former secretary of state, and Sanders, 74, an independent U.S. senator from Vermont who ran for president as a Democrat, waged a bruising months-long battle for the nomination. Branding himself a democratic socialist, Sanders galvanized young and liberal voters with his calls to rein in Wall Street and eradicate income inequality.

But Sanders repeatedly voiced frustration with a DNC and party establishment he felt was stacked against him, and the resentment from Sanders and his supporters threatened to disrupt the convention.

(Source: Reuters)

## ASEAN bloc breaks deadlock on South China Sea

Southeast Asian nations have overcome days of deadlock after the Philippines dropped a request for their joint statement to mention a landmark legal ruling on the South China Sea, officials said, after objections from Cambodia.

China publicly thanked Cambodia on Monday for supporting its stance on maritime disputes, a position which threw the regional bloc's weekend meeting in the Laos capital of Vientiane into disarray.

Competing claims with China in the vital shipping lane are among the most contentious issues for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, as the bloc's 10 members are pulled between their desire to assert sovereignty while finding common ground and fostering ties with Beijing.

In a ruling by the United Nations-backed Permanent Court of Arbitration on July 12, the Philippines won an emphatic legal victory over China on the dispute.

The Philippines and Vietnam both

wanted the ruling, which denied China's sweeping claims in the strategic sea-way that channels more than \$5 trillion in global trade each year, and a call to respect international maritime law to feature in the communiqué.

Backing China's call for bilateral discussions, Cambodia opposed the wording on the ruling, diplomats said.

Manila agreed to drop the reference to the ruling in the communiqué, one ASEAN diplomat said on Monday, in an effort to prevent the disagreement leading to the group failing to issue a statement.

The communiqué instead to the need to find peaceful resolutions to disputes in the South China Sea in accordance with international law, including the UN's law of the sea, to which the court ruling referred.

"We remain seriously concerned about recent and ongoing developments and took note of the concerns expressed by some ministers on the land reclamations and escalation of activities



in the area, which have eroded trust and confidence, increased tensions and may undermine peace, security and stability in the region," the ASEAN communiqué said.

In a separate statement, China and ASEAN reaffirmed a commitment to freedom of navigation and over flight in the South China Sea and said they would refrain from activities that would complicate or escalate disputes. That included inhabiting any presently uninhabited islands or reefs, it added.

China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi said a page had been turned after the "deeply flawed" ruling and it was time to lower the temperature in the dispute.

"It seems like certain countries from outside the region have got all worked up keeping the fever high," Wang told reporters.

China frequently blames the United States for raising tensions in the region and has warned regional rival Japan to steer clear of the dispute.

(Source: agencies)

## Ex-congresswoman claim: Israel behind European massacres

A former United States congresswoman claimed on Twitter that an Israeli photographer had been on hand for massacres in Nice and Munich, proving that Israel had a hand in both attacks.

Cynthia McKinney, a Democrat and former member of the U.S. House of Representatives from Georgia, posted a video on Twitter with the message: "Same Israeli photographer captures Nice and Munich tragedies. How likely is that? Remember the Dancing Israelis?..."

The video claimed that Richard Gutjahr, a German journalist married to former Israeli Knesset member Einat Wilf, had been present for both a rampage by a truck driver in Nice, France, earlier this month that left 84 dead, and a shooting at a mall in Munich in which nine teenagers were killed.

Gutjahr's Twitter profile shows he posted pictures from Nice but not from Munich. He is not known to have taken Israeli citizenship.

"Dancing Israelis" refers to a widely discredited conspiracy theory that five Israeli men were arrested in New Jersey on September 11, 2001, after being seen celebrating the terror attack.

In an earlier tweet, McKinney had asked "why were they dancing in the park as Americans were dying? Why were they in the park in the first place?"

McKinney, who served Georgia in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1992 to 2002, was known during her term for making incendiary remarks and has been accused of anti-Semitism in the past. In 2002, she lost the Democratic primary, a day after her father appeared on TV saying "Jews have bought everybody ... J-E-W-S."

In her original post, McKinney linked to a video headlined "Richard Gutjahr the German Photographer at Both Nice and Munich - Israeli Connections" posted by a YouTube channel which seems to specialize in conspiracy theories and anti-Semitic sentiments.

In the video, whose opening sequence is a symbol of the Illuminati, the narrator seems to question how "they" could be "so sloppy" as to have had Gutjahr at both attacks.

"The fact that this guy happened to be at both, there's no way it's a coincidence," the man alleges, adding that it's "100% clear that Israel's fingerprints are all over these events."

This conclusion is based on a gleeful check of Wilf's Wikipedia page which confirms that she is Israeli and served in a top intelligence unit in the IDF.

"Nice is a false flag and Munich is either a false flag or a hoax," says the man, who does not appear in the video.

(Source: Times of Israel)

## Shooting at Florida nightclub leaves two dead, up to 16 wounded

At least two people were killed and more than a dozen others, many of them teenagers, were wounded in a shooting early on Monday outside a Florida nightclub that was hosting a party for all age groups, authorities said.

The shooting in Fort Myers took place just after 12:30 a.m. (0430 GMT) in the parking lot of Club Blu, where officers found "several victims suffering from gunshot wounds," the Fort Myers Police Department said in a statement.

Between 14 and 16 people were wounded, with their injuries ranging from minor to life-threatening, according to police. A local hospital said victims were between 12 and 27 years old.

Police said three people had been detained for questioning and that the area was deemed safe, although roads in the vicinity remained closed. Investigators had yet to determine a motive and were seeking the identities of the two people who were killed, the statement said.

The shooting came six weeks after a massacre at a nightclub in the Florida city of Orlando, where a lone gunman who sympathized with Islamist extremist groups killed 49 people in the deadliest mass shooting in the United States history.

About 150 miles southwest of Orlando in the Gulf Coast city of Fort Myers, Club Blu was hosting a "swimsuit glow party" for people all ages, according to a flyer posted on Twitter by local television station WINK. To enter, patrons were not required to show proof that they were the legal drinking age.

"It was a young teen event," Tatianna Nouhaioi, who was at the club, told ABC News. "There were kids. The kid I was holding in my lap, he was 14 years old that got shot."

Cheryl Garn, a spokeswoman for Lee Memorial Hospital in Fort Myers, said victims arriving there were as young as 12 years old. One of them died at the hospital, she said in a statement, while three others were admitted, one of them in critical condition and one in serious condition.

Police said shots were also fired at a nearby residence, where there was one minor injury.

Fort Myers police and the Lee County's Sheriff's Office were canvassing the area for other people who may have been involved, the statement said.

Representatives of the law enforcement agencies could not immediately be reached for further comment.

(Source: Reuters)

NEWS

**WTO urges member states to cut protectionism, increase global trade**

The World Trade Organization (WTO) called on its members to cut protectionist measures in order to boost global trade, in a report published on Monday.

The WTO Director-General's mid-year report on trade-related developments was discussed at Tuesday's meeting of the WTO's Trade Policy Review Body (TPRB).

"Between mid-October 2015 and mid-May 2016 ('review period'), WTO Members applied 154 new trade-restrictive measures, amounting to 22 new measures per month... WTO Members must individually and collectively resist protectionist pressures. The best safeguard we have against protectionism is a strong multilateral trading system," the report reads.

According to the report, the monthly average of trade-restrictive measures in the review period hit a five-year high. In addition, WTO members initiated a higher number of trade remedy investigations, taken on a monthly basis, during this review period than in the last.

The WTO is a global international organization that regulates international trade. It has 163 member-states.

(Source: Sputnik)

**Turkey open for business with purges nearly over, PM says**

Aiming to limit the economic fallout from this month's failed coup, Turkish Prime Minister Binali Yildirim ruled out early elections and said the government plans a multibillion-dollar infrastructure fund to keep growth on track.

The failed attempt July 15 by military officers to seize power, which left about 250 dead, shocked markets, drove the currency to a record low and sent stock prices down more than 13 percent.

The economic impact of the upheaval has been limited mainly to financial markets and a downgrade of Turkey's credit rating by S&P Global Ratings. Moody's Investors Service has put the country's debt on review for a possible downgrade.

Morgan Stanley said in a report on Monday that while their base case is for Turkey to keep its rating, "we believe that it is now a very close call."

Markets are showing some signs of recovery. The lira, which fell to a record low last week, gained for a third day in a row early on Monday to 3.0544 per dollar at 8:55 a.m. in Istanbul. That's still down more than 5 percent from before the coup. Bonds rose and the stock market was little changed Friday after falling through the week.

"It's a structure that will finance large-scale projects," he said. "We are going to finance investments through this fund instead of the general budget." In 2013, the government considered using money earmarked for future unemployment benefits to create a fund for strategic projects, but that plan didn't get off the ground.

This time, the government also expects Turkish banks to play a role in keeping growth strong, he said.

Turkey's economy, the largest in the Middle East, has consistently beaten estimates since the end of 2014, powered in large part by consumer spending owing to millions of refugees displaced by the civil war in Syria. The economy grew 4.8 percent in the first quarter of this year and 5.7 percent during the preceding three months, the fastest expansion among the G20 top economies after China and India, according to data compiled by Bloomberg.

Yildirim, took office two months ago. He said what he called "ambush elections" would only cloud the outlook, adding that the next poll would be held as scheduled in 2019.

(Source: Bloomberg)

**UK explores free trade deal with China**

UK has begun discussing ways to reach a free trade deal with the world's second-largest economy, British Chancellor of the Exchequer Philip Hammond said.

It will be the first time that the UK has embarked on such a major project with China, and could see greater access for major Chinese banks and businesses to the UK economy.

Despite the short-term economic shock from leaving the European Union, it was time to explore "new opportunities" across the world, including with China, one of the UK's biggest inward investors, Hammond said during an interview with BBC.

Hammond said that Britain is keen to do a free trade deal with China.

In return for greater access to the UK for its manufactured products and investment, China would reduce barriers to Britain's service industries such as banking and insurance as well as UK goods.

That would be an important source of export income for Britain. As Britain leaves the European Union and is not bound by the rules of the European Union, perhaps it will be easier for countries like China that are outside the European Union to do business with Britain in the future, Hammond added.

(Source: China Daily)

**Gold slips as investors await central bank decisions**

Gold extended losses on Monday from the previous session as Asian stocks were at near nine-month highs on increasing risk appetite and ahead of central bank meetings in the United States and Japan this week.

Asian shares rose on Monday as worries over the impact of Britain's Brexit vote eased amid efforts to maintain growth, while the dollar was buoyed by a run of solid U.S. economic data.

Spot gold fell 0.4 percent at \$1,317.04 an ounce at 0352 GMT. Bullion fell 0.7 percent on Friday, declining for a second successive week. U.S. gold was down 0.5 percent at \$1,316.80 an ounce.

Spot gold may break support at \$1,313 per ounce and fall to the next support \$1,298, as its bounce from a July 21 low of \$1,310.56 may have ended, Reuter's technical analyst Wang Tao said.

(Source: Reuters)

**Foreign investment in North Azadegan conditioned on preserving national interests**

By Mahnaz Abdi

Foreign investment in development of North Azadegan oilfield is conditioned on preserving the national interests of Iran, Keramat Behbahani, the operator of project for developing the oilfield, told the Tehran Times on Sunday on the sidelines of a one-day tour of journalists visiting progress of the project.

