

# TEHRAN TIMES

Nuclear know-how will reach milestone with modified Fordow: Baedinejad

2

12 Pages | Price 10,000 Rials | 38th year | No.12618 | Monday | AUGUST 8, 2016 | Mordad 18, 1395 | Dhi Al Qaeda 5, 1437

## INTERVIEWS

### On the wings of Caucasian Black Grouse in Iran

By Farnaz Heidari

"The Birds of Iran" is an important landmark and the best avian reference so far. Only 5,000 copies of the book were produced at the time (1975) and they had all sold out within six months!

Dr. Derek Scott and his counterpart, Ali Adhami in the Ornithology Unit of Department of the Environment were charged with the task of writing this book. They enlisted the help of Hussein Moravedj Hamadani, an Iranian ornithologist who was living in the U.K. and compiling a list of the birds of Iran based on the old literature and museum specimens.

See page 10

### Foreigners allowed to buy 100% shares of Iranian petchem companies

By Haniyeh Sadat Jafariyeh

**BUSHEHR, Assalouyeh** — Iran's National Petrochemical Company (NPC) director for production control, Ali-Mohammad Bossaqzadeh, in an exclusive interview with the Tehran Times elucidated Iranian petrochemical companies' inclinations and needs to cooperate with foreigners.

"Shareholders of some projects defined by Iranian petrochemical companies have not been designated yet and this can be a good opportunity for foreigners to apply for purchasing the offered shares," he said.

See page 4

### New Delhi to host festival of Iranian films

**DELHI, A R T TEHRAN** — A festival of Iranian films is scheduled to be held at the Habitat Film Club in New Delhi from August 9 to 27.

The festival has been organized in collaboration with the Iranian Independents, a Tehran-based film company, and the Network for the Promotion of Asian Cinema (NETPAC), the club has announced.



Negar Javaherian and Peyman Moaadi act in a scene from "Melbourne".

The event will begin with "The Bright Day" directed by Hossein Shahabi. The film won the Silver Pheasant Award for Best Debut Film at the Kerala International Film Festival in 2014.

The program will go on with the screening of "Risk of Acid Rain" by Behdash Sanaeiha, "Melbourne" directed by Nima Javidi and "I'm Not Angry!" by Reza Dormishian.

"No Entry for Men" by Rambod Javan and "The Paternal House" by Kianush Ayyari will also be reviewed at the festival.

### Iran, Afghanistan to cooperate to achieve common strategies: statement

**TEHRAN, POLITICAL** — Iran and Afghanistan issued a joint statement in Tehran on Sunday according to which the two countries agreed to work together to achieve "common strategies" on issues related to "national security" interests.

The statement was issued after a second round of talks between Iran's Supreme National Security Council Secretary Ali Shamkhani and Mohammad Hanif Atmar, the national security advisor to the Afghan president.

"The two countries will make efforts to achieve common strategies in areas related to national security," the statement said. The statement also highlighted the importance of establishing "long lasting relations" and providing the two countries' people with peace and welfare.

The first round of talks between Shamkhani and Atmar took place on Saturday. The Talks mainly focused on fighting terrorism and drug smuggling, controlling borders, and sharing water. Shamkhani said it is necessary to secure borders for economic development. The top Afghan security official also held talks with Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif on Saturday.

## Rouhani heralds free trade with Caucasus and Eurasian countries

**TEHRAN, POLITICAL** — President Hassan said on Sunday that the purpose behind development of Iran's ties with countries in the Eurasian and Caucasus regions is to move toward "free trade."

"Proximity and development of ties with Eurasian countries, the Caucasus region, especially the country of Azerbaijan, is very important and we should move toward free trade in the future," Rouhani told a press conference with

his Azeri counterpart Ilham Aliyev in Baku.

Rouhani arrived in Baku on Sunday morning to participate in a trilateral meeting with Russian and Azeri presidents.

See page 2



## Learn English

Learn English with us at  
**TEHRANTIMES**

→ See page 10

## Lack of foresight has led to spread of terror in Europe: American professor

**INTERVIEW**  
By Javad Heiranjia

**TEHRAN** — A professor of political science says "lack of foresight" on the part of Europe has led to the spread of terrorism in the continent.

"Lack of foresight and lax security measures have indeed led to the spreading of the scourge of terrorism in today's Europe," Nader Entessar from

South Alabama University tells the Tehran Times.

