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Intelligence superiority allows leeway to 'confront, interact, and compete'

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Curtains of Iranophobia have fallen apart: Zarif

POLITICAL TEHRAN — Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said on Monday that the crimes of Saudi Arabia and the Zionist regime of Israel are becoming increasingly obvious and their cooperation cannot be hidden.

"Iranophobia is being propagated through large investment by the Zionists and ill-wishers especially the brutal Saudi regime," Zarif said during a meeting with Iranian residents in Ghana.

He added that the Zionists and Saudis are making many efforts to hide their crimes by portraying an "unrealistic" image of Iran. "Today, the world, after nearly 37 years, has become aware of the fact that Wahhabism is the main threat that has caused extremism in the world; and today the Daesh brutality is filmed while beheading a 12 years old child.

He added, "Today, the curtains of Iranophobia have fallen apart and these crimes are increasingly revealed."

The Iranian foreign minister also said that more investment are being made to spread Iranophobia and counter against the resistance economy. Zarif started a tour of West Africa on Sunday. He is accompanied by representatives of 35 companies from private sector. He was scheduled to meet with Ghanaian President John Dramani Mahama, Parliament Speaker Edward Adjaho and Hanna Tetteh, the country's foreign minister.

S. Korean company inks €8.6b oil, transport MOAs in Iran

Following the lifting of sanctions on Iran, Korean businesses are advancing into the country looking for new opportunities. Among Korea's leading conglomerates entering the market, Samwoo Engineering and Construction (E&C)

is in the spotlight as the mid-tier construction company signed a memorandum of agreement (MOA) for a plant construction project worth 5 billion euros.

Samwoo E&C said that it signed an MOA

regarding construction of a petroleum refining facility at Zilae in Iran, a 5 billion euro project led by Masjed-Soleyman Petrochemical Industries, which is held by Iran's national pension fund. →4

"Hey You" by Iranian documentarian Saied Abutaleb introduced

ART TEHRAN — The debut book "Hey You" by Iranian documentarian and photo-journalist Saied Abutaleb was unveiled during a ceremony held at Tehran's Art Bureau on Monday evening.

Published by Suresh Mehr Publications, "Hey You" recounts Abutaleb's memories of his four-month imprisonment in Iraq by the U.S.-led forces during 2003. It also reveals facts about the U.S. detention camps in the then occupied country.

Speaking at the ceremony, Islamic Ideology Dissemination Organization (IIDO) Director Hojjatolislam Seyyed Mehdi Khamushi said that the world of today considers America the first tyrant and the great Satan, adding, "But we must also teach this world freedom and liberty."

"The good thing about his books is that it asks the readers why the United States entered Iraq and why they left Iraq and also what they think about the cultural figures of the Islamic Revolution," he added. Morteza Sarhangi, the director of the Art and Literature Department of the bureau, also attending the ceremony said, "If Abutaleb did not write these memoirs, he would have lived with his nightmares until the end of his life. →12



U.S. misconduct hampering effective implementation of JCPOA: Kharrazi

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Down with USA Intl. Grand Awards to announce winners in December

ART TEHRAN — The 3rd International Grand Awards of Down with USA is scheduled to announce its winners on December 6 coinciding with Students' Day in Iran, the organizers announced on Tuesday.

Meysam Mohammad-Hosseini, the secretary of the festival, along with Seyyed Masud Shojai-Tabatabai, the artistic director, briefed the media on the competition during a press conference held at the Tasnim News Agency.

The contest is being organized by the Tasnim News Agency and the Seraj Cyberspace Organization in three main categories of photo, poster and cartoon.

Music videos, documentaries and songs will also be accessible in the side section programs. The awards have been established to honor artworks against American imperialism and Zionism.

An international panel composed of Hicabi Demirci from Turkey, Jitet Koestana from Indonesia and Mahmud Nazari from Iran will select the winning works in the cartoon section. Shojai-Tabatabai said. Rock singer Kaveh Afaq will perform a song Yaghma Golruui during the closing ceremony of the festival, Mohammad-Hosseini added.

Tehran, Moscow should get rid of "customs hurdles": minister

Iran and Russia have a great potential for expanding cooperation in all spheres, Iran's Minister of Communication Mahmoud Vaezi said on Tuesday.

"We are interested in developing relations between Iran and Russia. We should pave a way for this, should ease visa regime, get rid of customs hurdles, ease online banking," Vaezi said at the meeting with Astrakhan Region Governor Alexander Zhilkin. "I will personally try to resolve several issues at talks today and tomorrow in Astrakhan and Moscow. One of these issues is creating 'green corridors' for Iranian goods," he noted. (Source: TASS)

Officials allowed to receive maximum \$2800 per month

By Marjan Golpira

TEHRAN — Iran has set ceilings for monthly salaries of political and non-political figures following widespread criticism of inflated salaries.

According to measures taken by the salary monitoring council, government officials including the heads of executive, legislative, and judicial powers, the first vice president, MPs, etc, are only allowed to receive maximum 100 million rials (roughly \$2,800) per month, government spokesman Mohammad-Baqer Nobakht said in his weekly press conference on



Tuesday.

The same figure for non-political figures, →2

JCPOA implementation will face 'some turbulences' in coming months, Heinonen claims

INTERVIEW

By Javad Heirannia

TEHRAN — Olli Heinonen, the former deputy director general for safeguards at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), argues although the implementation of the nuclear deal between Iran and great powers started well it will face some difficulties in the coming months.

"Implementation has started well, but I see some turbulences during the months to come," Heinonen tells the Tehran Times.

Though both Russia and the

U.S. have criticized UN chief Ban Ki-moon for his report of the implementation of the Security Council Resolution 2231, the former IAEA official defends the drafting of the report by saying "since the resolution calls Iran not to conduct tests with missiles designed for carrying nuclear weapons, the Secretary General apparently felt it necessary to express his views on the tests conducted by Iran during recent months."

Both the U.S. and Russia said Ban had overstepped his mandate.

The Resolution 2231, which endorsed the July 2015 nuclear deal



between Iran and great powers, calls upon Iran not to test missiles capable of carrying nuclear warheads.

Iran has been insisting that its missiles have not been designed to carry nuclear weapons. →3

The Resolution 2231 states: "Iran is called upon not to undertake any activity related to ballistic missiles designed to be capable of delivering nuclear weapons."

In an interview with Radio New Zealand in March 2016, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said, "We stated when the nuclear deal was approved by the Security Council and during the course of nuclear discussions that we will continue with our defense capabilities and that these defense capabilities have nothing to do with nuclear weapons," Zarif said. →3

Iran loses to S. Korea at FIBA Asia U18 Championship

SPORTS TEHRAN — Host Iran lost to South Korea at the 2016 FIBA Asia U18 Championship here at the Azadi Hall on Tuesday.

The Iranian team, who had already defeated Indonesia (106-40) and Kazakhstan (90-59) in its first two matches, suffered two successive

defeats against Japan 81-77 and South Korea 86-83 in Group B.

Amirhossein Khandanpour led Iran with 16 points and 10 rebounds and South Korean Kim Jinyoung was his team top scorer with 25 points.

Iran will face Lebanon on Wednesday.

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

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

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.

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ARTICLE

By Mohsen Mohammadi

MA in Finance from Imperial College London Business School

M&A deals, alternative approach towards Iran market

Like any other opened up economy, the Iranian economy recently relieved from sanctions - has been tried to be penetrated in the past few months. There is no argument that the second economy of the Middle East with around 80 million population which has been neglected for the past ten years in the current competitive business environment is hard to pass. Thanks to the lack of business infrastructure, hotels have turned into a shared office in the past few months with businessmen with the same aim: Having a slice of Iran pie.

The businesses from variety of fields, sizes, origins and risk tolerance have approached private and public sectors of the Iranian economy with different strategies.

Many tried to offer their product or maybe their niche services without considering the fact that their clients in host country need a while to catch a breath and get quiet there after 10 years of isolation and severity. For instance, sophisticated European business consultancy firms kindly offered to give an expensive hand to Iranian conglomerates which is highly appreciated but they didn't realize that the senior executives in those companies have other priorities and are not quiet convinced for such - as they probably may recognize - costs.

On other cases, top tier machinery manufacturers arrived with their latest state-of-the-art equipment to fulfill Iran's industry-oriented economic ambition while they missed to consider how they are going to get paid by struggling cash flow statements. On the other hand Iranian policymakers have made it clear repeatedly that they will not let the country to become solely a consuming market for imported foreign brands and will continue to support the domestic goods and production by making their flashy foreign equivalents less competitive and keeping them away from the borders. →9

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS



Government proposes e-voting to Guardian Council

TEHRAN — The government has written a letter to the Guardian Council proposing electronic voting in the next year's presidential and council elections, the Guardian Council spokesman said on Tuesday.

Abbasali Kadkhodaei said the council will consider the proposal in its future meetings, Mehr reported.



Intelligence Ministry thanks public for support

TEHRAN — Iran's Ministry of Intelligence published a statement on Tuesday thanking the public for their support for the recent swift actions against terrorists.

The statement noted that in the wake of the recent anti-terror actions and the broadcast of a related documentary on the national TV, many Iranians called the ministry to express their degrees of gratitude for the brave services of the ministry staff, Fars reported.

It emphasized that the Iranian security forces hold ample intelligence sway over ill-wishers, thanking God that its sincere measures have pleased the nation.



Foreign Ministry refuses biased reports on Zairf visit to Nigeria

TEHRAN — An informed source in the Foreign Ministry has criticized biased reports on the content of Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif's meetings with Nigerian officials.

It is regretful that some media outlets victimize national security and Islamic Republic's interests for political purposes, the source said, ISNA reported on Tuesday.



'Accession of Iran to ASEAN Treaty of Amity and Cooperation important'

TEHRAN — A senior Iranian diplomat said on Tuesday that accession of Iran to the ASEAN Treaty of Amity and Cooperation is an important step for Tehran to enhance relations with the countries in the region.

Iran's new Ambassador to Indonesia and accredited Ambassador to the ASEAN Valiollah Mohammadi said expansion of political, economic and international relations between Iran and the Southeast Asian countries is pivotal in the post-sanctions era, ILNA reported.

On Monday the foreign ministers of ten members of ASEAN agreed to Iran's request to join the organization's TAC.



U.S. misconduct hampering effective implementation of JCPOA: Kamal Kharrazi

TEHRAN — The head of Iran's Strategic Council on Foreign Relations has said U.S. misconduct has hampered an effective implementation of the JCPOA.

"They have unwritten tools that nonetheless affect the function of the JCPOA," Kamal Kharrazi told the IRIB on Tuesday.

"It was predicted from the beginning that not all problems would be resolved by signing a document... they would have some tools to exert pressure and prevent a proper implementation of the JCPOA."



Japan PM's Iran visit still on agenda: source

TEHRAN — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's intended visit to Tehran is still on agenda as the two countries are witnessing growing relations, an informed source at the Iranian embassy in Tokyo announced on Tuesday.

Abe's visit to Tehran will take place at a proper time, the source told IRNA.

The source made the remarks in reference to reports by some Japanese media outlets that Abe's travel to Iran has been called off due to the incoming U.S. presidential elections.