North Azadegan is one of the five oilfields, dubbed the West Karoun oilfields, Iran shares with Iraq at the western part of Iran's southwestern region of Karoun.

"In this due, we attach priority to each country that brings technology, creates jobs for our people, produces the products and brings the profit at the lower cost," Behbahani explained.

"In addition, we never give up our ownership of the oilfield under any circumstances, as fortunately we haven't ever done so," the official stressed.

The project of developing North Azadegan oilfield is divided into two phases, each aimed at producing 75,000 barrels per day (bpd) of oil and 39 million cubic feet per day of gas.

The oil in place amount of North Azadegan is put at 5.68 billion barrels in the first phase and 6.3 billion barrels in the second one.

The first phase was launched in 2009 and started production 100 days ago, according to the operator of the project.



© NIOC.IR/Photo by Mojtaba Mohseni

"We have produced 72,000-73,000 bpd of crude oil, mainly heavy crude, in the first phase during the past 100 days and we will achieve the target of 75,000 bpd within the next month," Behbahani announced in a press conference held during the journalist visit to the oilfield development project.

"We can also increase the current capacity by ten percent to 82,500 bpd," he highlighted.

"We also achieved the goal of digging 58 oil wells in the first phase," he added.

Iran's Petroleum Engineering and Development Company (PEDEC) has a buy-back contract with China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC) on implementation of the first phase of developing North Azadegan. Based on the contract, the Chinese company has been given priority to carry out the second phase of the development project.

"We are negotiating with CNPC on making contract for implementation of the second phase. Our condition for the second phase is again a buy-back contract," Behbahani stated, adding, "The

Chinese company has the right to offer its proposal to National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC). If it was accepted the same procedure as for the first phase will be conducted for the second phase and if not, the contract for implementing the second phase will be introduced in the form of IPC [the new model of Iran's oil contracts, known as Integrated Petroleum Contract]."

Last month, NIOC Managing Director Ali Kardor said that his company's policy aimed at development of joint oil and gas fields is still atop agenda.

Also, in January Iranian Oil Minister Bijan Namdar Zanganeh said the country will increase oil production from joint fields with Iraq by 200,000 bpd to reach 700,000 bpd within eight months.

Iran has looked to reclaim market share since nuclear sanctions were lifted in mid-January. Western sanctions cut Iran's oil output to 2.7 million bpd from 3.9 million bpd. The sanctions barred foreign investments in the Iranian oil industry and also limited a low ceiling of 1 million bpd on the country's oil exports.

Iran has regained about 80 percent of the market share it held before the U.S. and European Union tightened sanctions on its oil industry in 2012, according to Mohsen Ghamisari, the NIOC director of international affairs.

The country exports about 2 million barrels of its daily output of 3.8 million, the official said on July 12.

**Iran overshadows U.S. in Europe's LNG market by 2020**

"Iran is determined to become a major player in the rapidly globalizing gas market and Europe is its mid- and long-term target and that means Iran is competition for the U.S.," Forbes reported on Monday.

According to the American business magazine, Iran's natural gas production continues to grow as more phases of its largest natural gas field, South Pars, come online and the country believes the field, including those centered on oil, will be fully operational in 2018.

Forbes' analyst believes that Iran's goal to start LNG shipments by 2020 is "indeed realistic". This is when most a new wave of LNG projects and demand will be coming online.

Based on Euroasia Review journal "Iran has a high success rate of natural gas exploration, which is estimated at 79% compared to the world average success rate of 30% to 35%."

The field Iran shares with neighboring Qatar is being developed in 24 phases

and about half of the phases have been completed. Located over 60 miles offshore, South Pars holds nearly 40% of Iran's gas reserves.

The country produces about 6 trillion cubic feet of gas annually and domestic consumption is only slightly less than that figure. Iran's gas production will reach 10 trillion cubic feet by 2030.

The report said that Iran's contribution to the total global natural gas trade is only 1%, and almost 90% of its exports

going to Turkey. But, a huge buildout in infrastructure means that India, Pakistan, Kuwait, and the UAE could all become targets for Iran's gas.

Also planned reductions in subsidized pricing, which will help reduce wasteful usage, will free up more of Iran's gas for exports.

Today, Gas accounts for 30 percent of the world's total energy consumption and this figure will increase by 30 percent by 2025.

**Iran's annual gas exports to Europe poised to reach 30bcm by 2021**

**ECONOMY** TEHRAN — Azizzollah Ramezani, the National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC)'s director for the international affairs, announced on Monday that Iran is ready to increase its annual gas exports to Europe up to 30 billion cubic meters (bcm) by the country's Sixth Five-Year Economic Development Plan (2016-2021).

"By 2021, the Islamic Republic would have the capacity to export 80 billion cubic meters of gas, and plans to export 50 billion cubic meters of this amount to its neighboring countries," Ramezani told IRNA.

He clarified that in the first phase of its exports, Iran will export 30 billion cubic meters of gas to Europe; however, up to 120 million cubic meters would be added to this figure in near future via implementing optimization projects.



Iran to export gas to Iraq within a month Ramezani, elsewhere, announced that the Islamic Re-

public will start its gas exports to its western neighbor within a month.

"Accordingly, an Iraqi delegation will travel to Iran next week to discuss the price of the exported gas," he said, "In case of making an agreement on the price Iran will start gas exports to Iraq in a month."

As the Iranian official declared, in the first four month of the present Iranian calendar year of 1395 (March 20-July 21) Iran could manage to export 2.5 billion cubic meter of gas, while its imports stood at 1.9 billion cubic meters.

As the NIGC official said, a number of European countries like Georgia, Bulgaria, and Greece have called for gas imports from Iran but no agreement has been finalized yet.

Iran also plans to export its gas to other Asian countries namely India, China, Japan and South Korea, he added.

**Japan June exports fall less than expected, offer hope of recovery**

Japan's exports fell less than expected in June in a tentative sign that overseas demand could be recovering from persistent weakness that set in last year.

A slowing decline in exports could ease concerns for Japan's policymakers as they try to revive growth with stimulus spending on infrastructure after their structural reform plans failed to deliver hoped-for results.

The 7.4 percent annual decline in exports in June was less than the median esti-

mate for a 11.6 percent annual decline seen in a Reuters poll of economists, although it was the ninth consecutive monthly fall.

In volume terms, exports rose 2.9 percent in June from the same period a year earlier, the first increase in four months.

The trade balance hit a surplus of 692.8 billion yen versus a 494.8 billion yen surplus seen in the poll.

Exports fell in June on declines in shipments of cars and steel, the data showed. On a positive note, Japan's exports of food,

medicines and finished metal products rose in June from a year ago.

Exports to China, Japan's largest trading partner, fell an annual 10.0 percent in June due to falling shipments of chemicals and metal processing equipment. That was less than a 14.9 percent annual decline in the previous month as an increase in shipments of cars to China helped offset a decline in other exports.

U.S.-bound shipments fell 6.5 percent year-on-year, considerably less than the

10.7 percent annual decline of the previous month due to a pick-up in food exports.

Imports were down 18.8 percent year-on-year versus a forecast for a 19.7 percent annual decline.

The yen has risen around 13 percent versus the dollar so far this year, and some Japanese policymakers are worried about further gains that would severely erode exporters' earnings and increase deflationary pressure by lowering import prices.

(Source: Reuters)

NEWS IN BRIEF



**Stationary, engineering exhibition to open in Tehran**

**ECONOMY** TEHRAN — The third edition of the international specialized exhibition of stationary and engineering kicks off at Tehran's International Permanent Fairgrounds Today, IRIB news agency reported on Tuesday.

According to IRIB, 48 domestic and 20 foreign companies will showcase their latest products and services in the exhibition.

Exhibitors at the event will present a wide range of products in different fields such as stationery, office, engineering etc.



**Iranian Mazandaran, Russia's Astrakhan to promote economic ties**

**ECONOMY** TEHRAN — The governors of Russia's Astrakhan and Iran's Mazandaran provinces stressed the need for expanding trade and economic ties between the two countries, IRNA reported on Tuesday.

According to the report, addressing Iranian businessmen and merchants in Babolsar, Mazandaran Province, Iran's Mazandaran Province's Governor-General Rabi' Fallah and his counterpart from Astrakhan Alexander Zhiklin pledged to remove hurdles like high tariffs for Iranian goods, high costs of transport and banking problems.



**Tehran Stock Exchange gains 282-point growth**

**ECONOMY** TEHRAN — The Tehran Stock Exchange's main index, TEDPIX rose for 9 consecutive days gaining 282 points to reach 75466, ISNA reported on Monday.

According to the report, the volume of securities traded on the Iranian over-the-counter market, known as Iran Fara Bourse (IFB), also rose 3.7 points and stood at 796.6.

About 891.53 million shares, worth 1,930,210,000,000 trillion rials (about \$55.148 million) were traded at the stock market on Monday.

# Iran embraces visitor with warm welcome, bazaars, mosques

By Lou Oschmann

For many years, I read about the rich history of Persia and yearned to see the wonders left behind in Iran, but when I told my friends I wanted to visit Iran, they thought I was crazy. They didn't believe it was safe, or they thought Iranians would be hostile toward Americans. Nothing could be further from the truth: The people's friendly welcome was rivaled only by the beautiful remains of Persian culture.

I started my 11-day tour of Iran in April in the ancient Persian city of Persepolis, where 3,000-year-old palaces and gateways built by Xerxes and Darius the Great still stand. Although the city was looted and partially destroyed by Alexander the Great in 331 B.C., many of the original structures remain in a somewhat diminished but rehabilitated form. Persepolis, now a UNESCO World Heritage Site, lay dormant for centuries until the 1930s, when restoration efforts began. Although it is the chief tourist attraction in Iran, it is only one of many joys I experienced.

In all, I visited 10 towns, starting in the south with Shiraz and going north to my final stop in Tehran for three days and nights. The weather was almost perfect: Temperatures in the mid-60s and low humidity made touring enjoyable. There were some inconveniences along the way: no ATMs, no credit-card charges, and no use of U.S. dollars. However, I adapted.

My favorite towns were Yazd and Esfahan. Near the desert in central Iran, Yazd, with a population of 500,000, is one of the world's oldest towns. Quaint narrow streets included 2,000-year-old houses, making it fascinating to wander and explore, especially for someone who spent his childhood in Swampoodle.

Esfahan is much bigger, with about



Traveler Lou Oschmann (left) poses with some Iranian students outside the Cheragh mosque in the city of Shiraz, one of the city's holiest sites.

2 million residents, and glorious in its profusion of tree-lined boulevards, Persian gardens, and beautiful Islamic buildings, including Iran's largest mosque.

The trip's highlights were the bazaars, the mosques, and the people. Every town has at least one bazaar where it seems one could walk forever under cover with shops on either side selling almost everything. Bazaars are the Iranian version of American shopping malls - without endless parking lots wasting space.

Resplendent in their beautiful architecture and breathtaking interiors, the mosques mesmerized me. I visited as many as I could. My favorite was Cheragh in Shiraz, with its gold-topped minarets and mirrored tiles on interior walls.