Following is the text of the interview:

**Some view certain European countries' foreign policy as the main contributing factor to terrorist activities in Europe. What is your assessment of such a view?**

A: Terrorism has many root causes and does not lend itself to a single-factor explanation. For some,

foreign policy may be a contributing or triggering variable in committing terrorist acts, while for others other extenuating factors may play a role. Also, the funding for Salafi and Wahabi groups and religious entities over the past few years (primarily by Saudi Arabia and its allies) throughout Europe has contributed to the rise of terrorist extremism.

→9

## Tehran, Seoul ink water, wastewater management MOU

**TEHRAN, SOCIETY** — Iran and South Korea signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on water and wastewater management with an environmental approach here on Sunday, IRNA news agency reported.

The MOU was signed by Iranian Deputy Energy Minister Rahim Meydani and Korean Deputy Environment Minister Minho Lee.

Additionally, another MOU between Iran's Water and Wastewater Company, known as ABFA, Korea Water Resources Corporation (K-water), and Daelim Industrial Co. was signed to initiate wastewater treatment plants and a pilot plan will be also executed in Bushehr province, Meydani said.

Since the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21), 7 MOUs have been signed between Iran and South Korea, three of which were signed today, Meydani noted.

He went on to say that Koreans are pretty experienced in the field of water management and environmental



ince, Meydani said.

technologies and the MOUs signed today are aiming at transferring knowledge and experience, training workforce, and facilitating investment in the country.

On the subject of implementation of the aforementioned contracts Meydani highlighted that none of them have ever went into effect and that some teams are

merely evaluating various aspects of these projects for the time being and have not even discussed the projects financial aspects.

Lee, the Korean official, for his part, noted that "our trip to Iran is to expand ties in the field of water and wastewater."

The companies that signed MOUs with Iran today are of great technological potential and are able to provide Iranian companies with required equipment, he added.

"Developing water and wastewater system are of the priorities that can contribute to Iran's growth and we hope we can help Iran to make more improvement by being with them side by side," he noted.

## Pakistan, Iran talks on FTA fail to make further progress

Negotiations between Pakistan and Iran on Free Trade Agreement (FTA) have failed to make any further progress as Iran hasn't given the draft of Free Trade Framework agreement to Pakistan.

The reliable sources stated that officials of both the counties had earlier signed on the five year strategic trade cooperation plan during the Iranian President Hasan Rouhani visit to Pakistan in March 2016 and it was decided to start negotiation on FTA on June 2016 but this has not happened so far because of the lack of interest from the Iranian side. Both the counties have to share the draft of the free trade frame-

work agreement with each other before starting the negotiating on this FTA, sources added.

Pakistani side had already sent the draft of framework agreement to Iranian side as according to signed MOU the officials of both the counties had decided to hold the joint working group meeting in June 2016 but the specific date has passed without meeting. However, Pakistan is expecting that joint working group meeting will be held in current month.

According to available documents, both the counties have agreed to give concession on the duty of 80 percent

items in Free Trade Agreement, presently Pakistan and Iran are enjoying concession on 18 percent of items in the Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA). According to PTA, Pakistan has given the concession to Iran on 338 items and in reciprocal Iran has providing concession to 309 items to Pakistan. It is worth mention here that both the counties' officials have agreed to complete the talks on FTA by December 2017. Presently, Pakistan and Iran mutual trade volume is \$270 million and with the implementation of FTA, it will be gone up to \$5 billion in five years.

(Source: dailytimes.com.pk)

## EDITORIAL

By Hassan Lasjerdi  
Tehran Times editor-in-chief

### Journalism and the prospects ahead

Today is named Journalist's Day in Iran. The designation followed the killing of an Iranian journalist in 1998 by the Taliban in Afghanistan.

In order to arrive at a better understanding in the field of journalism in Iran, I, with 20 years of experience in journalism, will present a number of my observations as follows.

1. A lot of Iranians from the elite to the public have understood the power of the press. Most Iranians believe that the press are influential in observing ethics and law, and promoting culture.

2. The power structure with all its multiple aspects has realized the opportunity to use the press not as an information-giving venue but as a way through which to see, hear, and even understand power, trying to facilitate the power-mob understanding at the same time as it honors the elite.

3. Since the Iranian public comes with a strong sense of inquisitiveness and always deems it good to know of events and current trends, the immediacy of covering events is of high significance.

4. Due to the high levels of education that Iranians enjoy as well as their high intelligence, today journalism has departed from populism. Today, priority is given to immediacy and documentation in order to meet the trust of the audience and readers.

5. Social media are speedily developing in all societies. Therefore, it is becoming more and more common in Iran to use creativity to attract audience.