The news that Abe will travel to Iran in late August is a media speculation, the source said, adding the time of the visit has not been set yet by Japanese officials.

Military advisor: Intelligence superiority allows leeway to 'confront, interact, and compete'

POLITICAL DESK TEHRAN — A top military advisor to the Leader said on Tuesday that intelligence superiority over neighbors leaves political and military decision makers with leeway to confront, interact, and compete just in case.

"We need to have intelligence superiority over neighboring countries so as for political and military leaders to adopt confrontational, interactive, and competitive policies," said Major General Yahya Rahim Safavi.

Mahmoud Alavi had said.

To the former Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) commander, intelligence dour is not just confined to battlefields and includes economy, culture, and politics as well.

"In reality, intelligence superiority means creating opportunities and prompt action to secure victory in various political, military, economic, and cultural areas, and less vulnerability to a wide range of threats."

With its strategically geographical position, Iran has faced instances of each. A direct confrontation with Iran is a contemporary instance.

It is due to this intelligence power that the country is shielded against terrorist blasts and sabotages. Earlier in June, the country's Intelligence Ministry announced it had succeeded in dismantling a takfiri terrorist cell of 40 members in Tehran and some other cities.

It was one of the biggest terrorist threats ever foiled, Intelligence Minister

Also, it goes well beyond the national territory of Iran to regional and international scopes.

"Intelligence superiority occurs at three levels of national, regional, and international; and lack of sensitive intelligence at each level damages vital interests of a country irreparably," Rahim Safavi stressed.

Ever since the conflict broke out in Syria in 2011 and later on in Iraq, with the emergence of Daesh, Iran has been particularly active in regional and international spheres, playing an advisory role in the countries.



including archrival Saudi Arabia, have seen Tehran's increasingly prominent role a threat to their sphere of influence.

No evidence Tehran meddling in other countries: Iraqi ambassador

POLITICAL DESK TEHRAN — Amid acid comments by some Arab officials the Iraqi ambassador to Tehran has said there is no evidence that shows Iran is meddling in domestic affairs of countries.

"There is no document indicating Iran's interference with domestic affairs of countries," Rajeh Saber Abboud al-Mousavi told IRNA in an interview published on Tuesday.

"We are grateful to the historic role Iran is playing in the stability of the region and even of the world."

Late June, Arab League Secretary General Ahmed Aboul Gheit had rapped Tehran in an interview with London-based Asharq al-Awsat for what he called "interfering in the affairs of Arab countries."

The ambassador said, "Had it not been for the supports of Iran and popular mobilization forces, Iraq would have collapsed, and if Iraq falls, all other countries in the

region will also fall."

"Iran's role in Iraq is limited to an advisory one and this is done at the formal request of Baghdad," he added.

Reacting to the sectarian and religious remarks by Saudis against Tehran, the ambassador said, "Having liberated Takrit and al-Anbar with the help of Iran, the cities were left to their locals. Was it sectarian?"

In June Saudi Ambassador Thamer al-Sabhan to Baghdad had tweeted that Iranian military advisers were fueling sectarian violence in Fallujah, seeking to change the demographic composition of the city, inhabited mainly by Sunnis.

Ambassador Abboud al-Mousavi linked the anti-Iranian approach to attempts by other countries, which he declined to name, to re-draw regional borders on sectarian and biased grounds.

"These are planning malicious schemes against the people and since Iran, Syria, and Iraq have stood up to



them, they seek to hatch plots against them," said the Iraqi diplomat.

Other Iraqi officials have also hailed Tehran's assistance to the country, rejecting the anti-Iranian remarks as hostile and unfounded.

Iran blames 'foreign interference' for sufferings of Afghan people

POLITICAL DESK TEHRAN — Iranian Interior Minister Abdolreza Rahmani Fazli said on Tuesday that "foreign interference" is the main reason behind insecurity and instability in the region, especially in Afghanistan.

"It has been for many years that there is insecurity and instability in Afghanistan and the Afghan people have suffered a lot and the main reason behind this situation is foreign interference," Rahmani Fazli told a meeting of Iranian and Afghan border provinces' governors in Mashhad.

"Sine (the invasion of) Soviet to NATO forces the seeds division have been sowed in Afghanistan," he lamented.

He said, "The foreigners should not be permitted to interfere in our affairs and should respect national sovereignty of



other countries."

The interior minister said that interferences in the region are mostly guided by the Zionist regime of Israel.

Rahmani Fazli also suggested that that Islamic countries must counter the ideology behind the Takfiri movements.

The current situation in Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria and Yemen are caused by "inhumane" and "non-Islamic" Takfiri ideology, he noted.

He also said the issue of insecurity is a challenge that should be discussed by Iran and Afghanistan, adding that two countries, which share many affinities, should be forerunner in helping establish regional peace and security.

Rahmani Fazli said that the regional countries can take effective action to resolve challenges in the region through interaction with each other.

Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan can play complementary role in this respect, he added.

Officials allowed to receive maximum \$2800 per month

IRIB Following the report "13 managers of economic institutions were fired" and some decided to resign, added Nobakht, who is also chief of the Management and Planning Organization.

He further explained that a sum of the money received by managers was returned to the public treasury.

The reason behind the high salaries was that "some executive bodies applied a particular rule and regulation that set them apart from other organizations to decide about their own salaries."

The list of company managers or state officials who received high salaries is "long," he said.

The spokesman listed the Guardian Council, MPs, Majlis Research Center, faculty members, the Islamic Re-

public of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB), judges, Assembly of Experts, Foreign Ministry, Intelligence Ministry, Central Bank, etc, whose payments were not monitored by the government.

To resolve the issue and prevent recurrence of inflated salaries, Nobakht said the government included such organizations in the "service management law of the country" to monitor all salaries.

And to help the government control officials' income, the spokesman added monitoring bodies like the Supreme Audit Court and other related organizations are supposed to supervise all salaries on a monthly basis and report any violation to the government.



Security in Pakistan very important for Iran: Shamkhani

POLITICAL DESK TEHRAN — Supreme National Security Council Secretary Ali Shamkhani said on Tuesday that security in Pakistan is very important to Iran.

During his second round of meeting with Nasser Khan Janjua, the National Security advisor of Pakistan, Shamkhani said that Iran will spare no effort in helping Pakistan to be more stable.

For his part, Janjua called for expansion of cooperation between the two countries.

Janjua said his government has put serious fight against terrorism on its agenda and welcomes cooperation with Iran in this respect.

The first round of talks between the Iranian and Pakistani officials was held on Monday.

"Countering the ideology of Daesh is the most important priority in fighting terrorism without which no country will be safe and stable be it in the region [the Middle East] or Europe," Shamkhani said during the meeting on Monday.

He also said that terrorism has turned into an international problem.

For his part, the Pakistani official said Islamic countries should be vigilant against foreign plots aimed at spreading division among Muslims.

NEWS IN BRIEF



Iran's quarterly gas trade balance positive: NIGC official

ECONOMY TEHRAN — Iran's gas trade balance turned positive in the first four months of the current Iranian calendar year (began on March 20) exporting 2.5 billion cubic meters (bcm) of natural gas versus 1.9 bcm of import, Shana reported on Monday.

The news agency was quoting Azizollah Ramezani, director of international affairs of National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC) addressing a training course on oil industry.

Based on the report, the official said that Iran plans to export up to 80 bcm of natural gas under the 6th five-year development plan (2016-2021), 60 bcm of which will be sent to neighbor countries.



Tehran-Astrakhan direct flight launched

ECONOMY TEHRAN — A new direct flight path launched from Tehran to Russia's Astrakhan, IRNA reported on Tuesday.

According to the report, Taban Air Company/CEO, Asghar Abdollahpour on Tuesday said that in order to facilitate commutes of Iranian and Russian businessmen Taban will operate the flights once a week on a regular basis.

The official noted that the flight leaves Tehran every Saturday at 13:30 Local time, from Imam Khomeini International Airport (IKA) and the return flight will be launched on the same day from Astrakhan Narimanovo Airport (ASF) at 16:00 Astrakhan local time.



Iran to hold pavilion at Germany's CeBIT 2016

ECONOMY TEHRAN — Iran will open its pavilion at the Germany's CeBIT technology festival, Tasnim news agency reported on Tuesday.

According to the report, based on an agreement between Tehran Chamber of Commerce's ICT Committee and CeBIT's director of International affairs, the ICT Committee will hold Iran's pavilion at the fair.

The CeBIT's director is visiting Iran to attend a conference on ICT investment potentials in Tehran.

Germany's CeBIT technology festival kicks off every year in Hannover in March to embraces a large number of international companies active in the ICT industry.



Intl. conference on Iran investment opportunities kicks off in Kuala Lumpur

ECONOMY TEHRAN — The international conference on investment opportunities in Iran and trade cooperation with ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) members during post-sanction era kicked off on Tuesday in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

According to IRNA, the two-day event attended by Iranian and Malaysian investors and officials intends to improve the trade relations between the two countries.

In the opening ceremony, Iran's Ambassador to Malaysia, Marzieh Afkham noted that in post-sanctions era the condition is ripe for bilateral cooperation between Iran and Malaysia and also with other ASEAN members, adding that Iran is a great market for Malaysian investors.

NEWS

Nigerian govt. to study Iranian model in diversifying economy

Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari has said the Federal Government would understudy the experience of Iran, which thrives in adversity, to diversify Nigeria's economy.

Receiving Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif at the State House on Monday, Buhari said the Iranian economy remains an inspiration for Nigeria to deploy technology to harness and export gas, agriculture to grow food for the populace and promote entrepreneurship in education.

Presidential spokesman, Femi Adesina quoted Buhari as saying that the progress made by Iran within 30 years is really commendable. "You have been able to harness gas flaring and you are now exporting. You have recorded strides in security, manufacturing, agriculture and technology."

The president further said, "You have also achieved a lot in nuclear research. I must also congratulate you for successfully negotiating with America and the European countries on the development of your nuclear energy."

(Source: *allafrica.com*)

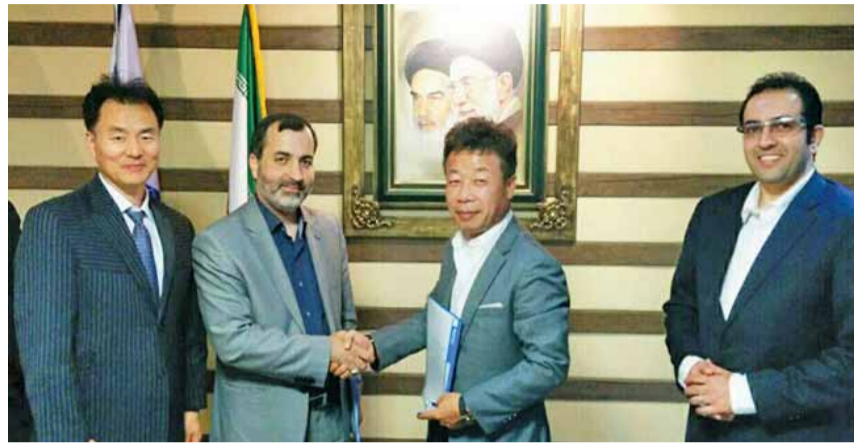
S. Korean company inks €8.6b oil, transport MOAs in Iran

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According to Samwoo, it will take a leading role in financing. It agreed with the Iranian counterpart to expand cooperation to other sectors, such as construction projects of tunnels, roads, dams, sports facilities and public buildings.