As for the people, many speak English and love talking with and posing for photos with Americans. I posed with as many as I could. Three encounters heightened my impressions of the many people I met:

One evening when I was confus-

edly walking in Esfahan as I sought the local synagogue, a man asked me in English whether he could help. When I told him my destination, he took me across the street to a plain building that housed the synagogue, rang the bell, and explained in Farsi over the intercom that I was eager to see the interior. A woman came and welcomed us. Unrushed, I walked inside and took many photos.

One night in Tehran, my camera battery was running low, and I didn't have my charger. An English-speaking man in a camera shop said he had no chargers for my camera, but he offered to charge my battery on his shop's machine. We chatted for 20 minutes while the battery charged at no cost to me.

The hotel chauffeur who drove me to the Tehran airport for my return flight didn't just drop me off at the curb: He parked the car, helped me with my bags, and even went through airport security with me.

My Iran trip was one of my most enjoyable adventures in all of my travels.

(Source: Philly.com)



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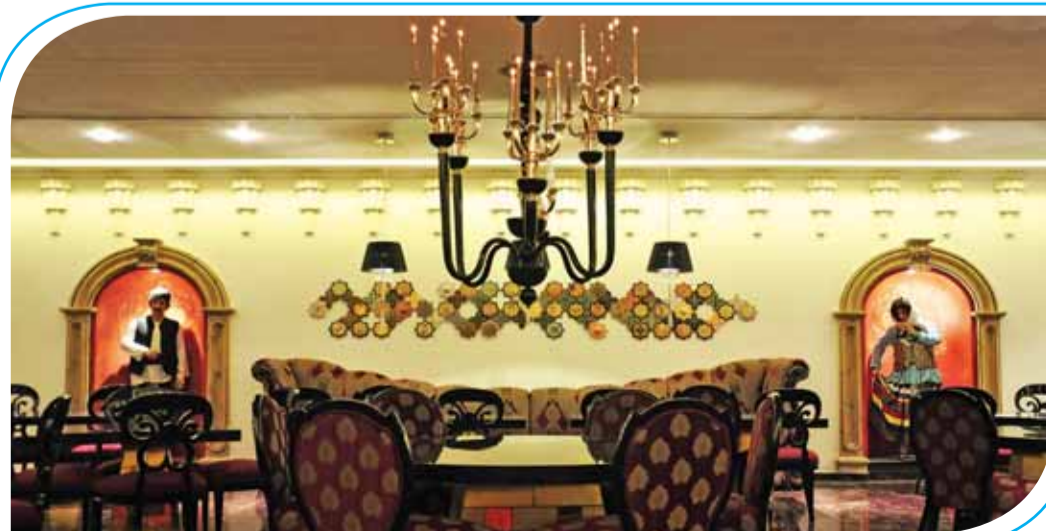
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# The long war on terror

By David Rieff

In the wake of the mass casualty attacks in Dhaka, Bangladesh, Orlando, Fla., and Nice, France — as well as numerous smaller ones by so-called lone wolves — it is simply a fact that no public space anywhere in the world can be considered safe. To the contrary, the tempo of these attacks is rising. President Obama may have been right when he said in February 2015 that terrorism did not pose an "existential threat to the United States or the world order." But this is cold comfort. People are afraid, and they have every reason to be. At the same time, this legitimate fear seems to be poisoning our politics both in the United States and in Europe, feeding the demagogues and shaking our institutions.

What can be done in response? To answer that question, it is first necessary to face what can't. Not all these attacks can be stopped. It is one thing to increase security at ports and airports — and even there, as the attacks on airports in Brussels and Istanbul show, such measures are hardly foolproof. But there is simply no way to police every subway station,

cafe and public square from Berlin to Honolulu. So the one sure thing is that these attacks will continue. Even assuming that the terrorist group can be defeated in Syria and Iraq, the group's efforts to inspire people via the internet to carry out attacks on their own are likely to continue to resonate.

This is not something to which people are going to simply resign themselves. To the contrary, every attack makes the demagogues' arguments seem more credible. It seems only a matter of time before one of the extreme right-wing populist parties in Western Europe comes to power. (Arguably, one already has in Hungary.) To be sure, the danger of terrorism is not the only thing that has fueled their rise.

## Existential threat

But whether terrorism does or doesn't represent an existential threat, it has engendered a level of existential dread that, mixed with the dislocations of mass migration in Europe and the discrediting of the political elite throughout the developed world, cannot be wished away.

One does not have to be a populist to see that the elites have much to answer for. When

the crowd at a commemoration of the 84 victims of the Nice attack booed the French Prime Minister, Manuel Valls, it was not just because the French government's response to the terrorist threat has been inadequate. Behind that may have been the sense that across Europe, the political elite has ignored the festering social environment in which a large cohort of badly educated, despairing and often violence-prone young people born of immigrant parents came to adulthood.

The alienation that makes a small minority of these young people ideal candidates to serve as cannon fodder for the terrorist group is obvious to anyone who spends any time in the suburbs of Paris, Brussels, Berlin or London.

The stark truth is that the Western political elite remains in denial, and not just about terrorism but about the anger and frustration over the effects of globalization, which have



Bullet holes and flowers at Le Carillon, a bar in Paris where 12 people were killed in November 2015. (file photo)

nourished xenophobia in most if not all rich countries. Until elites fully acknowledge these problems, the rise of the demagogues is all but assured. If the only choice people have is be-

tween a political elite that denies or dismisses the legitimacy of their fears and politicians who, whatever their motives, tell them they're not wrong to harbor them, more people will join the parties of fear.

## Commitments to quash terrorism

Many would argue that, far from being in denial about terrorism, the Western elite harps on it too much. But this is not the way most people perceive their governments. In France, for example, the state of emergency, proclaimed after the November 2015 attacks in Paris, was less than two weeks away from expiration when the Nice attack took place. This vacillation discredits governments — and the French are hardly alone in this — in the eyes of their electorates and seems to make a mockery of rhetorical commitments to quash terrorism.

Public fear and anger have now reached the point that unless the European and American political elites want to cede the field to the populists and xenophobes, they are going to have to take drastic steps.

**The stark truth is that the number and lethality of terrorist attacks are far likelier to rise than to diminish for the foreseeable future.**

→ 9

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# UK seeks to assuage global worries over path to Brexit

Britain's new finance minister Philip Hammond, under pressure from his peers from around the world, said on Sunday there could be more clarity later this year on how the country will exit the European Union.

Several nations called on Britain during weekend talks on the world economy to explain how the politically fraught Brexit process will unfold in order to avoid adding a new drag on the long and slow recovery from the financial crisis.

"It's right at the top of the agenda here at the G20," Hammond said at the end of the two-day meeting of the Group of 20 leading economies in the Chinese city of Chengdu. "It's a new factor affecting the global economic outlook and it has increased the uncertainty which the world economy faces."

Britain was plunged into its biggest political crisis in decades by the June 23 Brexit vote and so far it has resisted calls from some other EU countries to trigger quickly the two-year process for negotiating its exit from the bloc.

Prime Minister Theresa May, who has been in her job for less than two weeks, traveled to Germany and France last week to explain why she needed time to come up with an exit strategy.

The EU's top economic official, Pierre Moscovici, said the bloc understood that Britain should not be rushed but "at the same time...let's not waste time, let's not have too much uncertainty, let's act and choose as swiftly as possible."

Hammond told reporters on Sunday the two-year negotiating period, once launched, represented "quite a tight timescale" and Britain needed to go into it with clear objectives. "We have to do that before the start of the process because when we serve that notice, we need to hit the ground running," he said.

But Hammond also showed he was aware of the need for some clarity on Brexit: "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."

"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," Hammond said.

May has said she does not plan to launch the formal negotiation period this year. It remains to be seen if other



EU countries would enter informal talks with Britain before the formal negotiations, something they have previously ruled out.

## Govt, Bank of England have to be ready

Financial markets have stabilized after the initial shock of the referendum result which saw the value of the pound plunge by more than 10 percent and trillions of dollars wiped off stock markets worldwide. But economists are expecting Britain to fall into a recession, according to a Reuters poll.

Hammond said he did not think that a survey of British businesses published on Friday, which showed the sharpest fall on record in a purchasing managers' index, was a sign that the economy was in already in a recession.

"What it does is underscore the hit to confidence," he

**Hammond warned that Brexit-related volatility in markets would be a risk throughout the two-year negotiation period.**

said. Hammond warned that Brexit-related volatility in markets would be a risk throughout the two-year negotiation period.

"We have to be ready as government, the Bank of England has to be ready as monetary authority, throughout that period to respond to any instability created by that uncertainty and to ensure that the economy continues to operate smoothly," he said.

The BoE is expected to cut interest rates and possibly announce more stimulus measures on Aug. 4. Hammond has said he could ease fiscal policy in the autumn if more help is needed.

Asked about a comment he made on Friday, that he might "reset" fiscal policy to cope with the Brexit fallout, Hammond said Britain's still high levels of debt meant it needed a new framework on its public finances to give clarity to markets.

"What that framework will look like will depend on the decisions we make about whether or not any fiscal stimulus is required on the basis of the data we will by then have available," he said.

(Source: Reuters)

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Crude stays near 2-month low on oil glut worries

Crude prices inched down on Monday in Asia, staying not far from two-month lows hit in the previous session, amid worries over a global oil glut.

A strong dollar and the fourth weekly rise in the U.S. oil rig count have helped relieve pressure on crude futures.

London Brent crude for September delivery was down 4 cents at \$45.65 a barrel by 2243 GMT on Sunday, after settling down 51 cents on Friday. The benchmark contract on Friday hit \$45.17, the lowest since May 11.

NYMEX crude for September delivery was down 5 cents at \$44.14 a barrel, after closing down 56 cents on Friday.

Libya's hopes to boost crude exports have been dealt a blow after the head of the National Oil Corporation (NOC) objected to a deal between the government and local guards to reopen key ports.

In a summer of discontent with high inventories and an unseasonably weak demand, some U.S. refiners have started blending winter-grade gasoline earlier than usual to sell later in the year, two trading sources told Reuters last week. (Source: Reuters)

### Panama papers aftershocks: G20 to prepare tax havens blacklist by July 2017

G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors will prepare a blacklist of countries not participating in the fiscal information exchange by the next meeting in July 2017, Russian Deputy Finance Minister Sergei Storchak said Sunday.

"G20 has decided to tackle non-cooperating jurisdictions seriously...the idea is implemented in the development of criteria by which a given economy will be assigned the status of a non-cooperating jurisdiction. The list must be ready by the next summit," Storchak told journalists on July 23-24 in China's Chengdu.

The idea to punish the countries refusing to cooperate on the issue of tax information exchange has been put on the G20 agenda after the so called Panama files have been published.

In April, the German newspaper Sueddeutsche Zeitung exposed the alleged involvement of wealthy and influential people, including a number of former and current state leaders, in offshore schemes by publishing materials it claimed came from Mossack Fonseca, a Panama-based law firm specializing in offshore companies.