6. The race by Iranian and foreign media outlets to engineer the public mind is growing more intense on a daily basis. The Iranian audience has so far proven that it favors the quality of news reported by domestic media over foreign ones.

→9



**MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS**



**Russian president pardons 2 Iranian convicts**

**TEHRAN** — Russian President Vladimir Putin has pardoned two Iranian convicts on the eve of his meeting with Iranian President Hassan Rouhani in Baku, Iran's Ambassador to Moscow Mehdi Sanaei has announced.

Sanaei wrote on his Instagram page that the two, who were arrested three years ago, were convicted to serve 12 and 14 years in prison.

The Iranian embassy to Moscow was pursuing the issue of their freedom during the last two years, Sanaei added.



**Zarif to start Latin America tour on August 21**

**TEHRAN** — The Iranian foreign minister will start a five-nation tour of Latin America on August 21.

Mohammad Javad Zarif will begin another round of his international tours by first visiting Cuba, and then Ecuador, Nicaragua, Chile and Bolivia, a source in the Iranian Foreign Ministry told Sputnik on Saturday.

The chief diplomat will lead "a large economic delegation" and is expected to sign contracts in the fields of oil, energy, maritime, and transport, the source added.

The Iranian minister will wrap up his visit to Latin America on August 27.



**Iran confirms hanging of Shahram Amiri**

**TEHRAN** — An Iranian nuclear scientist has been hanged for treason, Judiciary spokesman Gholamhossein Mohseni Ejei told a presser on Sunday.

Shahram Amiri was executed for giving "vital information" to the U.S., Fars reported Mohseni Ejei as saying.

Amiri disappeared in Saudi Arabia in 2009 and resurfaced a year later in the U.S., where he claimed to have been abducted and interrogated by the CIA.

After reappearing in the U.S. in 2010, he said he had been kidnapped and put under "intense psychological pressure to reveal sensitive information".

However U.S. officials at the time said Amiri had defected of his own accord and provided "useful information".



**No end to double-standard policy toward Iran: IHRC co-founder**

**TEHRAN** — The co-founder of the London-based Islamic Human Rights Commission (IHRC), who was recently granted the Islamic Human Rights Award, believes that the West's double-standard policy vis-à-vis Iran will never come to an end.

Addressing a press conference at the Tasnim office in Tehran on Saturday, Arzu Merali said, "This (double-standard policy) is something that the Islamic Republic of Iran has suffered from for a long time and those double-standards have always been there and, unfortunately, they are always going to be there because those Western countries do not have a principled response to anything."



**Iran mulling plan to launch judiciary police**

**TEHRAN** — According to a plan under study by the Majlis, Iran is going to launch a judiciary police.

Allahyar Malekshahi, head of the Majlis Legal and Judicial Committee, said on Sunday that the plan is top on the agenda of the committee, IRNA reported.

He said the plan comes with the view that today detection of crime is a major challenge.

"Since our police is not specialist but rather an ordinary police, we are trying to create a specialist framework for the judicial system under the name of police which would receive criminal cases," the MP said.

He explained that while the to-be police forces will belong to the present police, they will be educated by the judiciary.

"They should at least hold a master's degree and be adept at psychology and law," he stated.

"We plan to bring the issue to a conclusion within this Majlis term," Malekshahi stated.

INSTAGRAM

SPUTNIK

FARS

TASNIM

IRNA

# Rouhani heralds free trade with Caucasus and Eurasian countries



According to Iranian Ambassador to Baku, the tripartite negotiations will open a new chapter in regional cooperation, resulting in convergence.

Rouhani is accompanied by a high-ranking economic and political delegation.

During the meeting, the Iranian and Azeri sides also signed six memoranda of understanding on banking and automotive industry, inter alia.

Under one of the agreements, Iran's Institute of Standards and Industrial Research and Azerbaijan's Ministry of Economy and Industry will cooperate on quality standards.

The central banks of the two countries also signed an MoU.

Other agreements include closer ties in tourism industry, cyber collaboration, and railway transport.

Over the past years, the two countries have particularly been emphasizing construction of a railway network.

In line with this, the transportation ministers of the two countries inked a protocol for constructing the North-South corridor.

The International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) is a multipurpose route for the transit of goods between Iran, Russia, Europe, India and Central Asia via shipping lines, railway, and land routes.



*Iranian and Azeri delegations held talks on a range of subjects in Baku on Sunday.*

"The North-South international transportation corridor is an important project not only for our countries, but also for

continents," stressed Aliyev.