The company also signed an MOA with Shams Omrar Construction and Engineering Company, agreeing to cooperate on high speed railways and expressway projects, worth \$4 billion (€3.6 billion).

While the country's construction companies in the Middle East were hit by falling oil prices, Iran is rising as the blue ocean market since lifting of sanctions early this year. Business-



Samwoo E&C CEO Lee Chul-yong, third from left, shakes hands with his Iranian partner after signing an MOA. The mid-tier company signed MOAs for a couple of construction projects in Iran.

es around the world are seeking opportunities in the country's abundant natural resources and cultural assets and Korean companies are no exception. The country's leading businesses are actively advancing into diverse fields, expecting the second Middle East boom.

President Park Geun-hye's visit to Iran in May helped the country open doors wider for Korean companies. Following the summit between President Park and Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, the two countries agreed on 66 MOUs for 30 projects, which could be valued as much as 52 trillion won according to Cheong Wa Dae.

(Source: *Korea Times*)

Bangladesh signs 1st investment agreement with post-sanction Iran

Bangladesh has signed an agreement with oil and gas-rich Iran on the production of LPG bullet trucks, LPG industrial storage tanks, household cylinders for cooking stoves and cylinders for vehicles in Dhaka.

This is the first agreement related to joint investment between the two countries since international sanctions earlier imposed on Iran were lifted following last July's landmark deal on curbing Tehran's nuclear program.

Following the deal with the West, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif visited Dhaka and evinced interest in

enhancing relations with Bangladesh.

During his visit, Zarif also suggested cooperation in energy, textiles, manufacturing, industry, science and in areas where both countries had "complementarities".

After Sunday's signing in Dhaka, Iranian Ambassador Abbas Vaezi said this would open "a new era of cooperation" between the two nations.

Servigas Company of Iran and a consortium of 16 Bangladeshi private companies under the Bangladesh Star Infrastructure Development Consortium Ltd. signed the agreement.

Abdul Matlub Ahmad, President of FBCCI, signed the agreement on behalf of the consortium with the Managing Director of the Servigas, Shahariar Rabiee.

Prime Minister's Adviser on Power and Energy Tawfiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury, who witnessed the signing, said it would be the "biggest ever joint investment" agreement between Dhaka and Tehran.

He said depleting natural gas reserves and increasing demand from the factories had forced the government to look for alternative sources for energy, such as LPG. The FBCCI president said \$12 million

would be the total cost for setting up the factory.

He said the site for the factory was yet to be finalized, but he hoped that the cylinders from it would hit the market within a year.

"If the two sides agree, then the factory can be set up at any place in Narayanganj, Kishoreganj or Mongla," he said, responding to a question.

These cylinders would be better in quality than the imported ones and would be cheaper.

(Source: *Bdnews24.com*)

Iran ready to spoil Saudi Arabia's grand plan

Saudi Arabia has a grand plan: sell shares of state-owned company Aramco to the public to finance its vision 2030, which will make its economy less dependent on oil.

The success of Aramco's IPO, which promises to be the biggest in history, relies heavily on the state of the oil and equity markets, at the time for the "road show"—the marketing of IPO. The higher the oil prices, the easier it is to sell it to the institutional investors at a high price.

"The actual IPO timeframe will also be subject to a number of external factors including equity market conditions, oil price outlook, and domestic capital market readiness," Falih told a German newspaper back in January.

The trouble is that the Kingdom is not the "swing producer" in the oil market, as it used to be.

There's the return of Iran, Saudi Arabia's old rival to the oil market, which makes it impossible for the King-

dom to pull together OPEC like in the old good days.

Worse, Iran is also ready to fill the slack in the oil market as soon as oil prices head north. Last week, for instance, Iran sold light crude oil at \$43.19 per barrel in the week ended on July 15, a \$1.49 drop from its previous week, according to the Shana news agency.

That's bad news for the oil market, which headed south on Monday, and for the Kingdom's grand plan.

(Source: *Forbes*)

Iran to treble gas exports to Armenia: Zanganeh

ECONOMY TEHRAN — Iran's exports of natural gas to its northwestern neighbor, Armenia, will be tripled from its present one million cubic meters (mcm) to three mcm per day by the end of 2018, Iranian Oil Minister Bijan Zanganeh announced on Tuesday.

As Shana news agency reported, after his meeting with Armenian Minister of Energy and Natural Resources Levon Yolyan in Tehran, Zanganeh also informed that the proportion of gas-to-power barter between the two sides has also increased.

Telling reporters that transiting Iran's gas through Armenia was the meeting's main focus, Zanganeh ex-



Armenian Minister of Energy and Natural Resources Levon Yolyan (L) and Iranian Oil Minister Bijan Zanganeh met in Tehran.

plained that an Armenian delegation made a trip to Iran following Tehran's request for gas transit to Georgia through Armenian territories. They proposed formation of a new organization to be in charge of purchasing gas from Iran and since Iran accepted the suggestion, the current Armenian buyer of Iranian gas i.e. Yerevan Thermal Power Plant, will be replaced by the new body which is to be formed in future, he added.

The Iranian minister, elsewhere, addressed the issue of gas-to-power barter between the two countries and said that Iran used to receive 3 kilo watts per hour (kW/h) for every cubic meter of gas it supplies Armenia and the figure has been increased to 3.2 kW/h, he added.

Exports surpass imports in Iran's non-oil sector within 4 months

ECONOMY TEHRAN — The worth of Iran's non-oil exports was \$4 billion more than that of non-oil imports during the first four months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-July 22), Iranian First Vice President Es'haq Jahangiri said on Monday, president's report.

Referring to the government's aim of promoting non-oil exports in the current Iranian year, the official emphasized the necessity for planning to reach this goal.

He said that based on the report of Iran's Customs Administration, the country's non-oil exports witnessed 41 million tons (36 percent) increase in

amount and over \$16 billion (21 percent) rise in worth compared to the same period of time last year.

According to Iran's Customs Administration, in the past Iranian calendar year, which ended on March 19, 2016, the value of the country's non-oil trade reached over \$83 billion.

In the past year, the Tasnim news agency reported, Iran exported \$42.415 billion worth of goods while its imports reached \$41.499 billion, showing a 16.11 percent decrease in the value of exports and a 22.53 percent decline in the value of imports when compared to its previous year.

To win market economy status, China must cut steel overcapacity

China's export steel production continues unabated amid overcapacity, prompting complaints — denied by China — about the dumping of steel products and raising the risk of trade disputes with the West.

Beijing and visiting European Union officials agreed last week to set up a joint team to monitor steel-trade data and China's efforts to cut output. At the same time, numbers for June showed China produced an unprecedented 100-million-plus tons of steel products and lifted exports by 23 percent. The figures are bound to stiffen protests over dumping of steel products and powerful opposition from European industry groups to granting China market

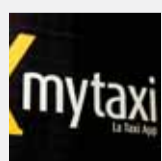
economy status.

It is not as if the central government has failed to identify the risk of overcapacity. In various meetings and documents, Beijing has repeatedly stressed the need to correct it. But local governments and state-owned enterprises have too many vested interests at stake. The political resistance is huge.

At best, local governments are dragging their feet; at worst, they are continuing with projects behind Beijing's back in pursuit of job-creation and growth. This is symptomatic of lack of progress in economic reform and transitioning from an investment to a consumption-led growth model.

(Source: *scmp.com*)

NEWS IN BRIEF



Daimler's mytaxi to merge with Hailo to take on Uber

Daimler's mytaxi said it will merge with British rival Hailo in an all-share deal, creating Europe's largest smartphone-based taxi-hailing business.

Unlike U.S.-based ride hailing start-up Uber, which established itself to compete against taxi companies, the new company will operate using taxi firms.

It is the latest push by traditional carmakers to enter the taxi ride hailing services market dominated by Uber and other technology companies.

The companies declined to disclose financial terms.



Nintendo shares dive as company plays down Pokemon GO's earnings impact

Shares in Nintendo Co tumbled as much as 18 percent on Monday after the company said Pokemon GO would have a limited impact on its earnings — their biggest setback so far after a huge run-up on the smash-hit game.

The Kyoto-based gaming company, which is due to report first-quarter results this week, surprised markets with a statement on Friday that income garnered through its 32 percent stake in affiliate Pokemon Company.



Huawei's global smartphone shipments jump 25% in 1st half

China's Huawei Technologies Co. Ltd., the world's third-largest smartphone vendor, said first-half global smartphone shipments jumped 25 percent, helped by rapid growth in traditionally high-end markets such as Europe.

Shenzhen-based Huawei, which competes with Samsung Electronics Co. Ltd. and Apple Inc., shipped 60.5 million smartphones globally in the first half.

Huawei's consumer business group, which includes its smartphone division, booked global revenue of 77.4 billion Yuan (\$11.6 billion) for the first six months, up 41 percent from last year.

Your camping supplies checklist for summer



As much as everybody loves summer, warm weather camping can get a little difficult. With extreme heat, you need to bring extra water, light clothing, and find ways to stay comfortable all night in your non-air conditioned tent. This camping supplies checklist will help you stay cool all day long.

■ Bedding

All of your bedding should be light and cool. Lighter gear will also save you on room and weight if you're backpacking or need to hike in to your site. Add a lightweight, nylon sleeping bag to your camping supplies checklist. This is your best bet for staying cool all night.

■ Lightweight sleeping pad

While this falls under bedding, you have so many options here it needs a category all its own. Your summertime sleeping pad should be light and airy. Though inflatables are the lightest and coolest, closed cell pads aren't as prone to damage or popping. Some even have anti-fungal properties and are abrasion resistant—which comes in handy when it's hot enough to get out of the stuffy tent and sleep out under the stars.

■ Airy tent

Depending on where you go camping, summers are not only be hot, but they can also bring erratic and unexpected storms. Look for a rain fly, taped seams, good ventilation, and wind resistance

when buying your summer tent.

■ Coolers

One of the important items on your camping supplies checklist is a cooler, but even more so in the summer. For especially warm trips, it may even be a good idea to bring two coolers: one for your food stuff and one for your drinks. Try to keep coolers in the shade, to slow the ice melting process. Call the campground ahead of time to see if they sell ice, or if you have to buy it off the property.

■ Insect repellent

Almost as important as sun block is effective insect repellent. While an evening campfire works as a natural bug repellent, it's not enough to stay bite free for the entire trip.

■ Water and more water

Though water should be on your camping supplies checklist, there are a number of options to hydrate yourself on a camping trip. If you're camping where drinking water isn't available, invest in a water purifier for rivers and lakes. Most campgrounds, however, will have running water that is drinkable, which eliminates the need to bring a lot of extra.

■ Sun block

Nothing will ruin a great camping trip the way a bad sunburn can. Make sure the sunscreen on your camping supplies checklist is water resistant and high SPF.