Mossack Fonseca did not validate the information contained in the leaks but accused reporters of gaining unauthorized access to some of its proprietary information. (Source: Sputnik)

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EAT YOUR FRUIT  
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There are plenty of major health benefits of grapefruits, which are also known to be powerful drug/poison eliminators. It works as a natural antiseptic for external wounds, and it functions as a liver tonic. It contains a high water content, which helps in changing the complexion of the skin and increasing the body's metabolic rate. The pulp and fiber of grapefruits supply healthy bulk to our food intake, which aids bowel movements and reduces chances of colon cancer. It also helps to quench thirst and thus, reduces the burning sensation that arises during fever. The Asia Pacific Journal of Clinical Nutrition suggests that the intake of grapefruit

reduces the risk of developing prostate cancer. Some of other benefits include:

1. Appetite Loss
2. Influenza
3. Malaria
4. Fever
5. Fatigue
6. Indigestion
7. Insomnia
8. Diabetes:
9. Acidity
10. Constipation
11. Flatulence:
12. Urinary Disorders

## NEWS IN BRIEF

Scientists develop  
painless and inexpensive  
microneedle system to  
monitor drugs

Researchers at the University of British Columbia and the Paul Scherrer Institut (PSI) in Switzerland have created a microneedle drug monitoring system that could one day replace costly, invasive blood draws and improve patient comfort.

The new system consists of a small, thin patch that is pressed against a patient's arm during medical treatment and measures drugs in their bloodstream painlessly without drawing any blood. The tiny needle-like projection, less than half a millimeter long, resembles a hollow cone and doesn't pierce the skin like a standard hypodermic needle.

"Many groups are researching microneedle technology for painless vaccines and drug delivery," said researcher Sahar Ranamukhaarachchi, a Ph.D. student in UBC's faculties of applied science and pharmaceutical sciences, who developed this technology during a research exchange at PSI. "Using them to painlessly monitor drugs is a newer idea."

Microneedles are designed to puncture the outer layer of skin, which acts as a protective shield, but not the next layers of epidermis and the dermis, which house nerves, blood vessels and active immune cells.

The microneedle created by Ranamukhaarachchi and his colleagues was developed to monitor the antibiotic vancomycin, which is used to treat serious infections and is administered through an intravenous line. Patients taking the antibiotic undergo three to four blood draws per day and need to be closely monitored because vancomycin can cause life-threatening toxic side effects. The researchers discovered that they could use the fluid found just below the outer layer of skin, instead of blood, to monitor levels of vancomycin in the bloodstream. The microneedle collects just a tiny bit of this fluid, less than a millionth of a milliliter, and a reaction occurs on the inside of the microneedle that researchers can detect using an optical sensor. (Source: EurekAlert)

Chinese team to pioneer  
first human CRISPR trial

A team of researchers at Sichuan University's West China Hospital has announced plans to begin a clinical trial where cells modified using the clustered regularly interspaced short palindromic repeats (CRISPR) gene editing technique will be used on human beings for the very first time. They plan to edit genes in such a way as to turn off a gene that encodes for a protein that has been shown by prior research to slow an immune response and by so doing treat patients with lung cancer.

The CRISPR gene editing technique has been in the news a lot of late as scientists creep ever closer to using it as a means to treat diseases or to change the very nature of biological beings. China has been a leader in promoting such research on human beings -- they were the first to use the technique to on human embryos.

This new effort is seen as far less controversial -- a team in the U.S. is planning a similar study as soon as they can get regulators to greenlight their project. The Chinese team plans to retrieve T cells from patients that have incurable lung cancer and then edit the genes in those cells. More specifically, they will be looking to disable a gene that encodes for a protein called PD-1 -- prior research has shown that it acts as a brake on an immune response to help prevent attacks on healthy cells.

Once the cells have been edited and inspected very carefully to make sure there were no editing errors they will be allowed to multiply and then all of the cells will be injected back into the same patient's bloodstream. (Source: Medical Xpress)

Solar Impulse 2 leaves Cairo to Abu Dhabi  
to conclude round the world journey

Solar Impulse 2 flew from Cairo Sunday morning to the UAE's Abu Dhabi, a two-day trip that will conclude its around the world mission.

In its unprecedented one year and a half global trip, the solar powered plane landed in 15 cities without using a "single drop of fuel."

The plane arrived in Cairo last Wednesday at 07:10 A.M. (CET) following a 48 hour and 50 minute voyage from Seville.

The Cairo-Seville leg was the 16th of the tour, which started in March 2015 in Abu Dhabi.

Ahead of departing, pilot Bertrand Piccard said that he considered Egypt one of the closest countries to his heart, adding that he is delivering a message to the world that the future is renewable energy.

The crew of the plane and their accompanying team extended their gratitude to the Egyptian government and Egypt's Minister of Civil Aviation Sherif Fathy for the support and warm reception they received during their visit to Egypt, read a civil aviation ministry statement.

## Necessary facilities

Fathy ordered that all necessary facilities



In its unprecedented one year and a half global trip, the solar powered plane landed in 15 cities without using a "single drop of fuel."

ties for the crew and plane be provided, the ministry statement adding that Egypt

is keen on supporting projects that aim to spread awareness of the use of mod-

ern technology.

The Swiss pilot shared a photo on Facebook of his plane flying over Egypt's Giza pyramids en route to Abu Dhabi Sunday, reading: "To fly over the country of the great Pyramids reminds me that there was a time when the sun was worshipped as God. Today, it should be considered as the most powerful source of energy for our world."

Piccard also commented on his final destination, which he said is one of the most difficult of his trip due to high temperatures in the Persian Gulf that makes the plane susceptible to turbulence while restricted to flying at a certain altitude to maintain oxygen levels inside the plane.

According to the Piccard, the success of the whole journey depend on the final Abu Dhabi leg.

Solar Impulse 2 crossed the Pacific Ocean in five days and nights from Japan to Hawaii, the first oceanic crossing of a solar plane.

Its cruising speed varies between 45 km/h and 90 km/h. (Source: ahram.org.eg)

## China unveils 'world's largest seaplane'

China has completed what it describes as the world's largest seaplane.

The amphibious AG600 is about the size of a Boeing 737 and will be used to fight forest fires and perform marine rescue operations, state-run news agency Xinhua said.

With a maximum take-off weight of 53.5 tons, the AG600 is the largest seaplane in the world, Xinhua said. It has a reported flight range of 4,500 kilometers and can collect 12 tons of water in only 20 seconds.

Earlier this month, China unveiled its first homegrown large military transport aircraft, as the country pushes to greatly expand its air power.

## Maximum takeoff

The Y-20, with a maximum takeoff weight of about 200



tons, officially joined the People's Liberation Army (PLA) in a ceremony Wednesday in the southwestern city of Chengdu, according to China's Defense Ministry.

Designed to transport cargo and people over long distances in challenging weather, the Y-20 -- powered by four turbofan engines -- is reportedly capable of flying 4,500 kilometers with a full load.

Its range would extend to almost 8,000 kilometers when carrying 40 tons of freight.

The plane is part of a massive program to modernize China's armed forces, the world's largest, which includes the development of aircraft carriers, anti-satellite missiles and stealth fighters. (Source: CNN)

NASA's Mars rover Curiosity autonomously  
selecting rocks as targets for its laser

NASA's Mars rover Curiosity has now a new capability. It chooses its own rock targets for its ChemCam, an instrument that vaporizes the rocks and examines their chemical properties.

Previously, the scientists are selecting most of the ChemCam targets. They discussed the rocks or soils that were seen in the images the rover has sent to Earth.

The rover now uses the AEGIS software or the Autonomous Exploration for Gathering Increased Science

to examine images from a wide-angle camera as the basis for autonomously choosing rocks to photograph with a narrower-angle camera, according to NASA.

Tara Estlin, a robotics engineer and the leader of AEGIS development at JPL said that this autonomy is particularly useful at times when getting the science team in the loop is complex or impossible -- in the middle of a long drive, perhaps, or when the schedules of Earth, Mars and spacecraft activities lead to delays in sharing information between the planets.

## Pointing challenges

Estlin further explained that due to

the small sizes and other pointing challenges, hitting these targets accurately with the laser has often needed the rover to stay in place while ground operators fine tune pointing parameters. She added that AEGIS enables these targets to be hit on the first try by automatically recognizing them and calculating a pointing that will center a ChemCam measurement on the target.

Olivier Gasnault from the Research Institute in Astrophysics and Planetology (IRAP) and the ChemCam Science Operator said that AEGIS brings an extra opportunity to use ChemCam to do more when the interaction with scientists is limited. He further said that it does not replace an existing mode, but complements it.

Curiosity rover four years journey on Mars has inspected over 1,400 targets, firing its laser about 3,500 times, according to Popular Mechanics. The rover aims to know if the Red Planet supports microscopic life. With its new autonomous capability, it could speed up in attaining its mission. (Source: Science World Report)

NASA study reveals nearly one-fifth of global  
warming over the years has been missed

A new NASA-led study finds that almost one-fifth of the global warming that has occurred in the past 150 years has been missed by historical records due to quirks in how global temperatures were recorded. The study explains why projections of future climate based solely on historical records estimate lower rates of warming than predictions from climate models.

The study applied the quirks in the historical records to climate model output and then performed the same calculations on both the models and the observations to make the first true apples-to-apples comparison of warming rates.

Difficulties in making weather measurements in the Arctic have led to under-representation of this rapidly warming area in historic temperature records.

Difficulties in making weather measurements in the Arctic have led to under-representation of this rapidly warming area in historic temperature records.

With this modification, the models and observations largely agree on expected near-term global warming. The results

were published in the journal Nature Climate Change. Mark Richardson of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, California, is the lead author.

## The Arctic is warming

The Arctic is warming faster than the rest of Earth, but there are fewer historic temperature readings from there than from lower latitudes because it is so inaccessible. A data set with fewer Arctic temperature measurements naturally shows less warming than a climate model that fully represents the Arctic.

Because it isn't possible to add more measurements from the past, the researchers instead set up the climate models to mimic the limited coverage in the historical records. The new study also accounted for two other issues. First, the historical data mix air and water temperatures, whereas model results refer to air temperatures only. The final issue is that there was considerably more Arctic sea ice when temperature records began in the 1860s, and early observers recorded air temperatures over nearby land areas for the sea-ice-covered regions. (Source: clarksvilleonline.com)

## Could brain training prevent dementia?

It's been a lousy couple of years for researchers who study the effects of computerized brain training. In October of 2014 a group of more than seventy academics published what they called a consensus statement, asserting that playing brain games had been shown to improve little more than the ability to play brain games. "Perhaps the most pernicious claim, devoid of any scientifically credible evidence, is that brain games prevent or reverse Alzheimer's disease," the group stated.

"No studies have demonstrated that playing brain games cures or prevents Alzheimer's disease or other forms of dementia." Then, this past January, the Federal Trade Commission fined Lumosity, the largest and best-known provider of online brain games, two million dollars for making what the commission considered to be unsub-

stantiated claims of cognitive improvement.

Even as dozens of researchers, some funded by the National Institutes of Health and other reputable government agencies, continued to insist that the field was not the neuroscientific equivalent of desktop fusion or coffee colonics, the fact remained that no brain game, nor any drug, dietary supplement, or lifestyle intervention, had ever been shown in a large, randomized trial to prevent dementia.

## Cognitive training

The findings arose from the Advanced Cognitive Training for Independent and Vital Elderly (ACTIVE) study, which boasts excellent bona fides. Its nearly three thousand participants were recruited back in 1998, and since then -- with \$23.6 million in funding from the National Institute on Ag-

ing and an additional \$10.2 million from the National Institute of Nursing Research -- the study has been the subject of more than fifty peer-reviewed scientific papers.