**Rouhani: Borders should remain as they are, calls for dialogue**

**Rouhani says, "The Islamic Republic of Iran as a neighbor to the Republic of Azerbaijan and Armenia has always tried to set the scene for dialogue and settlement of issues and will spare no attempt in this respect."**

During the press conference with the Azeri president, Rouhani also said regional challenges can be overcome through dialogue, insisting that Iran has always been eager to broker negotiations between Azerbaijan and Armenia.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran as a neighbor to the Republic of Azerbaijan and Armenia has always tried to set the scene for dialogue and settlement of issues and will spare no attempt in this respect," Rouhani remarked.

Azerbaijan and Armenia have been at loggerheads over the Nagorno-Karabakh region and seven surrounding districts, for more than three decades, with the latest clash in April.

Iran had already offered mediation between the two as President Aliyev took a formal visit to Iran in February.

In the session, President Aliyev expressed gratitude to Iran's positive role in the conflict, saying, "Iran has always and greatly respected Azerbaijan's territorial integrity and supported Azerbaijan's fair stance on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict."

"Today, I briefed President Rouhani on how the settlement process is going on," he said. "We see that we have great mutual understanding and upon this we build our relations."

## Nuclear know-how will reach milestone with modified Fordow: Baeidinejad

**POLITICAL TEHRAN** — Iran says an underground nuclear infrastructure is being constructed at the Fordow facilities in collaboration with Russian scientists, a highlight in the country's nuclear program once completed, IRNA reported on Sunday.

"A hundred meters deep underground at the Fordow facilities, which some think is closed down, a nuclear infrastructure is being constructed by Iranian scientists in close collaboration with Russian ones which will be turned into one of the most important branches of the country's nuclear industry," Hamid Baeidinejad has said in a Telegram message.

Baeidinejad is Foreign Ministry director general for political affairs and international security. He acted as an important negotiator in drafting the nuclear deal between Iran and great powers.

The modified nuclear facility is part of a deal, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), signed in July 2015, guaranteeing Tehran relief from nuclear-related sanctions in exchange for a limited nuclear agenda.

Stable isotopes will be produced in the site. "The Fordow Fuel Enrichment Plant (FFEP) will be converted into a nuclear, physics, and technology center and international collaboration will be encouraged in agreed areas of research," according to the JCPOA.

In an interview with Azerbaijani state news agency AZERTAC on August 5, Russian President Vladimir Putin said, "We will further assist our Iranian partners in implementing the Plan of Action on Iran's nuclear program, including the processing of enriched uranium and the conversion of facilities to produce stable isotopes."

Also in May, Russian state nuclear energy corporation Rosatom announced Tehran and Moscow had agreed on



*Iranian Foreign Ministry Director General for Political Affairs and International Security Hamid Baeidinejad*

a deal to convert Fordow nuclear facilities into a research center for producing stable isotopes.

Stable isotopes are of medical use mainly.

## Zarif holds talks with top Afghan and Pakistani security officials

**POLITICAL TEHRAN** — Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif held separate talks in Tehran on Saturday with top Afghan and Pakistan security officials.

In his meeting with Mohammad Hanif Atmar, the national security advisor to the Afghan president, Zarif said Afghanistan is a "friendly country" and Iran considers security in Afghanistan as its own.

"This is not just a friendly and personal comment, it is the Islamic Republic of Iran's principled policy," Foreign Minister Zarif reiterated.

Pointing to the two countries' affinities, Zarif said it is essential to expand cooperation in various spheres.

For his part, Atmar said Kabul attaches great importance to expansion of ties between the two countries.

Atmar also held talks with Iranian

Supreme National Security Council Secretary Ali Shamkhani on Saturday and Sunday.

The officials discussed various issues such as mutual concerns, particularly water shortage, terrorism, border control, and drug smuggling.

The two sides issued a joint statement on Sunday stating that the two countries will make efforts to achieve "common strategies" in line "national security" interests.

**'ISIL and al-Qaeda pose threats to Iran, Pakistan'**

In his meeting with Pakistani Foreign Secretary Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry, Zarif said that ISIL and al-Qaeda pose a "common threat" to Iran and Pakistan and highlighted the importance of fighting terrorism.

He also called for expansion of ties in various areas especially economy.



*FM Mohammad Javad Zarif (R) held talks with Mohammad Hanif Atmar (L), the national security advisor to the Afghan president*

For his part, Chaudhry said that the two countries' relations are "growing"

The Pakistani corporations are interested in increasing ties with Iran, Chaudry added.