(Source: active.com)

Tehran Water & Wastewater Supply and Treatment Company

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) FOR ENGINEERING, PROCUREMENT, CONSTRUCTION AND FINANCE (EPCF) OF TEHRAN WATER AND WASTEWATER SCADA SYSTEMS



BACKGROUND:

Tehran Water & Wastewater Supply and Treatment Company (the Employer) is in charge of supplying urban water as well as establishment of other installations related to the collection, disposal and treatment of wastewater and also their management in Tehran city. In line with its objectives it is tasked with the responsibility for implementation of Automation and SCADA systems based on "Master Plan of Tehran water and waste water telemetry systems". The Employer intends to open an international tender and at this stage, invites interested and reputable EPC contractor ("Prospective Bidders") to register their interest for Financing and implementing EPC projects. Thereafter, Pre-Qualified Bidders will be issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) and other Bidding documents.

SCOPE OF WORK:

The scope of works includes but not limited to Financing, Engineering Design, Procurement, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Automation, SCADA systems, AMI, their associated telecommunications systems and building construction as follows:

1. Implementation of SCADA system for Tehran water wells
2. Upgrade and extension of existing SCADA center
3. Implementation of SCADA Systems for Waste Water installations
4. Review and upgrading existing UHF Radio Communication Network
5. Automation of Bilaghan intake
6. Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) system for high consumption customers
7. Extension of existing SCADA center building and related equipment
8. Automation of input and output valves of Tehran Water Reservoirs
9. Study and design of Tehran water distribution network for a comprehensive automation system
10. Study, design and implementation of SCADA system for Water Treatment Plants
11. Implementation of National SCADA center for "National Water and Wastewater Engineering Company"

WHO MAY APPLY?

The Employer seeks to engage the services of EPC contractors with capability to finance the projects. The contractor should have technical experience in Automation, SCADA, telecommunication, AMI facilities and building construction. In case of a consortium at least one of the consortium members must be an experienced Automation, SCADA company (The "Technical Partner").

METHOD OF APPLICATION:

Prospective bidders are required to deposit 4000000 (four million) Rials to the account number 4303738562, MELAT Bank, SAZMAN SANAYE MELI Branch, Branch No. 63545 on behalf of Tehran Water and Waste Water company. The related receipt and valid representative Letter should be delivered in person to central secretariat office located in HIJAB St., Dr. FATEMI St., Tehran, no later than August 23rd, 2016 at 4 PM to receive Pre-Qualification Questionnaire.

All the prospective bidders are required to prepare their proposals based on the terms and conditions in Pre-Qualification Questionnaire. The signed and sealed documents should be received by the central secretariat office located in HIJAB St., Dr. FATEMI St., Tehran, no later than September 26th, 2016 at 4 PM. In the time of delivery, the receipt should be received by bidder as well.

Upon receipt of Expressions of Interest from Prospective Bidders, the Employer shall evaluate and pre-qualify bidders. Only short listed Bidders will be contacted.

CONTACT:

For further clarification or enquiries contact the project consultant:

Monenco Iran Consulting Engineers - savoj.maryam@monenco.com - kobariazar.amir@monenco.com

ATTENTION:

Please note that this is not an invitation to tender. The employer shall not be responsible for the cost of any submission. All submissions shall be at the cost of the Prospective Bidders. The employer reserves the right to accept or reject any submission.

The cost of "Pre-Qualification Advertisements shall be paid by the winner of the tender.

Tender Holder Company Website: <http://tw.w.tppww.ir>

National Tenders Website: <http://iets.mporg.ir>

Iran Water and Waste Water Engineering Company Website: <http://www.nww.ir>

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Donald Trump is a unique threat to American democracy

Donald J. Trump, until now a Republican problem, last week became a challenge the nation must confront and overcome. The real estate tycoon is uniquely unqualified to serve as president, in experience and temperament. He is mounting a campaign of snarl and sneer, not substance. To the extent he has views, they are wrong in their diagnosis of America's problems and dangerous in their proposed solutions. Trump's politics of denigration and division could strain the bonds that have held a diverse

nation together. His contempt for constitutional norms might reveal the nation's two-century-old experiment in checks and balances to be more fragile than we knew.

Any one of these characteristics would be disqualifying; together, they make Trump a peril. We recognize that this is not the usual moment to make such a statement. In an ordinary election year, we would acknowledge the Republican nominee, move on to the Democratic convention and spend the follow-

ing months, like other voters, evaluating the candidates' performance in debates, on the stump and in position papers. This year we will follow the campaign as always, offering honest views on all the candidates. But we cannot salute the Republican nominee or pretend that we might endorse him this fall. A Trump presidency would be dangerous for the nation and the world.

Why are we so sure? Start with experience. It has been 64 years since a major party nomi-



nated anyone for president who did not have electoral experience. That experiment turned out pretty well — but Trump, to put it mildly, is no Dwight David Eisenhower. Leading the Allied campaign to liberate Europe from the Nazis required strategic and political skills of the first order, and Eisenhower — though he liked to emphasize his common touch as he faced the intellectual Democrat Adlai Stevenson — was shrewd, diligent, humble and thoughtful.

→9

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Washington rolls out another myopic anti-ISIS strategy

Last week in Washington, an extraordinary gathering of foreign and defense ministers of thirty nations met to chart the next phase of the anti-Islamic State (ISIS) terrorist group's campaign. All indicators suggest the meeting's outcome will only deepen the strategic failure that has plagued the mission to date.

Not everything associated with the mission has been a failure, however. On the tactical and operational levels there have been a number of fairly meaningful successes. Since whole divisions of the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) disintegrated in battle against ISIS in 2014, the army has regrouped, retrained some of its forces and have won some tough battles.

Beginning in late 2015, the ISF recaptured Ramadi, Tikrit and last month Fallujah. Next in their sights is Iraq's second largest city, Mosul, the self-proclaimed Iraqi capital of ISIS. The implications from senior U.S. and NATO officials is that ISIS must be militarily defeated in Iraq (and eventually Syria) in order to keep the U.S. homeland safe.

Secretary of Defense Ash Carter told NPR's Morning Edition last week that " Raqqa in Syria and Mosul in Iraq are our two primary objectives because they are... the self-proclaimed capital(s) of the self-proclaimed caliphate." He said the coalition needed to retake those cities to "make sure that there isn't any ISIS planning done there. It's important to show that there cannot be and will not be an Islamic State based upon this ideology."

The same day Secretary of State John Kerry hosted a meeting of several foreign ministers and warned that "If we do not succeed in Iraq, none of our countries will be safer." But are Carter and Kerry correct? Will the retaking of the physical territory held by ISIS keep the United States safe? Based on the past fifteen years of experience—and of the past six months in particular—the answer would appear to be a resounding no.

Favored tactics

The administration and NATO's favored tactics to accomplish the objectives outlined above are primarily based on two major pillars. First, using various types of intelligence, attack ISIS personnel from manned and unmanned bombers. Second, empower or train local fighters on the ground to defeat the Islamic State terrorist group.

In Syria, U.S. and coalition aircraft have mistakenly killed innocent civilians along with ISIS fighters. That was put on ugly public display this past weekend when allegedly upwards of one hundred civilians were killed by



coalition attacks. It was so bad that two of the leading rebel groups the United States supports were harsh in their condemnation of the attack, demanding accountability for "those responsible for such major violations," claiming the deadly mistakes amounted to an effective "recruitment tool for terrorist organizations."

Aside from major missteps in the conduct of the tactical fight, the results of two years of trying to destroy ISIS militarily has resulted in the dramatic spread of the group to dozens of countries around the world. There has been a dramatic increase in the number and severity of domestic terrorist attacks in the U.S. and other Western countries. Moreover, the ISIS leadership is already preparing its followers for the eventual loss of its territory in Iraq and Syria, instructing them to go underground and continue the fight via decentralized franchise-type

The implications from senior U.S. and NATO officials is that ISIS must be militarily defeated in Iraq (and eventually Syria) in order to keep the U.S. homeland safe.

cells. And while the military has focused on ISIS, our arch enemy Al Qaeda has been greatly expanding the number of its followers, possibly rising to a level of power and capabilities that exceeds that of the bin Laden version.

The evidence is overwhelming that Washington's myopic reliance on using blunt force to destroy the terrorists has instead caused the threat to markedly increase over the past several years, placing U.S. citizens at increasing risk. If significant changes are not made in the administration's approach to the scourge of violent radicalism, the nation's security situation will continue to deteriorate.

It remains yet to be seen just how far Americans—politicians, media and the general population—are willing to sit passively by and watch as the senior politicians and policymakers steadfastly keep the ship of state on a course that cannot succeed. The past two Administrations—and the Congresses that funded them—have fifteen years of crafting and implementing foreign and defense policies that have produced almost nothing but strategic failure. One has to wonder how many more years of failure at this magnitude has to pile up before corrective action is taken.

(Source: National Interest)

COMMENT

After these attacks, can Germany keep calm and carry on?

By Lena Jakat

Munich is one of Europe's safest places and the capital of 'this cannot happen here' – but this mantra may not be enough to help the city cope.

In frightening times, the mantra "this cannot happen here" helps us all cope with everyday life. In Munich, that outlook has always made sense. The city is repeatedly ranked among the safest in Germany; in 2012, Munich's mayor, Christian Ude, called it one of the safest big cities in Europe. Violent crime rates, poverty and unemployment are low. Bavaria's strong police presence and the strict rule of law have a reputation of their own. People in Munich are more scared of being stopped by the police for riding through a red light on their bicycle than they are of falling victim to crime. Munich is the capital of "this cannot happen here".

Fire in a shopping mall

Last Friday night, everything changed. The city center was packed with tourists and shoppers, with 10,000 people attending a street festival celebrating 500 years of Bavarian beer. Reports of shots being fired in a shopping mall in the northern part of Munich were quickly followed by reports of violent incidents elsewhere in the city center. Those were unverified reports – false reports, as it turned out later. These reports of shootings, of attackers with heavy guns on the run, spread rapidly over social media.

People were frightened and left the central squares; they started running. Shops closed their doors and turned off the lights. All public transport ceased, police responded to the reports with a massive operation. Downtown was flooded with police cars, helicopters hovering in the sky. Special Forces ordered people to get inside. Many were under lockdown in restaurants and offices, for hours. It was a moment of fright and panic in the city; a panic, as it would turn out later, that left a number of people hurt.

A student with mental health problems had opened fire in a shopping mall, killing nine people, most of them teenagers – and himself. The attack had no connections to terrorism whatsoever. Nevertheless, the panic last Friday, along with the enormous police response, shows that somewhere beneath the surface, deep down, the sense that nothing bad can happen here has suffered since the start of this year.



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'ISIL attackers' kill priest at France church



A priest was killed Tuesday when two suspected ISIL terrorist group-linked assailants seized hostages at a church near the northern French city of Rouen, police said.

French President Francois Hollande said that two men who attacked a church and slit the throat of a priest had "claimed to be from Daesh," using the Arabic name for ISIL.

Hollande, visiting the scene of the attack in the northern town of Saint-Etienne-du-Rouvray, earlier condemned the "vile terrorist attack" in a statement.