The participants, who had an average age of 73.6 at the beginning of the trial, were randomly divided into four groups. The first group, which served as control, received no brain training at all. The next two were given ten hours of classroom instruction on how to improve memory or reasoning. The last group performed something called speed-of-processing training.

Imagine that you are looking at a computer screen. For the briefest instant, two images appear -- one in the middle, one on the periphery. (Source: The New Yorker)



## Putin to Arab League: Status quo on Palestine unacceptable

➔ The Moroccan delegation is boycotting the summit, saying the reason for its withdrawal is that "in an absence of decisions and concrete initiatives, this summit will be a mere gathering for speeches that imply fake unity among Arab countries."

Only nine Arab heads of state are attending the summit - 13 heads of states said they will not be able to come. Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi will not be at the summit and Egypt will be represented by Prime Minister Sherif

Ismail.

Nevertheless, President Putin urged the Arab League states to fight against terrorism in Syria, Iraq, Libya, Yemen and other tense areas. "Russia is ready to strengthen in every possible way its interaction with the Arab League in ensuring regional security, first and foremost, in the struggle against the threat of international terrorism," Putin said in his address to the summit.

(Source: Tass)



## Bombing kills 18, injures 23 in eastern Iraq

### ISIL top commander killed in Salahuddin Province

At least 18 people have lost their lives and 23 others sustained injuries in a powerful explosion in a town in Iraq's eastern province of Diyala near the border with Iran.

Security sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the bomb attack took place in the town of al-Khalis, located roughly 15 kilometers (9 miles) northwest of the provincial capital city of Baqubah, on Monday morning.

The head of the Provincial Council, Omar Maan al-Korawi, said a car rigged with explosives was detonated near the entrance to the Department of Agriculture in the town.

No individual or militant group has claimed responsibility for the act of violence, yet.

The development came only a day after a bomber

attacked a security checkpoint in the Shia-majority district of Kadhimiyah, north of the capital, Baghdad, killing at least 10 civilians and four policemen.

A police officer said at least 31 people were also wounded in the attack.

Latest figures released by the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq show a total of 662 Iraqis were killed and 1,457 others injured in acts of terrorism, violence and armed conflict in June.

According to the UN mission, the number of civilian fatalities stood at 382. Violence also claimed the lives of 280 members of the Iraqi security forces in that month. A great portion of the fatalities was recorded in Baghdad, where 236 civilians were killed.

The northern and western parts of Iraq have been

plagued by gruesome violence ever since ISIL (Daesh) terrorists launched a campaign of terror in the country in June 2014.

Iraqi government forces, backed by fighters from allied Popular Mobilization units, have been pushing the militants out of the country's territory.

### ISIL top commander killed

Meanwhile, Iraqi security forces have killed a senior commander of the ISIL terrorist group in Iraq's northern Salahuddin Province.

The Iraqi forces killed Abu al-Harith al-Libi in a military operation in al-Jahleh Village on the outskirts of the city of Shirqat early on Sunday, a security source told Iraq's al-Forat news agency on the condition of anonymity. (Source: agencies)

## Delhi does not want to be part of any military alliance against China: Indian expert

➔ The truth is India does recognize China as a challenge but not as a threat. A closer analysis of Sino-Indian relations makes it clear that in spite of an armed conflict and major issues like border dispute, China's support to insurgency in India's northeastern states. India's primary concern has been to have good relations with China based on peaceful co-existence friendship and cooperation.

Even in the past in spite of all the differences India has always supported the case of China in the United Nations Organizations. In 1949 when Nationalist Government of China was once thrown by the Communists, India was the first country to recognize the new Chinese government.

Today China has emerged as India's biggest trading partner. In recent times though India has been vocal in calling for freedom of navigation and maintaining Security in South China Sea, it has refused to join patrols in the South China Sea proposed by the USA. India does not want to be a part of any military alliance with the U.S. especially against China. Because it wants to avert any tension or conflict with China. Indian foreign policy towards China remains committed to the principles of the historic Panchasheel agreement of 1954 and to her larger motive of maintaining peace and stability in the region.

**In his visit to New Delhi in January 2015, President Obama described relations between the U.S. and India as the defining partnership of the 21st century. What was the reason for such a description?**

A: In the 21st century it is economic forces that direct political decisions. India is a fast growing economy and has emerged as the most profitable market for major American items including aircrafts, fertilizers, computer hardware, etc. The U.S. is India's largest direct investor and foremost trading partner. The two countries have common interest in free flow of commerce and resources, fighting terrorism and creating a strategically stable Asia. Today India and the U.S. share an extensive cultural, strategic, military and economic relationship.

Barack Obama has called for deeper cooperation between the two countries and called U.S.-India relation as the relation of the century because he understands the fact that India has emerged as a major player in international politics. Moreover the presence and influence of strong Indian diaspora in the U.S. and the viewpoint that American relationship with India is pivotal in maintaining long term stability in Asia and in fighting terrorism has further pushed the U.S. to foster better relations

with India.

In the 21st century the Asia-Pacific region as emerged as the center of world affairs. A large chunk of the world's yearly maritime trade takes place in the region. The Asia-Pacific region also holds dense fishing grounds and potentially enormous oil and natural gas resources. China is intent on asserting its role in the Asia-Pacific region. This has prompted the Obama administration to devise the 'pivot' or rebalance policy towards Asia. In pursuance of its pivot policy the U.S. is keen on increasing its strategic partnership with India for establishing a balance of power in the Indo-Pacific domain. India on its part looks to converge its Look East-Act East policy with the rebalance policy of the U.S. Both India and the U.S. have joint strategic interests in Asia Pacific and Indian Ocean regions. Combating terrorism, maritime security, freedom of navigation, non-proliferation, military cooperation remain key areas of cooperation between



### Russia and China seek to challenge Washington's hegemony and want to establish a new international economic and political order.

the two nations. The two countries also seek to increase bilateral trade by reducing trade barriers.

**Russia and China have already signed commercial agreements. What are the common interests?**

A: The Sino-Soviet split of 1961 was a major setback for relations between the two socialist giants. During the cold war years Sino-Russian relations were marked by distance and mistrust. However since the breakdown of the Soviet Union in 1991 the relations between the two countries have improved remarkably. Recently, China and Russia have increased their security, economic and diplomatic relationship. Of course there are still certain negative factors like historical mistrust, conflicting interests in Central Asia and power projection in the Asia-Pacific region that haunt the Sino-Russian strategic partnership. But despite this both countries have come to understand that they have mutual geo-political and strategic interests. The Sino-Russian relations have been on the right track since Xi Jinping assumed leadership in Beijing in 2013. Jinping and Putin have managed to align their geo-political and strategic interests in multilateral forums such as BRICS, APEC and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). Further the launching of the New Development Bank (NDB) and the Asian Infrastructure

Investment Bank (AIIB) was a major success for the strategic alliance of these two countries. These two banks aim to reduce the dependence of member countries on the financial institutions of the West and thus seek to challenge the hegemony of the west.

Russia and China have a lot in common apart from a 2600 mile border. Both countries have similar ideologies. Both are shifting from socialism to open market system. Both countries are located in Central Asia and North East Asia region and they have the common interest of maintaining strategic stability, economic cooperation in this region and keeping the region free from Western Influence and interference. In terms of trade also the interests of both the countries are mutually complimentary. While

Russia's economy needs energy exports, China's economy needs energy imports. Moreover both countries have domestic and foreign policy aspirations that confront them with the U.S. Russia and

China seek to challenge Washington's hegemony and want to establish a new international economic and political order. It is because of this common agenda that both the countries often find themselves on the same side in the UN Security Council on issues such as vetoing UN intervention in Syria, opposing sanctions on Iran, etc.

The Western bloc led by the U.S. is using various means to thwart Russia and contain China. Closer ties between Russia and China will counter this plan of the Western countries. Better Sino-Russian ties will not only strengthen security and economics of both the countries but also maintain a balance in world order.

**Some view the Chabahar port deal, signed between Iran and India, as a potential threat against the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. What's your opinion?**

A: Iran and India have always enjoyed a strong bond of friendship; the relationship between the two countries have turned even friendlier after the great Iranian revolution of 1979. Also, the economic relationship between India and Iran has always been stable. The Chabahar project will prove to be a milestone in the already strong Iran-India friendship and will further fortify the strong bond that the two nations share.

Iran is one of the world's biggest hold-

er of energy resources and important actor in the Middle East and India is world's second most populous country and fourth economic power. Iran has supported India by objecting to Pakistan's attempts to draft anti-Indian resolutions at international organizations such as the OIC and Human Rights commission; and India has welcomed Iran's inclusion as an observer in SAARC. Both countries look at each other as trusted partners. Thus the Chabahar project is an effort to enhance cooperation on issues such as terrorism, trade, energy trade, culture, etc.

The Chabahar project will give India access to economic opportunities in the region and procure markets in Central Asia. India will also get access to trade with Afghanistan and reduced transportation costs will allow India to import crude oil, urea and dry fruits from Iran at lower prices. For Iran the Chabahar treaty is a totally win-win deal as it will facilitate better regional trade, gain wider and profitable markets for Iran's rich natural resources. The project will also attract investment into Iran from other countries and also consolidate Iran's position as a key player in the Middle East. Moreover the Chabahar project will also create more employment opportunities for Iranian youth.

The trilateral agreement signed between Iran, India and Afghanistan will also benefit Kabul. The Chabahar will help a landlocked Afghanistan reduce its dependence on Pakistan for trade.

The Chabahar project aims to create a free trade corridor of road and rail networks from Iran to Afghanistan and other Central Asian countries. The Chabahar project will enhance better cultural linkages, humanitarian operations, trade relations, security exchanges between the three countries by reducing distance, time and cost.

The Chabahar project should not be evaluated as a threat to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor or to the interests of Pakistan. The leaders of the three countries - President Hassan Rouhani, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Ashraf Ghani have made it clear that the treaty is directed towards welfare. In fact President Rouhani has made it clear that other countries will have the opportunity to join the agreement and that the Chabahar agreement is not directed to threaten the interest of any country. The fact that Iran has not reserved exclusive rights of Chabahar to India proves that Chabahar is a very positive document aiming at cooperation and welfare and not to undermine the interest of any country. The Chabahar project represents the aspirations of the Iranian-Indian-Afghan people for better relation with each other based on mutual respect, friendship and cooperation.

**ECONOMY** IKCO Deputy CEO in Marketing and Sales announced this company's sales has upped by 49% this year over the same time last year, adding that the boost in sales emphasizes the boom in the car market in the absence of recession in this section.

Referring to IKCO-Peugeot JV products to be intro-

duced to the market in the near future, Mostafa Khankarami said, "PSA was the first carmaker, interested in entering Iran's market following sanctions' removal."

"IKAP - IKCO/Peugeot JV Company - will soon introduce three Peugeot cars i.e. 2008, 301 and 208, which meet the latest world's standards and can compete with

the top European and American brands in terms of quality," he declared.

Khankarami also mentioned, "Considering the boost in sales and production improvement projects, we hope IKCO customer satisfaction index will chalk up as well."

## NEWS

### Assassination plot reported against Egypt's President Sissi

Egypt's President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi reportedly canceled a visit to Mauritania, where an Arab League summit started Monday, due to "credible information" of a plot to assassinate him in Nouakchott, the nation's capital.