Five people were inside the church in the Normandy town of Saint-Etienne-du-Rouvray when it came under attack, interior ministry spokesman Pierre Henry Brandet said.

He said the church was surrounded by France's anti-gang brigade the BRI, which specializes in kidnappings, and that "the

two assailants came out and were killed by police."

Three of the hostages were freed unharmed, and another was fighting for their life. A police source said the priest of the Saint-Etienne church was killed.

The motivations for the hostage-taking were not yet clear, but the Paris prosecutor's office said the case was being handled by anti-terrorism prosecutors.

The incident comes as France remains on high alert nearly two weeks after Tunisian Mohamed Lahouaiej Boulhel ploughed a truck into a crowd of people celebrating Bastille Day in the French Riviera city of Nice, killing 84 people and injuring over 300.

An AFP journalist said the scene of the attack was crawling with emergency vehicles and police.

(Source: AFP)

JUMP Donald Trump is a unique threat to American democracy

I In contrast, there is nothing on Trump's résumé to suggest he could function successfully in Washington. He was staked in the family business by a well-to-do father and has pursued a career marked by some real estate successes, some failures and repeated episodes of saving his own hide while harming people who trusted him. Given his continuing refusal to release his tax returns, breaking with a long bipartisan tradition, it is only reasonable to assume there are aspects of his record even more discreditable than what we know.

Lack of experience

The lack of experience might be overcome if Trump saw it as a handicap worth overcoming. But he displays no curiosity, reads no books and appears to believe he needs no advice. In fact, what makes Trump so unusual is his combination of extreme neediness and unbridled arrogance. He is desperate for affirmation but contemptuous of other views. He also is contemptuous of fact. It is impossible to know whether he convinces himself of his own untruths or knows that he is wrong and does not care. It is also difficult to know which trait would be more frightening in a commander in chief.

Given his ignorance, it is perhaps not surprising that Trump offers no coherence when it comes to policy. In years past, he supported immigration reform, gun control and legal abortion; as candidate, he became a hard-line opponent of all three. Even in the course of the campaign, he has flip-flopped on issues such as whether Muslims should be banned from entering the United States and whether women who have abortions should be punished. Worse than the flip-flops is the absence of any substance in his agenda. Existing trade deals are "stupid," but Trump does not say how they could be improved. The terrorist group must be destroyed, but the candidate offers no strategy for doing so. Eleven million undocumented immigrants must be deported, but Trump does not tell us how he would accomplish this legally or practically.

What the candidate does offer is a series of prejudices and gut feelings, most of them erroneous. Allies are taking advantage of the United States. Immigrants are committing crimes and stealing jobs. In fact, Japan and South Korea are major contributors to an alliance that has preserved a peace of enormous benefit to Americans. The Trump litany of victimization has resonated with many Americans whose economic prospects have stagnated. They deserve a serious champion, and the challenges of inequality and slow wage growth deserve a serious response. But Trump has nothing positive to offer, only scapegoats and dark conspiracy theories. He launched his campaign by accusing Mexico of sending rapists across the border, and similar hatefulness has surfaced numerous times in the year since.

Abandoning NATO

In a dangerous world, Trump speaks blithely of abandoning NATO, encouraging more nations to obtain nuclear weapons and cozying up to dictators who in fact wish the United States nothing but harm. For eight years, Republicans have criticized President Obama for "apologizing" for America and for weakening alliances. The Republican Party has moved the lunatic fringe onto center stage, with discourse that renders impossible the kind of substantive debate upon which any civil democracy depends.

Most responsible Republican leaders know all this to be true; that is why Trump had to rely so heavily on testimonials by relatives and employees during this week's Republican convention. With one exception (Bob Dole), the living Republican presidents and presidential nominees of the past three decades all stayed away. But most current officeholders, even those who declared Trump to be an unthinkable choice only months ago, have lost the courage to speak out.

The party's failure of judgment leaves the nation's future where it belongs, in the hands of voters. Many Americans do not like either candidate this year. We have criticized the presumptive Democratic nominee, Hillary Clinton, in the past and will do so again when warranted. But we do not believe that she (or the Libertarian and Green party candidates, for that matter) represents a threat to the Constitution.

(Source: The Washington Post)

The 6 healthiest protein powders for your smoothie PDCAAS: 0.69

6. Hemp protein

Hemp protein is made from nutrient-packed hemp seeds, and while it's not the best for boosting muscle because of its lower protein content (most contain just 10 to 15 grams per scoop, depending on the brand, compared to about 25 grams in whey and 22 grams in soy) and PDCAA score, it does provide a good dose of fiber and omega-3 fatty acids. Pair it with rice or pea protein to round out its amino-acid profile and make it complete.

Choose this if: You want to ramp up your overall nutrient intake and don't have strong protein needs.

What type: Most brands will feature "hemp protein," which retains hemp's healthy fiber and fats; but some newer options feature "hemp protein concentrate," which will be higher in protein, but stripped of those other nutrients.

We like: Manitoba Harvest HempPro 50 and Manitoba Harvest HempPro 70

PDCAAS: 0.46

Picking your powder

When you've settled on the best protein for you, there are still countless brands competing for your business. Here are a few tips to keep in mind as you scan the labels:

If your protein is marketed as a specific type of protein (e.g. whey isolate), make sure that's the first ingredient in the ingredient list. Scan for artificial sweeteners. To keep the carb count low, companies sometimes use these instead of real sugar.

Make sure the ingredient list is short. You're buying a protein powder for the protein, after all, not the additives.

Pick a neutral flavor to get the most bang for your buck. The most versatile protein powders are the unflavored and vanilla-flavored options. If you buy organic or non-GMO foods, you should look for the same in a powder.

(Source: prevention.com)

After these attacks, can Germany keep calm and carry on?

A potential terror attack

At 10.50pm on New Year's Eve in Munich, when police issued a warning about a potential terror attack, there was no panic. People were asked to avoid large crowds. Two of the main train stations were evacuated, and heavily armed police poured in. Public transport in the suburbs was down for a couple hours.

Police were investigating claims about five to seven suspects who were planning a suicide attack at midnight. The people of Munich were celebrating the New Year as they always do: partying outside, burning fireworks in the streets and on the bridges over the river Isar. There was no panic, no exodus of the crowds from the city center. This was not a night people spend staring at the news, faces lit up by their phone screens. Many people weren't even aware of the alert; those who were felt safe nonetheless. Safe as always. The next day, the first day of 2016, the discussions already focused on the police, and if they had overreacted. The alleged terror plot could never be substantiated.

Since then, people have been attacked in Brussels and Orlando, and Munich felt safe. People died in Istanbul and Nice, and Munich remained the city of "this

cannot happen here". The illusion remained intact.

Last Monday, a 17-year-old refugee attacked passengers on a train with an axe and a knife, in Würzburg, Bavaria. And then, last Friday, police proclaimed "terror mode" in the city. Munich's promise of security was suddenly in question.

Two days after the attack, a sea of flowers had formed at the scene of the shooting. Thousands came to the mall to mourn the dead. Weekend events were cancelled. But in the center, the city had recomposed itself. Tourists were back in the streets. The riverbanks were packed with sun seekers, the beer gardens open. People seemed determined to go on, to believe in the promise of security. This attitude, so aptly dubbed "Je suis au biergarten" by a colleague, might not be very political. But immediately after the attack, it seemed to work.

Bavaria is famous for its Gemütlichkeit. This cliché, which describes a relaxed, sociable, indulgent way of life, also translates for Munich – though in more of a modern, big city kind of way. Munich is a city of leisure, especially in summer. Life takes place outside: people are sipping Italian drinks or driving their convertibles through the expensive old city. Locals are enjoying the

sun in the Englischer Garten and on the banks of the river. Beer gardens are packed, there are street festivals, concerts, markets and movies to be enjoyed in the open air. Munich is proud of its attractive lifestyle, and the people are determined to live it.

That is, until Monday morning, when Munich woke up to the news that a suicide attacker had detonated a bomb, once again in Bavaria, this time in Ansbach, 200km (125 miles) north of Munich. Twelve people were injured, three heavily wounded. The bomb exploded close to a music festival, after the Syrian attacker was turned away at the festival entrance. Some 2,500 people were attending the event in Ansbach's Old City. Ansbach is a quiet town of 40,000. A peaceful place. Another place that believed "this cannot happen here".

In Munich, the news from Ansbach is another blow to the public's trust in security. People have to ask themselves if this promise of resilience (if it ever existed) is more than an illusion, and perhaps start looking for a new coping strategy. How much more can the Munich mantra take?

(Source: The Guardian)

M&A deals, alternative approach towards Iran market

I It is now that the pie seems a bit resistant to be cut; however, there are alternatives to those approaches.

Transfer of capital, technology and expertise are the key requirement of a successful approach to Iranian market which will make all parties including regulators and officials, local partners and newcomers happy and aligned. This strategy will open a lot of doors and expresses a great deal of commitment which is highly valued. A keen mind will find these characteristics in a Merger and Acquisition deal.

The textbook definitions of M&A indicate a fast penetration to a market for relatively small costs which avoids many headaches compared to something like green field projects investment. There are distressed Iranian businesses in different sectors which have high potential to growth with minimum market risk. On the other hand, the government through

structures, such as FIPPA licensing, provides a high level of foreign investment protection and let face it with the terrorist attacks and coups happening in the region, Iran is a safe haven in the MENA region with the untapped resources for growth. Such investment decisions definitely require a full understanding of the business environment and will be very rewarding if are taken correctly.

There might not have been a lot of samples just yet but even one can make the point. The

Savola Group is a Saudi Arabian company with major holdings deals in edible oil, sugar,

plastic packaging, retail hyper markets and real estate in the Middle East, Central Asia and North African countries. In 2004 and when Iran was deep in the nuclear conflict the company took a strategic investment decision for entering to the

country's edible oil market and acquired around 80 percent of the Behshahr Industrial Company (BIC) and formed Savola Behshar Company (SBC).

Since then BIC revenue has experienced the cumulative average growth rate (CAGR) of 32% and reached to almost USD 600 Million. Even the political tension between Saudi and Iran in January 2016 which caused a cut in diplomatic ties between the two countries did not interrupt Savola business in Iran. This is a proof of foreign investment protection provided by Iranian officials which lowers the political risk significantly.

In another recent deal, Henkel acquired 30 percent of an Iranian detergent company for 150 million euros, although the German company has had a long history in the market.

The short history of current inter-

current situation."

The Complex bring about a very calm environment for shoppers and those people who want to spend a very good time in an equipped shopping center, he maintained.

As funded by the private sector, ARTEMIS Farmanieh Trade Complex has been constructed in Tehran's Pasdaran district in 25 stories on a land area more than 30,000 sq.m built-up area with different trade and administrative land uses.

The Trade Complex has gathered new brands of products in a calm environment, bringing about an experience of modern shopping for all family members.



"AFTC" to be inaugurated officially in Farmanieh tomorrow

ECONOMY ARTEMIS Trade Complex will be inaugurated officially in Farmanieh on Thursday in the presence of some of distinguished artists and art enthusiasts.

"Let's Not Hunt Animals" is the advertising campaign of this most modern complex, located in a very breathtaking area in metropolis Tehran, which observe requirements of international construction standards.