A presidential statement gave no reason for Sissi's cancellation but the Egyptian press carried unconfirmed reports of a possible planned attempt on Sissi's life during the gathering in the Mauritanian capital.

In a statement, presidential spokesperson Alaa Youssef denied that Sissi canceled the trip out of security fears but did not give a reason for the cancellation.

The private-owned Al-Masry al-Youm daily reported that the president's office received "credible information" about the plot and based on it, the president decided not to go.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Ahmed Abu-Zeid declined to comment on the reports.

The two-day Arab League summit is focusing on ways of defeating terrorism, the rise of extremism in the region and the deadlocked Palestinian-Israeli peace process.

(Source: Times of Israel)

### 'Shameful' surge in child killing in Afghanistan

The numbers are at their highest level since the UN began issuing its reports in 2009.

The Secretary-General's Special Representative for Afghanistan and head of UNAMA Tadamichi Yamamoto said that the report should serve as a call to action by parties to the conflict "to do all they can to spare civilians from the horrors of war".

"Every single casualty documented in this report - people killed while praying, working, studying, fetching water, recovering in hospitals - every civilian casualty represents a failure of commitment and should be a call to action for parties to the conflict to take meaningful steps to reduce civilians' suffering," UNAMA chief Tadamichi Yamamoto said.

"Platitudes not backed by meaningful action ring hollow over time. History and the collective memory of the Afghan people will judge leaders of all parties to this conflict by their actual conduct."

The statistics are an indicator of growing insecurity in Afghanistan as the Taliban stepped up a nationwide campaign against the government and the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL, also known as ISIS) terrorist group tried to expand its foothold in the east of the country.

Twin blasts on Saturday that killed at least 80 people and wounded more than 230, most of them civilians, were claimed by ISIL.

Those deaths were not included in the UN report, but the attack highlighted its finding that suicide bombings and complex attacks are now harming more civilians than roadside bombs.

For the first time, the Afghan air force killed or wounded more civilians in its operations than air strikes carried out by foreign forces, according to UN.

(Source: Al Jazeera)

### The long war on terror

➔ One option is simply to say that for the foreseeable future terrorism is here to stay and that, as Mr. Valls said recently, "Times have changed, and we should learn to live with terrorism."

There is probably some truth to this, but in effect telling people there is little that can be done is simply not something Western electorates are prepared to hear. And in practice, learning to live with something surely means growing accustomed to it. As the rise of the radical right in Europe and of Donald J. Trump in the United States shows, resignation remains too bitter a pill for many people to swallow.

The stark truth is that the number and lethality of terrorist attacks are far likelier to rise than to diminish for the foreseeable future. But there is a duty to try to stop them. In that, the West faces a choice: either the walls Mr. Trump wants to build and the mass deportations that many right-wing European politicians have begun calling for, or a vast expansion of the national security apparatus. That would require serious increases both in budgets and personnel and in the methods at their disposal.

For what the attacks at the Brussels airport, at the gay club in Orlando and at the Bastille Day celebrations in Nice demonstrate is that the measures taken to date, however far-reaching (some would say dangerous) in terms of civil liberties they seem, are not working.

At present, we have the worst of both worlds, a secretive and worryingly unaccountable intelligence establishment that at the same time simply does not have the manpower or the technical capacity needed to keep close tabs on the thousands — if not tens of thousands — of terrorist sympathizers in Europe and in North America who have been radicalized through social media.

This prospect is awful but is there an alternative? The war on terror is a strange, asymmetrical war, but it is a war just the same. In any war — including a just war — we lose a certain amount of our humanity. At a minimum, we have to control the worst excesses. By way of historical analogy, it is to avoid firebombing Dresden in the name of defeating Nazism.

In the case of the war against the terrorist group foot soldiers in Europe and America, this means the maintaining of civilian control over and close monitoring of the security services, the unwavering prohibition on torture (which risks coming back on the agenda with a vengeance) and a rejection of the war of civilizations argument so beloved by both the populist right and by the terrorists.

But absent some miraculous end to terrorism, in fighting it we are going to compromise some of our values. The best we can hope for is to hold on to enough of our humanity to have a chance of clawing back the rest when the war ends, as all wars do. (Source: The NYT)

## Sales Up by 49%

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT



"The possibility to love another scared me; terrified me actually. Being a free spirit, apart of me is most alive when roaming, than I became a mother and for the first time I felt my heart live outside my body and that's the moment his laughter became my medicine."  
Nikki Rowe

NEWS

**At a job interview, Muslim woman told it was a 'waste of time' unless she removes her hijab**

A 25-year-old Muslim girl in New Zealand was left embarrassed after she applied for a job at a jewellery shop and was told it was a "waste of time" unless she removed her hijab. Mona Alfadli, who applied for a job as a sales assistant at Steward Dawsons in Auckland, was told by a prospective manager 'not to bother applying' because of her headscarf.

"I felt embarrassed as it took a lot of courage to walk into the shop and speak to the manager regarding a job, especially since I was afraid of the rejection," Alfadli said. Alfadli, who lives in Avondale, has been looking for a job after completing her diploma in applied computer system engineering.

She said her aspirations for her life in New Zealand was to find a "safe" home for herself and her family, who settled in the country as refugees from Kuwait in 2008.

"I can do any job, I don't mind, but I will keep my hijab, I will keep my identity, and respect my culture and my religion," Alfadli was quoted as saying 'The New Zealand Herald'.

She said she was told it was a "waste of time" if she would not remove her hijab. It was second incident at the jewellery store where in October former Kelston girls college deputy head Fatima Mohammadi was turned away from an interview at the jewellery chain's Henderson branch because of her hijab.

Stewart Dawsons group chief financial officer Kevin Turner said he was "devastated" to learn of the latest incident. "The manager in question is new to the company, so she hadn't been with us for very long. Having said that she should have known better, she was not following company policy. We are taking this absolutely seriously, it's not okay and we will be following it up in the appropriate manner," Turner said, adding that the company would apologize to Alfadli.

Last year, Muslim-American woman Samantha Elauf successfully sued Abercrombie & Fitch when they refused to hire her because her headscarf apparently violated the company's 'look policy'.

The case went all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, where justices ruled eight to one in Elauf's favor.  
(Source: Firstpost)

**RECIPE OF THE WEEK**  
**Fried ice cream**

"Vanilla ice cream with a crunchy coating. Serve with whipped cream, honey, and cherries."

**Ingredients:**

- 1 quart vanilla ice cream
- 3 cups crushed cornflakes cereal
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 3 egg whites
- 2 quarts oil for frying

**Directions:**

Scoop ice cream into 8 - 1/2 cup sized balls. Place on baking sheet and freeze until firm, about 1 hour.

In a shallow dish, combine cornflakes and cinnamon. In another dish, beat egg whites until foamy. Roll ice cream

balls in egg whites, then in cornflakes, covering ice cream completely. Repeat if necessary. Freeze again until firm, 3 hours.

In deep fryer or large, heavy saucepan, heat oil to 375 degrees F (190 degrees C).

Using a basket or slotted spoon, fry ice cream balls 1 or 2 at a time, for 10 to 15 seconds, until golden. Drain quickly on paper towels and serve immediately.



**Gender equality a priority in girls' education in deprived areas**

**WOMEN** TEHRAN — Gender equality is a priority in girls' education in deprived areas, said Mahnaz Ahmadi, the deputy education minister for family and women's affairs said on Sunday.

The Islamic Republic of Iran is paying special attention to women's role in development of the society, Mehr news agency quoted the official as saying.

The Ministry of Education, considering the capabilities of both genders, pays special attention to promoting the position of boys and girls, she said, adding that it helps them play their special role in the society effectively.

The common role of women and men which is affected by their genders requires support, she noted.

Referring to some fundamental changes made in women's affairs, the official noted that some of these changes have been made based on the interests of executive managers and the capabilities of women should be considered.



**Nigerian girls can wear headscarves to school, court rules**

**LAGOS, Nigeria (AP)** — Nigerian girls have the right to wear the hijab headscarf to school, an appeals court has ruled in a country where suicide bombers have abused Islamic dress to hide their deadly weapons.

The ruling by the Lagos division of Nigeria's Court of Appeal "has restored hope in the judiciary as the last hope of the common man," said the director of the Muslim Rights Concern group, Ishaq Akintola.

The unanimous decision, overturning a 2013 ruling which banned hijabs in Lagos government schools, has added authority since three of the five judges are not Muslim, Akintola said.

The headscarf issue has ignited passions in a country suffering from Boko Haram's Islamic uprising in the northeast. Some suicide bombers, including men disguised as women wearing full hijab, have hidden explosives under their robes.

Africa's most populous nation of about 170 million people is almost equally divided between a mainly Muslim



In this photo taken Wednesday April. 6, 2016 Muslim girls attend school in Kano, Nigeria. Nigerian girls have the right to wear the hijab headscarf to school, an appeals court has ruled in a country where suicide bombers have abused Islamic dress to hide their deadly weapons.

north and a predominantly Christian south.

Thursday's ruling came in response to an appeal against a Lagos state ban, which had argued that hijabs are not part of the approved school uniform.

The hijab controversy has been most heated in the mainly Christian, southwestern Osun state. The High Court there ruled last month that any harassment of girls wearing the hijab constituted an infringement of their rights.

The local branch of the Christian Association of Nigeria had accused Osun state Gov. Rauf Aregbesola, a Muslim, of supporting the hijab as part of an "Islamization" agenda. Earlier this year, it ordered Christian students to wear choir robes to school, but only a handful of students complied.

Secretary-General Ishaq Oloyede of the Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs in Nigeria has suggested the controversy is a campaign by Christian extremists to force Muslim girls into an unacceptable choice between schooling and Islam.

**UNICEF calls for urgent action to protect girls, women from violence**



Of the 21 million in forced labour 70% are in forced labour exploitation and 22% are in forced sexual exploitation.

A key adviser to the United Nations children's agency on Wednesday decried the culture of impunity surrounding sexual violence against women and girls around the world, following a recent case of gang rape in India.

"Outrage is not enough," said Anju Malhotra, UNICEF's principal gender advisor.

"We need action now to end this brutality that has become routine and to give the victims of violence the justice and protection they deserve."

The statement was issued in response to a reported gang rape of a young Dalit woman in India by the same five men who had raped her three years prior.

The case "underlines the heinous culture of impunity that surrounds violence against girls and women," Ms. Malhotra said.

About one out of every 10 girls in the world will experience sexual violence, according to UN figures – the majority between the ages of 15 and 19.

In 2013, following nationwide outrage

and protests sparked by the death of a 23-year-old woman who was gang-raped in New Delhi in 2012, India enacted new laws to prevent and prosecute rape and other sex crimes.

At that time, the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, Rashida Manjoo, had said the reforms, though commendable, "did not go far enough" to address systemic gender inequalities in Indian society.  
(Source: UN News Center)

**Despite reform, Saudi 'guardianship' still restricts women: HRW**

Saudi Arabian laws requiring women to have male guardians have been reformed in recent years but continue to restrict and endanger them, obstructing government plans to reform the economy, U.S.-based Human Rights Watch says in a report.

The report drew criticism on Sunday from a government rights official, who said the system was designed to protect and help women, and was less restrictive than portrayed by HRW.

Women in Saudi Arabia must usually obtain permission from a guardian - father, husband, or son - to travel, study or marry.

These laws, making women legal wards of a male relative and backed by a powerful clerical establishment, have in recent

years been reformed, with women no longer needing to obtain male guardian permission to work, HRW said in the report, "Boxed In: Women and Saudi Arabia's Male Guardianship System."

But the system remains largely intact and an impediment to realizing women's rights, it said.

Mufleh al-Qahtani, chairman of the government-licensed National Society for Human Rights, told Reuters the report confused tradition with state policy that was improving women's status.

"It conflates the laws on women's guardianship that authorities are being asked to amend or develop with customs prevailing in society that may... take time to change," he said.

Dozens of Saudi women interviewed by HRW said their lives were subject to male supervision when it came to applying for a passport, leaving the country, getting married and accessing courts and medical treatment.

A 25-year-old woman referred to as Zahra, whose father used to beat her and later refused to allow her to travel overseas to study, was quoted as telling HRW: "Whenever someone tells me, 'You should have a five-year plan,' I say I can't. I'll have a five-year plan and then my dad would disagree. Why have a plan?"

Other women told HRW their friends or relatives had sought to marry to escape strict, conservative, or abusive fathers and brothers. A woman named Tala said: "The



Saudi women arrive to attend Janadriyah Culture Festival on the outskirts of Riyadh, Saudi Arabia February 8, 2016. (Reporting by Tom Finn; Editing by Mark Trevelyan)

guardianship system is always a nightmare. I don't want to get married because I don't want a stranger to control me ... Basically, it is slavery."

**Conservative society**

Women are not allowed to drive and face difficulty in many transactions such as renting an apartment, without a male relative.

But the late King Abdullah in 2011 gave women the right to vote and run for office in local elections, and in 2013 appointed 30 women to the Shura council, the appointed parliament that discusses new laws and advises the government on legislation.

Deputy Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman unveiled in April an ambitious plan to transform the economy by 2030, which envisages increasing women's participation in the workforce to 30 percent from 22 percent. HRW's Kristine Beckerle said the kingdom could not achieve this vision if it did not abolish male guardianship.

Officials often say the failure to end discrimination against women is not due to state policy but difficulties in implementation.

On the question of travel, Qahtani said: "There is no problem for any woman to travel in the absence of a dispute in the family. In the event of a dispute it must be resolved first to ensure each party fulfils its obligations toward the family."

He added: "One should bear in mind that Saudi society is conservative and some of the customs and traditions of the society need time to be adjusted."  
(Source: Reuters)

**IN FOCUS** Mehr/Mohammad Hassan Ghazanfari Harandi



Foreign tourists welcomed "two-dimension photography" which was held at Imam square in Isfahan for a week with the goal of promoting hijab and dignity.

# Wining IPL and Hazfi Cup are our objectives, says Persepolis coach

**T I S P O R T S** Persepolis head coach Branko Ivankovic stated that his team's goals for this season is to win IPL (Iran Professional League) and Hazfi Cup title and have strong appearances in the Asian Champions League.

"I'm very excited ahead of the new season with Persepolis. We have had good preparation in pre-season camp but as you may know this is our toughest match. First game is always difficult and we need some time to get used to weekly completions," Branko Ivankovic told in a pre-match press conference ahead of the first game of the IPL new season against Saipa.

"According to the statics Saipa is better than us. They took five points out of the possible six in the last season against us while these points cost us the title at the final week. But our biggest challenge against Saipa is their head coach Hossein Faraki who has won the Iran Professional League title with Sepahan and Foolad in the past. I have worked with him at Team Melli, he is a smart coach and he's done a great job in any team he has worked," he added.

"Winning the IPL and Hazfi Cup and a strong appearance in the Asian Champions League are our main goals for this season so we need to make a strong start in order to achieve them," he added.

On the other hand, Saipa head coach Hossein Faraki believes his team could end up in the top four.

"I totally respect Branko as he's my master and I



have worked under him at Team Melli. I've won the league title twice before and now the expectations are high. Saipa has ranked in the mid-table in the last couple of year but we're here in order to improve and at

least book a place in the Asian Champions League," Faraki told reporters.

Persepolis will take on Saipa in the first week of IPL on Monday at Tehran's Takhti Stadium.

## Iran comes 3rd at Asian Water Polo Junior Championship



**T I S P O R T S** Iran came third at the 5th Asian Water Polo Junior Championship after beating Uzbekistan 15-9 on Monday.

Defending champion Japan won the gold medal after beating host Indonesia 37-11.

China finished in second place by beating Kazakhstan.

The tournament was held in Indonesia with the participation of six teams, namely Indonesia, Iran, China, Japan, Kazakhstan, and Uzbekistan.

The competition's top three teams Japan, China and Iran booked their places at the FINA World Junior Championship (20 years & under) in 2017.

## Iran earns second win at William Jones Basketball Cup



**T I S P O R T S** Iran basketball team seized its second victory at the Williams Jones Cup on Monday.

Dirk Bauermann's team, consisting of youth and experienced players, defeated USA representative Sacramento 70-59.

Iran had defeated Chinese Taipei 73-61 in its first match on Saturday.

The Iranian team will meet Egypt on Tuesday.

The 2016 William Jones Cup is the ongoing 38th staging of William Jones Cup, a top-level international basketball tournament of FIBA Asia.

The men's tournament is being held from 23-30 July 2016 at the Hsinchuang Gymnasium in New Taipei City, Taiwan.

## Iran's Greco-Roman wrestling team will shine in Rio: Mohammad Bana

**T I S P O R T S** Head coach of Greco-Roman national team Mohammad Bana says that the Iranian wrestlers will shine at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games.

Under guidance of Bana, Iran's Greco-Roman team won three gold medals in the London 2012.

The coach says that his men are well-prepared to shine in Rio once again.

"Thank God, we are mentally and physically ready for the event. I am satisfied with all my wrestlers and enjoy themselves," Bana told ISNA news agency.

"We're doing our best to get positive results in Rio



and I wish the freestylers all the best as well. Our weightlifters and taekwondo players could also shine in the event," he added.

Mohammad Bana believes that the Iranian wrestlers will have an uphill task in Rio.

"In each category, a total of world's 20 top wrestlers will battle for the victory. We will analyze our rivals very well but winning the medal depends on your wrestlers are in their best form in the competition," he stated.

"I have six brave wrestlers in Olympics who can shine in the Olympics. I believe that we have a really good chance of winning medal in Rio," Bana concluded.

## Franck Ribery: New Bayern Munich manager Carlo Ancelotti trusts me



Bayern Munich winger Franck Ribery says he feels trusted again now that Carlo Ancelotti has replaced Pep Guardiola as manager.

Ribery, 33, saw his relationship with Guardiola suffer as injury problems restricted him to only 15 starts in the Bundesliga over the past two seasons.

And the former France international has given a not-so-subtle hint that he is now enjoying life at Bayern more than he did under Guardiola, telling kicker that Ancelotti's style was similar to pre-Guardiola Bayern coaches Jupp Heynckes and Ottmar Hitzfeld.

"Under Ancelotti I finally feel trusted again," Ribery said. "He's a great coach."

"I need people like him, Jupp Heynckes or Ottmar Hitzfeld." "You don't need to teach me about football anymore," Ribery said. "It comes down to things like trust, respect and closeness -- then I can give not only 100 percent but 150 percent."

"With Ancelotti we can achieve great things," he said. Earlier this year Ribery revealed that Ancelotti had wanted to sign him when the Italian was manager of Chelsea in 2009.

(Source: ESPN)

## Iran into Asian Junior Handball C'ship next stage



Iran defeated Uzbekistan 37-22 at the 15th edition of the Asian Men's Junior Handball Championship on Sunday.

Iran, who had already defeated Jordan in Group A, advanced to the next stage with the win.

Group B consists of Japan, Saudi Arabia and Palestine.

South Korea, Bahrain and India are in Group C and Qatar, Iraq and China have been drawn in Group D.

The competition kicked off in Am-

man on July 22 and will run until August 1.

The 2016 Asian Men's Junior Handball Championship is the 15th edition of the Asian Men's Junior Handball Championship held from 22 July - 1 August 2016 at Amman, Jordan under the aegis of Asian Handball Federation.

It also acts as the qualification tournament for the 2017 Men's Junior World Handball Championship which will be held in Algeria.

(Source: Tasnim)

## TOUR DE FRANCE

### Chris Froome seals Tour great status with third title

Briton Chris Froome cemented his status as one of the greatest Tour de France riders when he secured his third title on Sunday after a three-week rocky ride.

Germany's Andre Greipel won the 21st and last stage, a 113-km ride from Chantilly ending on the Champs Elysees in Paris.

Team Sky rider Froome survived two crashes and even a jup up a mountain road to add to his 2013 and 2015 triumphs and become the first rider to retain his title since Spaniard Miguel Indurain in 1995.

American Lance Armstrong won seven titles in succession from 1999 but was erased from the winners' list after admitting to doping.

"This tour has obviously taken place against the backdrop of terrible events in Nice and we pay our respect again to those who lost their lives," Froome said of the recent incident in which a man killed 84 people when he drove a truck through a Bastille Day crowd on the seafront at the Riviera city.

"Of course these kinds of events put sport into perspective but they also show why the values of sport are so important to free society."

Frenchman Romain Bardet finished second overall 2:52 behind Froome, who had a 4:05 lead going into the last stage but was caught on the wrong side of a split in the finale of Sunday's stage.

Colombian Nairo Quintana, runner-up in 2013 and 2015 who was expected to push Froome to the limit, ended up a disappointing third, 3:08 off the pace.

Pole Rafal Majka won the polka dot jersey for the mountain classification and his Tinkoff team mate, world champion Peter Sagan, clinched a fifth green jersey for the points classification.

Sagan, who won three stages, was also voted the most aggressive rider in the three-week race while Adam Yates showed Britain was full of resources, ending up fourth overall and winning the white jersey for the best Under-25 rider.

Another Briton, Mark Cavendish, claimed four stages but he pulled out of the race on the second rest day to prepare for the Olympics, where he will be competing on the track.

#### IMPRESSIVE TEAM

Froome built his success on an impressively strong Team Sky, arguably the best assembled in recent Tour history, being able to rely on domestique de luxe Wouter Poels in the mountains.

The Briton, however, had a few scares.

In the 12th stage ending on Mont Ventoux, he crashed when he was involved in an incident with a TV motorbike and even ran up the road after his bike was broken.

Froome hit the deck again on a slippery descent in the 19th stage, but he had by then sewn up his win thanks to strong performances in the time trials and surprise attacks on a descent and the flat.

The atmosphere was much more relaxed on Sunday when the peloton rode a largely processional stage, Froome drinking beer and champagne in the neutral zone.

Things got more hectic once the race entered the Champs Elysees, the bunch even splitting in the finale as a reduced peloton contested the sprint finish.

Greipel was the strongest, comfortably beating Sagan and Norway's Alexander Kristoff.

(Source: Reuters)

## FIFA ethics panel bans ex-head of German FA for one year

FIFA's Ethics Committee has banned Wolfgang Niersbach, the former president of the German Football Association, for one year for failing to report potential misconduct surrounding the award of the 2006 soccer World Cup in Germany.