With its scenery view, located at the central part of capital Tehran, this magnificent complex bonds environmental characteristics with business environment and shopping mall together which is

unique of its kind in every aspect.

The magnificent complex was highly welcomed by people from all walks of life especially environmental activists and organizations and followed a widely positive repercussion in social networks.

Chief Executive of ARTEMIS Farmanieh Trade Complex Eng. Hamid Haji-Hosseini announced the above statement and said: "Taking giant stride towards acculturation has been cited as the main objective in construction of this magnificent complex, because, mass media and various systems are training and disseminating information services in the field of art, culture and environment directly at the

New Intl. Partners Selected

Iran Khodro Industrial Group has taken large steps towards expanding its local and international markets, said IKCO CEO, Hashem Yekehzare, adding, the company is seeking to achieve a high status in the international market thought adopting a new and completely different approach to car production.

Addressing IKCO's shareholders in the company's general assembly, Yekehzare also noted that after the nuclear deal (JCPOA) between Iran and P5+1 group of countries, IKCO was the first Iranian company which signed a cooperation agreement with its former foreign partner (Peugeot) and made the first foreign direct investment in Iran's auto industry through establishing a joint venture (IKAP).

He went on saying that Peugeot 2008 would enter Iran's market by March 20th as IKCO's first joint product with Peugeot. According to him, the two sides are ready to increase their joint car production by 200,000 sets.

Elsewhere in his speech, Yekehzare touched on Ja-

pan's Suzuki Company, saying IKCO has opened successful negotiations with Suzuki to jointly produce new Vitara as well as Ciaz and Baleno.

He also gave further details on IKCO and Mercedes Benz cooperation, saying their agreement has been almost finalized and will be signed in the next two months.

"Based on the agreement, the two sides will begin their cooperation in production and after sale services. Meanwhile, IKCO and Benz will establish a production company with IKCO having 51% of its shares and Benz 49%. The proportion would be reversed in sales and after sales services," he added.

The CEO of Iran Khodro then noted that the company is now involved in negotiations with Datsun which will lead to an agreement soon, adding, talks like this usually last for one year and half.

"Renault is expected to establish a joint venture with an Iranian car company with 80% of its shares belonging to the French company. The two sides will produce

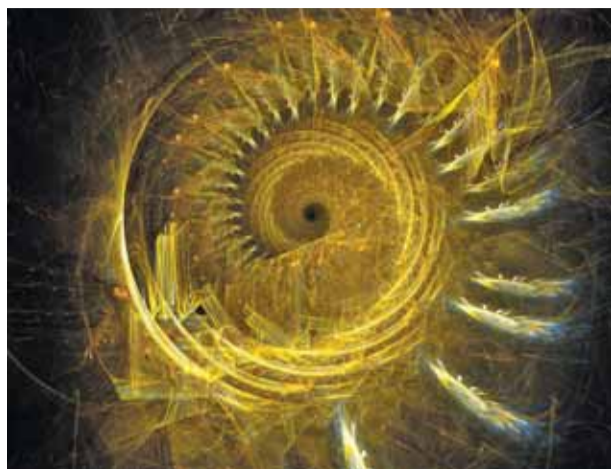
Symbol and Duster but based on an agreement signed earlier, other cars would also be produced via cooperation with Iran Khodro," he said.

Yekehzare also added that the cooperation agreement covers 75% of Renault's operation in Iran, saying, the two sides are expected to jointly produce 300,000 sets of one certain model.

"Iran Khodro increased its production in 2014 with producing over 600,000 vehicles. Since March to June, 2016, the company's production showed a 7% growth in comparison with the same period last year. Meanwhile, its spring sales showed a 40% increase over the spring of 2015," he noted.

He concluded that, in line with the new model of Dena in 2017, Iran Khodro plans to produce Peugeot 207 hatchback through localizing its technology and completely cutting its reliance on the French company. According to Yekehzare, the sedan model with automatic gearbox would be released by March 20th.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT



The soul becomes dyed with the color of its thoughts. *Marcus Aurelius*

LEARN ENGLISH Experiencing Motion Sickness

Ashley: You don't look so good. What's wrong?
 Terrell: I felt **motion sickness** watching that movie. The camera **jerked around** and it made me **dizzy**.
 Ashley: It didn't bother me. The **hand-held camera** used to film the movie had that **effect** on you?
 Terrell: I'm **susceptible** to motion sickness. You should see me on a boat. The **rocking motion** makes me **seasick** and **nauseous**. When I was a kid, I used to get carsick every time my family took a road trip. My parents always had a **barf bag** ready.
 Ashley: Wow that **sucks**.
 Terrell: Yeah, and don't even try to get me on an airplane. Just the starting of the **engines** makes me feel **airsick** and looking down gives me **vertigo**.
 Ashley: So how do you travel?
 Terrell: Very rarely and usually with one foot on the ground!
 (Source: *eslpod.com*)

- **Words & phrases**
- motion sickness:** a feeling of illness that some people get when travelling by car, boat, plane etc.
- jerk around:** to move with a quick sudden movement
- dizzy:** feeling unable to stand steadily, for example because you are looking down from a high place or because you are ill
- hand-held camera:** a hand-held camera is small enough to hold in your hand when you use it
- effect:** the way in which an event, action, or person changes someone or something
- susceptible:** likely to suffer from a particular illness or be affected by a particular problem
- rocking motion:** changing location by moving back and forth
- seasick:** feeling ill when you travel in a boat, because of the movement of the boat in the water
- nauseous:** going to vomit
- barf bag:** a disposable paper bag provided by airlines for each passenger in the event of air sickness and usually placed in the pocket behind every seat
- something sucks:** used when you dislike something very much or think something is very bad
- engine:** the part of a vehicle that produces power to make it move
- airsick:** feeling sick because of the movement of a plane
- vertigo:** a feeling of sickness and dizziness caused by looking down from a high place

QUIZ OF THE DAY

189) Choose if the sentence is true or false. They're right behind us.
 a) True
 b) False
 (Quiz No. 188 answer: b)

PHRASAL VERB Whip up

- **Meaning:** prepare quickly
- **For example:** I can whip up something to eat if you're hungry.

ENGLISH PROVERB If you chase two rabbits, you will not catch either one

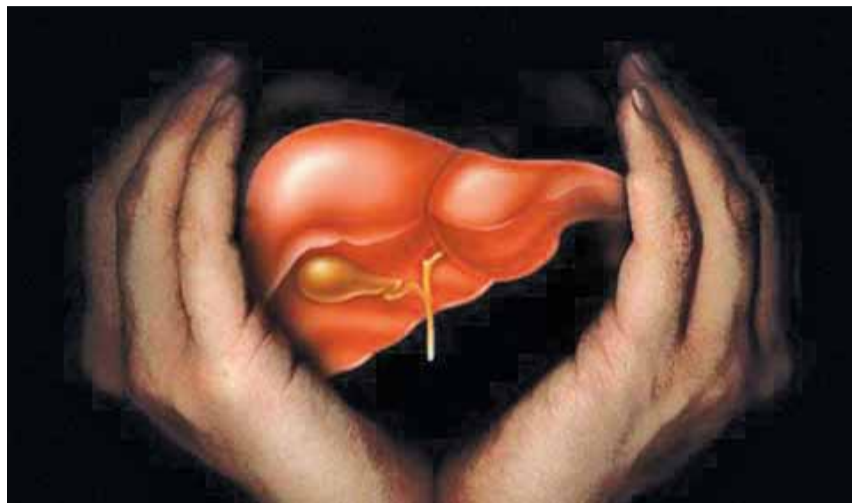
■ **Explanation:** if you try to do two things at the same time, you will not succeed in doing either of them



Without water, everything withers

Iran to eradicate hepatitis in 15 years: official

SOCIETY TEHRAN — Hepatitis **d e s k** will be eradicated in Iran by the next 15 years, the director for communicable diseases department of the Health Ministry has said.
 Infected blood, infected syringe, infected food stuff and drinks, and high risk sexual behaviors are of the causes of the hepatitis, Tasnim news agency quoted Mohammad-Mahdi Gouya as saying on Monday.
 While hepatitis B vaccine is available for all age groups to prevent the infection there is no vaccine for hepatitis C, Gouya noted.
 He went on to say that some high risk groups such as prisoners who are more likely to catch the disease would be systematically vaccinated as some 350,000 individuals were vaccinated last year.
 "We are planning on vaccinate intrave-



nous drug users and such other high risk groups as well," he stated.
 Hepatitis B is manageable with drugs with the least side effects which are administered orally, he noted.
 Hepatitis C drugs used to be injected and had some side effects but now with the emergence of the oral medications and less side effects the disease can be treated in three to six months, he explained.
 The price of the drug used to treat hepatitis C is normally some 700 million rials in the world (nearly \$20,000) but in Iran it costs some 20 million rials (nearly \$600) for three months administration, he highlighted.
 "If we manage to cure the disease in 15 years we would be one of the first countries succeeded in eradicating it," he said.

Iran up, U.S. down: height study charts global health

South Korean women and Iranian men are significantly taller than they were 100 years ago but Americans have barely grown, according to a new study Tuesday that reflects nutritional and environmental factors.
 Researchers at Imperial College London used data from around the world to track the height of young adults between 1914 and 2014 in over 200 countries and territories.
 Where once Scandinavia and the United States produced the tallest men, the Netherlands, Belgium, Estonia and Latvia now top the rankings, with Dutch men measuring an average height of 182.5 cm (five feet 10 inches).
 Dutch men are the tallest in the world, measuring an average height of 182.5 cm (five feet 10 inches), according to a new study.
 Latvia currently has the tallest women, averaging 170 cm (five feet six inches), followed by women from the Netherlands, Estonia and the Czech Republic, according to the study in the journal eLife.
 The shortest men in the world are from East Timor, with an average height of 160 cm, and the shortest women are

from Guatemala, averaging a height of 149 cm.
 While the global trend has been an increase in height, some countries in sub-Saharan Africa, North Africa and the Middle East have seen a decline in the past 30 or 40 years.
 This is often in some of the poorest parts of the world -- the average height in Sierra Leone, Uganda and Rwanda has declined by as much as 5cm in recent decades.
 "This study gives us a picture of the health of nations over the past century," said lead researcher Professor Majid Ezzati, of Imperial's School of Public Health.
 "This confirms we urgently need to address children and adolescents' environment and nutrition on a global scale, and ensure we're giving the world's children the best possible start in life."
 The top 10 tallest countries are all on the European continent. The U.S. once had the third tallest men and fourth tallest women, but has fallen to 37th and 42nd place.
 American men and women have grown by just 6cm and 5cm since 1914.
 After a rapid acceleration in height until the 1960s,

growth in Japan has also flattened out, and the Japanese are now shorter than people from South Korea and China.
 By contrast, the height of Iranian men has increased by an average of 16.5 cm -- the largest recorded -- while South Korean women are now on average 20.2 cm taller.
 "Our study also shows the English-speaking world, especially the USA, is falling behind other high-income nations in Europe and Asia Pacific," said Ezzati in a statement.
 "Together with the poor performance of these countries in terms of obesity, this emphasises the need for more effective policies towards healthy nutrition throughout life."
 Children and teenagers who are well nourished, have better hygiene and healthcare tend to be taller -- and tall people tend to live longer, be better educated and earn more.
 However, some studies link height to a greater risk of ovarian and prostate cancers, the researchers said.
 National statistics on height can be affected not only by diet and medicine, but also by waves of immigration from countries where people are relatively taller or shorter.
 (Source: *AFP*)