The adjudicatory chamber of FIFA's Ethics Committee barred Niersbach from all football-related activity, it said on Monday. FIFA investigators had sought a two-year ban.

"The present case did not look into possible breaches of the FIFA code of ethics in relation to possible acts of bribery and/or corruption with regards to the award of the 2006 FIFA World Cup, but only evaluated Mr Niersbach's awareness of the said incidents and his failure to report them to the Ethics Committee in a timely manner," the panel said in a statement.

Niersbach, who still sits on the world soccer body's Council as well as Europe's UEFA Executive Committee, resigned from the DFB presidency in November after he was unable to explain a 6.7 million euro (£5.6 million) payment from the German World Cup organisers to FIFA.

A report in May from the investigatory chamber of FIFA's ethics committee - an independent body - found Niersbach had violated its ethics code and recommended he be banned for two years from all football-related activity and fined.

Niersbach, who has repeatedly denied all wrongdoing, said at the time he disagreed with the severity of the recommendations.

He said he was being investigated now for failing to inform FIFA's ethics commission last year of the developments regarding the 2006 affair.

The committee's adjudicatory chamber had opened formal proceedings against Niersbach - who was a vice president of the 2006 organising committee - following the investigatory chamber's recommendation.

Niersbach is also under investigation by Frankfurt prosecutors for suspected tax evasion over the payment to FIFA.

A DFB-commissioned report revealed in March that while there was no evidence of Germany paying FIFA members in return for their votes, payments were made to at least one former FIFA official through a web of accounts involving several other firms or individuals, including Franz Beckenbauer.

Beckenbauer, a World Cup-winning player and coach who headed the 2006 World Cup bid, admitted to making mistakes but denied any wrongdoing over the tournament in Germany. He is not suspected of tax evasion.

The World Cup affair, which has shocked soccer-mad Germany, was triggered by the payment from the DFB to FIFA, which the DFB said last year was the return of a loan via the ruling body from former Adidas chief Robert Louis-Dreyfus.

(Source: Reuters)



### Poem of the day

Lo, not at any time I lent mine ear  
To hearken to the glories of the earth.

Hafez

### Prayer Times

Noon:13:11 Evening: 20:34 Dawn: 4:30 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:09 (tomorrow)

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## NEWS

### Iran's Cinema Verite plans to invite British broadcaster David Attenborough

**CULTURE** TEHRAN — The Cinema Verite, the Iranian desk international festival for documentary films, plans to invite the renowned British naturalist and broadcaster David Attenborough to Tehran.



The request has been made by a number of Iranian documentarians and naturalists, the Public Relations office of Cinema announced in a press release on Monday.

According to the secretary of the festival Mohammad-Mehdi Tabatabaiejad, the organizers have welcomed the idea and will be inviting the naturalist as a special guest of the festival.

It is hoped that the British documentarian accepts the invitation and attend the workshops due to be arranged during the festival to transfer his knowledge to Iranian filmmakers.

Sir David Attenborough celebrated his 90th birthday in May 2016. In a body of work spanning seven decades and more than 100 series, Attenborough has come face to face with thousands of extraordinary species, and has created some of the most unforgettable moments in television.

Some of his most famous docs include "David Attenborough: The Early Years" (2013), "Africa" (2013), "Frozen Planet" (2011), "Attenborough and the Giant Egg" (2011), "Planet Earth" (2006), "The Life of Mammals" (2002) and "The Private Life of Plants" (1995).

# Iranian designer says "Speed in City II" will surprise gamers

**A R T** TEHRAN — Iranian desk game designer Hossein Ahmadi said on Sunday that his latest work "Speed in City II" will come as a big surprise to most gamers.

He made the remarks during the unveiling ceremony of the racing video game, which was held under the auspices of the National Foundation for Computer Games (NFCG) at Sarv Cultural Center in Tehran.

Motorcycle and Automobile Federation of Iran Director Mahmud Seydanlu, top Iranian speed driver Shervin Yaqaneh and several representatives of local video game companies attended the event.

Domestically-made platforms and sophisticated infrastructure that our team has built up over a five year



span of time can be regarded as the backbone of the project, explained Ahmadi, who works for Arvin Tech Studio.

"Speed in City II" is also comparable in quality to the internationally-known

speed games such as "Need for Speed" by American developer Electronic Arts, Inc., Ahmadi said.

He added that the game as a sequel to their earlier productions brings together a very rich story line with

loads of cars and characters that are scattered around a vibrant urban area of about 70 square meters.

According to its distributors, "Speed in City II" is scheduled to come to market within days.

## Art Bureau pays tribute to Hamid Sabzevari

**A R T** TEHRAN — The Art Bureau desk commemorated poet Hamid Sabzevari who was renowned for his revolutionary works during a ceremony on Sunday evening.

"If you ask thousands of people about Hamid Sabzevari, most of them know him for his works that were turned into revolutionary songs, for which showing their musical instruments is forbidden today," composer Hamid Shahangi, who put many of Sabzevari's poems to music, said at the ceremony.

"He was frank and honest with everybody, in particular, with those who were close to him and this is the fact that makes him eternal," he added.

Born as Hossein Aqa-Momtazehi, Sabzevari died this year in June at the age of 91.

He was the composer of "Khomeini, Oh Imam!", which was recorded weeks before the victory of the



Academy of Persian Language and Literature Director Gholam-Ali Haddad-Adel attends a ceremony that the Art Bureau held on July 24, 2016 to commemorate poet Hamid Sabzevari. (Mehr/Asghar Khamseh)

Islamic Revolution.

He also composed "USA, USA, Shame on Your Deceits!" that was performed by a chorus and solo tenor Esfandiar Qarabaghi after the occupation of the U.S. embassy in Tehran in 1979.

Academy of Persian Language and Literature Director Gholam-Ali Haddad-Adel and Art Bureau Director Mohsen Momeni-Sharif also delivered speeches at the meeting.

"He kept his commitment to the Islamic Revolution and did not remain tight-lipped about the many crises that the revolution faced," Haddad-Adel said.

Momeni-Sharif called him "a poet who was objecting to the oppression in the world" and said that his poem "This Is the Call of Freedom from the Orient" is a manifesto of Islamic Revolution.

## NEWS IN BRIEF



### Iranian scholar to teach course on Oriental rituals at U.S. university

**A R T** TEHRAN — Renowned Iranian desk theater scholar Farindokht Zahedi is scheduled to teach a course in Oriental rituals during a four-week program, which will begin on August 15 at Naropa University in Boulder, Colorado.

The connection between Oriental rituals and modern performances will be discussed during the course, Zahedi told the Persian service of MNA on Monday.

She said that her new book on Japanese rituals titled "From Ritual to Performance" will be published in the near future.



### Bisotun world heritage site to host concerts

**A R T** TEHRAN — Iranian ensembles desk the Kamkars and Shams, pianist Shahrdad Rohani and Spanish Flamenco guitarist Antonio Rey are scheduled to give concerts at Bisotun, a UNESCO-registered site located in Kermanshah Province, from August 24 to 28.

The concerts have been organized to raise people's awareness about cultural heritage, the organizers announced in a press release on Monday.

### PICTURE OF THE DAY



Farhad Aslani holds the award for best actor that he won for his role in Reza Mirkarimi's drama "The Daughter" during the 38th Moscow International Film Festival at Tehran's Azadi Cineplex on July 24, 2016. Since he could not attend the award presentation event held in the Russian capital in June, he was given the award in Tehran.

## "Star Trek Beyond" soars with \$59.6m at weekend box office

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — "Star Trek Beyond" has landed atop the weekend box office.

Paramount's latest outing with the Starship Enterprise soared to \$59.6 million in domestic ticket sales, according to studio estimates Sunday, knocking Universal's "The Secret Life of Pets" from the No. 1 spot.

"Pets" fell to second place, adding an additional \$29.3 million to its stellar \$260 million earnings over the past three weeks.

"Star Trek Beyond" is the third film in the rebooted franchise that kicked off with J.J. Abrams' "Star Trek". This latest film opened \$20 million behind that 2009 release, but experts say the returns are still promising for Paramount.

"This is a solid enough debut to tell them there's still enough interest in 'Star Trek' to keep this franchise alive," said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for box-office tracker comScore.

"Star Trek Beyond" opened in line with industry expectations, he said, despite the unexpected death last month of 27-year-old actor Anton Yelchin, who played Chekov.

## Tehran museum to host performance art on peace

**A R T** TEHRAN — A desk performance art highlighting peace will open in the Tehran Peace Museum on August 6 under the title "Plaster Your Thought".

"The performance art, including installation art and video art, aims to focus on a world without war," artist Meysam Rezai said in a press release published on Monday.

"These types of modern performances keep visitors involved in art and help them better understand the topic," he added.

Several large and small guns covered with plaster will be hanging from the ceiling to show that war has been stopped. "The entire hall is going to be filled with guns covered with plaster by the visitors," he explained.

"An artist clad in black costume will be standing in one corner. The artist actually introduces himself as a gun that needs to be covered with plaster in order to stop, this is the performance art," he added.

"While this is going on in one hall, the other hall will be screening a short film from a video projector. The film portrays the destructive aspects of the war," he remarked.

"A campaign has also been launched, in which the peace-seeking individuals can sign in to help promote the motto 'the world without war,'" he concluded.

The performance will continue until August 10 at the museum located on Fayyazbakhsh St., Vahdat Eslami Ave.

## Fajr festival to highlight street theater

**CULTURE** TEHRAN — The desk organizers of the 35th edition of the Fajr Theater Festival aim to put the spotlight on street theater to pull the capital Tehran into the festival over a wider area.

"Considering the high potentials of young actors, and in order to make better use of open courtyards across the city, the street theater performances will be highlighted," secretary of the festival Saied Asadi said in a press conference held at Tehran's City Theater Complex on Monday.

"These types of performance will provide a good chance for the foreign tourists to watch Iranian plays. It will also help establish a kind

## Hollywood stars hold climate rally ahead of DNC

**PHILADELPHIA (AP)** — More than 1,000 people joined Hollywood stars including Shailene Woodley, Susan Sarandon and Danny Glover in Philadelphia last night on the eve of the Democratic National Convention and vowed to keep fighting for climate and environmental justice issues, even though their preferred presidential candidate would not be driving the party's agenda.

Sarandon, who like the other stars in attendance campaigned on behalf of Sen. Bernie Sanders, said the rally's turnout was proof that theirs was a movement and not a cult of personality as some critics alleged.

"Our commitment hasn't ended. This is not just about one election. ... We want real progressive politics and we want to say thank you to Bernie for igniting this spark," she said. "Now we're awake and we have to stay awake."

Many in the crowd, which one speaker described as a group of "climate justice activists, fracktivists and climate revolutionaries," wore Sanders shirts, buttons or lanyards. Some carried signs like, "Bernie would end fracking," and the now defunct "Bernie for President."

of cultural short trip for citizens to watch plays in the city," he added.

He also said that like the previous year, more theaters will be cooperating this year, adding, "Besides the private theaters, several public theaters will also be collaborating with the organizers of the festival this year."

The director of Iran's Dramatic Arts Center, Mehdi Shafiei, also attending the conference, announced that the number of troupes from outside Tehran attending the festival this year has increased.

"We had a good experience last year and the performances enjoyed high standards," he added.

The festival is scheduled to be held in February 2017.