Middle East in the grip of a major heat wave

Iran, Iraq and northern portions of the Arabian Peninsula are experiencing what can only be described as a summer heat wave.
 Now a heat wave is defined as a prolonged period of extremely hot weather. As summer weather in much of the region is always "extremely hot", it could be argued that this is one region where heat waves can't, by definition, occur.
 Yet by any standards, the temperatures reported in Iran, Iraq and the north of the Arabian Peninsula over the past few days are extreme.
 On Thursday Mitribah, Kuwait reported a maximum of 54C (129.2F). Although

it has yet to be officially verified, if confirmed, this is the highest temperature ever recorded in the Eastern Hemisphere.
 Globally, only Death Valley, California has recorded higher temperatures. The absolute record here is 56.7C (134F), recorded on July 10, 1913.
 For many years, the record was officially held by Aziza, Libya with 58C (136.4F). In 2012 this was disqualified by the World Meteorological Organization after it was decided that this temperature was unreliable. (The observing site was not representative of its surroundings, the thermometer was not fit for purpose and the weather

observer was new and untrained.)
 Also on Thursday, Basra set a country record for Iraq of 53.4C (128F). Remarkable though that was, it was exceeded on Friday when the mercury hit 53.9C (129F). This is the second highest Eastern Hemisphere temperature, fractionally behind Mitribah.
 Iraq's heat wave prompted the closure of all government offices on Wednesday and Thursday, the last day of the working week.
 The extreme heat is said to be having an effect on the refugees displaced by the assault on Fallujah. Shortages of drinking water and electricity were reported in the camps at Habbaniya and Amiriyat al-Fallujah.

El Nino has now died out, so an explanation for the heat wave probably lies elsewhere. This year is already shaping up to the warmest year, globally, since records began in 1880. Although a small portion of this warming is due to the El Nino earlier in the year, a much more likely cause is the continuing emissions of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere as a result of human activity.
 Temperatures are likely to remain extremely high in the coming days and there is even the possibility of further records being broken towards next weekend.
 (Source: *Al Jazeera*)

IN FOCUS Tasnim/Hossein Tahavori



The Ghazal-3, an Iranian-made solar car, which took a trip extending 2700 kilometers from north of Iran to south culminated its trip in Kish Island in the Persian Gulf on July 23.



NEWS IN BRIEF

SOCIETY TEHRAN — Heart failure has **d e s k** been the leading cause of death in Tehran in the first three months of the current Iranian calendar year, which corresponds to spring.
 The director general of Behesht-e Zahra cemetery organization said that during the 3-month period, 13,409 people have died, stating, 1,252 of the deaths are resulted from heart failure including 648 men, 598 women and 6 infants.
 Most of the deaths are related to the adults aged 65 or more that come to about 7,632 deaths comprising 3,958 men and 3,674 women, Akbar Tavakkoli told IRIB.

SOCIETY TEHRAN — "Green relief", a **d e s k** scheme co-developed by Iran's Red Crescent Society (IRCS) and the Department of Environment (DoE) aims to reduce environmental damages in the near future.
 This scheme is intended for minimizing detrimental effects on the environment by taking preventive measures as well as training volunteers and promoting the culture of environment protection among the public, Tasnim quoted IRCS official Farahnaz Rafe' as saying.
 She noted that waste problem, water crisis, deforestation, desertification, forests fire, air pollution, sustainable development, etc. would be the issues which receive priority in this scheme.

SOCIETY TEHRAN — Iran is planning on **d e s k** initiating breast milk banks as a solution to the mothers that cannot supply their own breast milk to their children.
 Infant formula is not a healthy replacement for breast milk, particularly for the prematurely born babies, health ministry official Mohammad Heidarzadeh said, Tasnim news agency reported.
 Mothers who have excessive breast milk can donate the extra amount of milk to the bank, he noted.
 The milk will be tested for any possible infection, cholesterol and sugar level and will be pasteurized and kept for those infants needing the milk, he explained.



Heart failure leading cause of death in Tehran



'Green relief' scheme aims to cut environmental damages



Iran plans to set up breast milk banks

Iranian referees has the potential of officiating at world class tournaments, says Faghani

SPORTS International referee Alireza Faghani believes that Iranian referees have the potential of officiating at the world's most important competitions.

"This is the first time FIFA Referees Committee has invited a referee team for the Olympic Games from Iran. I've not officiated in Olympics before but I know after the FIFA World Cup, the Olympic Games is the most important competition. Now we have the chance of refereeing in the Olympics and we'll try our best to have a decent performance in the competitions," Faghani said.

"It's difficult to say how many games we will officiate at the Olympics but I can assure you that we're completely ready to referee as many games as they ask. Iranian refereeing has a great potential in Asia and even in the world and I hope we see more Iranian referees in world class competitions," he added.

Faghani who became a FIFA referee in 2008, has officiated notable international matches including 2015 AFC Asian Cup Final and 2015 FIFA Club World Cup Final.

The Olympic Football Tournament Rio 2016 represents the first important step on the road to the FIFA World Cup Russia 2018 and the FIFA Women's World Cup France 2019 for match officials.

The Olympic Football Tournament Rio 2016 will take place from August 3rd - 21st, with the competition's men's and women's finals taking place in the iconic Maracana stadium.

Seven stadiums in total will host Olympic Football Tournament competitions including 2014 FIFA World Cup host venues: Belo Horizonte, Manaus, Salvador and Sao Paulo.



Iran's Adel Mojallali earns Olympics spot



SPORTS Rower Adel Mojallali will be Iran's 64th athlete that will participate in the 2016 Rio Olympic Games after the Kazakhstan rower tested positive for the forbidden substance.

Alexander Kornilov has been disqualified from the Rio de Janeiro Olympics for a doping violation.

"That's the best news I've heard. I always liked to participate at the Olympics. Now, I am the first Iranian athlete who take part in the canoeing event in Olympics," Mojallali told Tasnim news agency.

"I will do my best in Olympics however I have enough time until the competition," he added.

Iran volleyball team leaves Tehran for Rio



SPORTS The Iranian national volleyball team left Tehran on Tuesday for Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The team, who has qualified for Olympics for the first time, will be headed by Raul Lozano in the prestigious competition.

Iran has been drawn along with Poland, Russia, Argentina, Cuba, and

Egypt in Pool B.

Pool A consists of host Brazil, Italy, the United States, Canada, France, and Mexico.

Lozano's men will play two friendly matches in Rio with host Brazil on July 30 and 31 ahead of the Olympics.

The volleyball tournaments at the 2016 Olympic Games will be played between 6 and 21 August.

Spanish chief Villar to seek re-election if UEFA bid fails

Spanish Football Federation (RFEF) president Angel Maria Villar said he plans to seek re-election to his country's governing body later this year if he fails in a bid to become UEFA president.

Villar has been acting head of the European football federation since October 2015, when Michel Platini was suspended from all football-related activities for six years - later reduced to four - for ethics violations.

Last week the Spaniard announced his intention to stand in the UEFA elections on Sept. 14 to replace Platini. Slovenian Aleksandar Ceferin and Dutchman Michael van Praag will also contest the presidency.

"I'm standing for UEFA president because the majority of the European federations have asked me to," Villar, who



has been president of the RFEF since 1988, said on Tuesday following a meeting with referees.

"If I don't win or I pull out, which I don't believe will happen, I will stand for re-election of the RFEF."

RFEF general secretary Jorge Perez is among other candidates

for the Spanish vote, which is expected to take place after the UEFA election.

Villar, also a FIFA vice-president, was fined 25,000 Swiss francs by FIFA's Ethics Committee in 2015 for failing to cooperate with their investigation into the contests to host the 2018 and 2022 World Cups.

Villar said he was confident of winning the UEFA election.

"I have taken this step (to run) because I have sufficient support to win," he said.

(Source: Reuters)

Dutch Paralympic Secretary General visits Iran's training camps



SPORTS TEHRAN — Secretary General of the Dutch Paralympic Committee, Andre Cats, visited Iran's training camps ahead of the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games.

Cats, who is Chef de Mission of the Dutch Paralympic Team in Rio, visited the training camps of Iran's powerlifting and women's sitting volleyball.

Cats, accompanied by his Iranian counterpart Masoud Asharafi, met Siamand Rahman, the strongest Paralympian in the world.

"Iran has a long history like the Netherlands and I think Iranian Paralympians are very professional. It's good to see the people of Iran take serious the sports and we can learn from that," Cats said.

"I think Iran will have a good performance in the upcoming Paralympics. The Iranian delegation finished in 11th place in the 2012 Paralympic Games and the Netherlands came 10th in the event and I think two countries will have a close competition in Rio," he added.

Uzbek keeper set to leave Persepolis



SPORTS Uzbek goalkeeper Alexander Lobanov is set to leave Iranian side Persepolis after just six months, according to the local media.

In January 2016 Lobanov replaced Sosha Makani, who has had several of disappointing performances in the first half of the season in Persepolis.

He signed a six-month contract with the Reds with an option to extend for another season.

After signing Alireza Beiravand from Naft Tehran as Persepolis No. 1 keeper in the summer transfer window, Lobanov's

playing time would definitely be restricted and he decided to join Pakhtakor.

He made eight appearances for Persepolis last season.

The 30-year-old goalie started his playing career in Sogdiana Jizzakh in 2005 and has also played at Uzbekistani clubs Kaiser, Akzhayik, FK Buxoro, Jaykhun Nukus and Pakhtakor.

Even though Lobanov has been called to Uzbekistan many times, he made his official debut for national team on 3 September 2015 in 2018 World Cup qualifying match against Yemen in starting eleven.

FOOTBALL

FA chief plays down chance of winter break until 2019

A winter break in the Premier League season is not feasible until the current three-year television rights deal is completed in 2019, the Football Association's (FA) chief executive Martin Glenn has said.

Newly appointed England manager Sam Allardyce, in his first press conference, backed the need for a winter break similar to the top divisions in France, Italy, Spain and Germany, to help players recuperate.

"It would help the Premier League and us at international level if we could achieve that," Allardyce said.

"January and February is always the most difficult time to get players through."

However, Glenn said that though the FA favoured a mid-season break, it would not be possible until the over 5 billion pounds worth TV rights deal, which starts this season, was in effect.

"If we are going to get a winter break, which the FA very much wants, it would be after the current Premier League TV-rights deal is done," Glenn told British media.

"There is a consensus that it would be a good thing to do. I'll say no more than that.

"We can do our bit about fixture congestion and that's why from the quarter-finals (of the FA Cup this season) we're not going to replays."

Glenn also hinted that the timing of the break may be pushed back to January.

"What scared people about winter breaks in the past is the thought of it being between Boxing Day and new year but it doesn't have to be then.

"It can be after the FA Cup third round in mid-January."

(Source: Reuters)



Lyon reject €35m Arsenal bid for France forward Alexandre Lacazette

Lyon have announced that they have rejected an Arsenal bid for striker Alexandre Lacazette and have insisted that their star striker is not for sale.

Referring to a Le Progres report that said Arsenal had offered €48 million for Lacazette, 25, the Ligue 1 club issued a statement saying that was untrue and that the bid had actually been only €35m.

Lyon said they had not followed up on Arsenal's offer because the France international is "irreplaceable."

The statement read: "Olympique Lyonnais categorically denies having received an offer of €48 million from Arsenal for the transfer of Alexandre Lacazette as Le Progres claims in this morning's edition.

"The club regrets once again that Le Progres did not bother to contact the club before publishing this false information which creates confusion on the day that the [ownership] group, on the stock exchange, publishes its annual turnover of €218.1 million, up 111 percent compared to 2014/2015.

"The reality is that Arsenal formulated an offer of €35 million which Olympique Lyonnais did not follow up on for one reason only: OL will keep Alexandre Lacazette who is irreplaceable and who is one of the main leaders of Bruno Genesio's squad."

Lacazette has regularly been linked with the Gunners after scoring 48 goals in Ligue 1 over the past two seasons.

He signed a new contract last summer that ties him to Lyon until 2019.

Arsenal boss Arsenal Wenger, who failed in an effort to sign Leicester City striker Jamie Vardy earlier this summer, has said the club are willing to "spend big money."

The Gunners' only major signing so far ahead of the new season has been Switzerland midfielder Granit Xhaka, although Japanese striker Takumo Asano has also joined from Sanfrecce Hiroshima as well as defender Rob Holding from Bolton Wanderers.

(Source: ESPN)

Manchester City near Sane & Gabriel Jesus signings

Manchester City are getting close to completing the signings of Leroy Sane and Gabriel Jesus, Goal understands.

The Premier League side are looking to bolster their squad ahead of their first season under Pep Guardiola, having already signed Ilkay Gundogan, Nolito and Oleksandr Zinchenko this summer.

City have long been chasing Schalke's promising youngster Leroy Sane and the Germany international has already requested a transfer from the Bundesliga side.

Guardiola admitted this week that his club are interested in signing him, though he admitted it will be tough to convince the Gelsenkirchen team to sell.

And while the two sides are yet to reach an agreement on the fee for Sane, City are getting closer to striking a deal and are confident of snapping up the 20-year-old.

The Etihad Stadium outfit have been tracking 19-year-old Palmeiras striker Gabriel Jesus for some time, and his father confirmed on Monday that they are in advanced negotiations for him.

The deal is not completed yet, but is very close and has been delayed somewhat by the complications due to the two sides being in different time zones.

The Brazil U23 international is expected to be joined and sent straight back to the Serie A side as he will not be eligible for a UK work permit.

(Source: Goal)



Poem of the day

I died from minerality and became vegetable;
 And from vegetativeness I died and became animal.
 I died from animality and became man.
 Then why fear disappearance through death?

Rumi

Prayer Times

Noon:13:11 Evening: 20:33 Dawn: 4:31 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:09 (tomorrow)

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NEWS

Isfahan museum hosts two major exhibitions

CULTURE TEHRAN — The Isfahan Contemporary Art Museum is currently playing host to exhibitions of Iranian teahouse painters and pioneers of Iranian modern art.

Fifty works by Hossein Qollar-Aqasi, a foremost pioneer of Iranian teahouse painting, and by many other painters of this genre of art, including Abbas Bolukifar, are on display in "A Review of Iranian Teahouse Painting", curator Mijid Ahmadi told the Persian service of Honaronline on Tuesday.

Private collectors have loaned the works, some of which have never been showcased in any show before, he added.

"Iranian teahouse painters create their works impromptu, but this exhibition also displays two sketches by Bolukifar, which are very important from this point of view," he stated.

Persian teahouses have served various functions in different eras of their 400-year history. They used to be places where men gathered to spend their leisure time listening to naqqals (Iranian traditional storytellers) reciting Ferdowsi's Shahnameh. It was in the teahouses that people talked and exchanged views and together with lutis (wise and generous people) helped the poor.

The art of teahouse painting emerged from within such an environment. The craftsmen listened to the discussions and tales and used them as subjects for the paintings they drew on the walls, tiles and bricks.

The teahouse painters enjoyed a unique perspective and painted imaginary scenes using epics, traditions and religion as the themes for their artworks.

The exhibition of the Pioneers of Contemporary Iranian Art is displaying 45 works by Nasser Ovissi, Farideh Lashai, Ahmad Esfandiari, Mohammad Ehsai, Ali-Akbar Sanati, Parviz Tanavoli and many other artists in various forms of art.

Both exhibitions opened on Tuesday and will run until August 21.

"Hey You" by Iranian documentarian Saeid Abutaleb introduced

The official history of the war does not speak about the nightmares, yet this literature is able to find its way into the inner dimensions of the war and relate the nightmares," Sarhangi said.

Abutaleb along with his colleague Soheil Karimi were detained by the U.S.-led forces while making a documentary that was to be named "Marsh Land of the Fairy Tales".

"Abutaleb was lucky enough and returned from the world of the Americans. He took his pen and wrote about the world he had seen. His writing is like personal items, they are original and are close to the reality," Sarhangi said.

The writer for his part also gave his personal opinion of the book and said, "I tried to narrate everything correctly and with honesty. I collected many documents and wrote down the events in detail with their date and time to be later used as documentation."

"There are many bad Americans in my book, but there were also some good Americans like the head of Camp Bucca," Abutaleb concluded.



Iranian documentarian and photojournalist Saeid Abutaleb speaks during the unveiling ceremony of his book "Hey You" at Tehran's Art Bureau on July 25, 2016.

First-ever Shahnameh inscribed by female calligrapher unveiled

ART TEHRAN — The first-ever Shahnameh inscribed by a female calligrapher was unveiled Monday during a ceremony at the National Library and Archives of Iran (NLAI).

Ferdowsi's Persian epic masterpiece has been calligraphed by Fariba Maqsudi.

"Until now, no female calligrapher has inscribed Shahnameh completely from the beginning to the end," Ferdowsi expert Mir Jalaleddin Kazzazi said at the ceremony.

"Today we pay our respects to a copy of the Shahnameh, which has been inscribed by a female calligrapher. Female calligraphers infrequently appear



Calligrapher Fariba Maqsudi (C) and NLAI Director Seyyed Reza Salehi-Amiri hold a copy of the Shahnameh during the unveiling ceremony of the book in Tehran on July 25, 2016. (Shabestan.ir/Zahra Ramezani)

in Iran, but none of them had completely inscribed a masterpiece," Kazzazi said.

Veteran calligrapher Nasrollah Afjeii also in his brief words said that female calligraphers have always been few in number.

Maqsudi expressed her thanks to Rishah Publications, the publisher of the book, and said, "The inscription took eight years to accomplish."

Farabi Cinema Foundation Managing Director Alireza Tabesh and the director of the National Library and Archives of Iran (NLAI), Seyyed Reza Salehi-Amiri, were also attending the program.

PICTURE OF THE DAY Honaronline/Javad Tayaran



An artist makes a bust of poet Salman Harati (1959-1986) during the First Sculpture Symposium of Iranian Luminaries at the Iranian Poets' Society on July 25, 2016. The symposium will run until August 2.

Harry Potter's "Cursed Child" story already a U.S. bestseller

NEW YORK (Reuters) — Harry Potter is casting a spell, again, over the publishing industry.

Nine years after the publication of the seventh and last book in the bestselling boy wizard series, pre-orders for the script of a new, sold-out London play is the most pre-ordered book since 2007 in the United States, retail book sellers Barnes & Noble said on Monday.

"Harry Potter and the Cursed Child" is billed as the eighth story in the Harry Potter series and is to be published at midnight on July 31. A script rather than a narrative novel, it is being published a day after the official opening of the London stage production of the same name.

The play, based on an idea by British author and Potter creator J.K. Rowling, is set 19 years after "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows". It features a grown-up Potter as an overworked employee of the Ministry of Magic and father of three children who is grappling with his past.

Bolshoi Ballet marks 60th anniversary of landmark London visit

MOSCOW (Reuters) — At the height of the Cold War, dancers from Russia's Bolshoi Ballet did their bit to thaw East-West relations, flying to London in 1956 to make their first performances for British audiences who had never seen anything quite like it.

This week, they return to mark the 60th anniversary of an event that was a triumph of art over geopolitics in a year when Britain was rocked by the Suez crisis and the Soviet Union invaded Hungary.

"The whole thing began very strangely," said Marina Kondratyeva, recalling her journey to Britain as one of the ballerinas on the historic trip.

"Our plane was diverted to a different airport (an air force base outside London) and they said that 26 blonde spies had landed, and that was what all the press reported," Kondratyeva told Reuters during rehearsals in Moscow where, as coach, she was putting the principal dancers through their paces.

In a year in which British spies Guy Burgess and Donald Maclean resurfaced in the Soviet Union after five years on the run, the distrust between London and Moscow was so great that until the last minute, there was always a chance the concerts would be canceled.

Despite that, British journalist Clement Crisp remembers people queuing for tickets around the clock for days, enduring the British summer rain day and night to get a chance to see the legendary dance company perform on British soil.

The star attraction was prima ballerina Galina Ulanova, who wowed Covent Garden with her "Romeo and Juliet" at the age of 46. "The leading dancer of our troupe ... made an incredible impression on London audiences," said Kondratyeva.

"They didn't know what our ballet was like. They didn't know anything about us — there was the Iron Curtain and then the Iron Curtain opened and we arrived."

EU accepts Paramount's concessions over movie licensing

BRUSSELS (Reuters) — EU antitrust regulators on Tuesday accepted Paramount Pictures' concessions to end anti-competitive movie-licensing deals with British pay-TV group Sky UK, but said the case against five other Hollywood studios would continue.

The U.S. studios' offer came after the European Commission in July last year accused it of preventing viewers outside Britain and Ireland from accessing films and other content broadcast by Sky UK.

NBCUniversal, Disney, Sony, Twentieth Century Fox and Time Warner Inc unit Warner Brothers as well as Sky UK also faced the charges.

Determined to create a single digital market across the 28-country EU to boost growth and jobs, the Commission is cracking down on so-called geoblocking where companies stop consumers in another EU country from buying their products or services.

Paramount Pictures, which is part of Viacom, will now allow viewers outside

Britain and Ireland to access films and other content broadcast by Sky UK.

Paramount will also now allow non-UK broadcasters sell their Paramount films to UK and Irish viewers in response to unsolicited requests.

The European Commission said the concessions, which are valid for five years and cover both online services and satellite broadcast services, addressed its concerns.

Paramount Pictures did not admit any wrongdoing as part of the deal.

"Today's agreement eliminates the possibility of fines and enables the Commission to close similar pending cases against Viacom and Paramount relating to broadcasters in Italy, France, Germany and Spain," the company said in a statement.

The EU competition authority said the investigation into the other five studios' deals with Sky UK will continue, putting them at risk of a fine up to 10 percent of their global turnover if found guilty of breaching EU rules.