## Our friendship with Iran has turned into national capital: Afghan official

### Commonalities have provided good opportunity to expand Iran-Afghanistan ties, interior minister says

**POLITICAL TEHRAN** — Iranian Interior Minister Abdolreza Rahmani Fazli said on Sunday that great affinities between Iran and Afghanistan have provided a good ground to expand ties in various areas.

During a meeting with Mohammad Hanif Atmar, the national security advisor to the Afghan president, Rahmani Fazli said that the commonalities have brought the two countries closer together.

He highlighted the importance of expanding relations in various areas of economy, politics and culture.

The official said that Iran is ready to carry out economic projects in Afghanistan.



Rahmani Fazli also said that the U.S., the Zionist regime of Israel and their regional allies seek to undermine security in the region.

For his part, Atmar expressed satisfaction over "friendly cooperation" between Iran and Afghanistan.

"Our friendship with Iran has turned into a great national capital of Afghanistan," Atmar remarked.

He also said that Afghanistan is determined to fight terrorist groups including Daesh.

The best way to fight terrorism is expansion of friendly relations between the countries, he said.

## IRGC calls journalists main actors in showing national power

**POLITICAL TEHRAN** — On August 7, concurrent with Reporter's Day, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps issued a statement on Sunday calling journalists "main actors in showing the national and deterrent power of the country".

"The media people, on the one hand, inform the public opinion about the current realities at national and international

scale and, on the other hand, familiarize the audiences with their duties and responsibilities towards various internal and external issues," the statement said.

The statement also highlighted the important role of media in countering "soft war".

The statement added that the media outlets should prioritize disclosing the "hidden policies" of the Zionist regime

and "reactionary" regimes in the Middle East.

It also said media are duty bound to boost national unity and solidarity.

Also, the statement advised journalists to avoid "simple mindedness" and "ignorance" in a situation in which the country has come under "media war" by the West and the Zionist regime.

Concurrent with Reporters' Day De-

fense Minister Brigadier General Hossein Dehqan also issued a message saying that interaction between the media and government is "essential".

Reporter's Day is held to commemorate martyrdom of Mahmoud Saremi who was an IRNA reporter killed along with eight Iranian diplomats by the Taliban when they occupied the Iranian consulate in Mazari Sharif on August 7, 1998.



# Syrian army engages in fierce battles in Aleppo, establishes control over large parts of Ghouta

A military source has stressed that the Syrian army is determined to eliminate the terrorist groups from all areas they are positioned across the country and prevent them from achieving their goals in Aleppo.

The source said that the Syrian army air force on Sunday destroyed scores of armored vehicles and cars equipped with machineguns and loaded with ammunition, and killed a huge number of terrorists in Kafernaha, al-Atareb, Khan Touman, Orum al-Kobra, al-Zirbeh, Khalsah and at the surroundings of the Military Academies in Aleppo.

Earlier, the source told SANA that units of the army and armed forces, in cooperation with the supporting forces, are continuing the military operations to the south of Aleppo and courageously confronting the terrorist groups and engaging in fierce battles in a number of posts into which the terrorists infiltrated in the area of the military academies.

It added that the military operations are continuing on all axes to the south and southwest of Aleppo and that heavy losses are being inflicted upon the ter-



rorist groups in the arms and personnel. The source stressed that these terrorist groups haven't been able to break the siege imposed on the terrorists in the eastern neighborhoods of Aleppo,

indicating that the mass media which is involved in shedding the Syrian's blood is launching a wide psychological war through broadcasting tens of fabricated photos and videos to affect the morale of

the citizens and mislead the public opinion and to cover the large numbers of the killed and injured terrorists in Saturday's battles.

Meanwhile, SANA reporter in Aleppo said that large numbers of terrorists attacked the area to the south and southwest of Aleppo on Saturday evening.

Earlier, a military source said that the Syrian army air force intensified airstrikes against the supply routes of the terrorists and the axes of their movement to the southwest of Aleppo.

The source indicated that the army air force destroyed tens of terrorists' vehicles and killed all terrorists onboard on the axes of Saraqeb, al-Zarbeh, al-Rashidin, Orum al-Kobra, Khan al-Assal and Maaret al-Nouman in the direction of Aleppo.

The military source also mentioned that the Air Force hit and destroyed reinforcement and supply convoys sent from areas in Idlib and Hama to support terrorist groups in Aleppo, destroying those convoys and killing many terrorists and injuring others.

(Source: SANA)

## ISIL claims capture of U.S. weapons in Afghanistan

Terrorists linked to the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Daesh) terrorist group have released photos that purport to show weapons and equipment that belonged to American soldiers and were captured by the group in eastern Afghanistan.

The photos show an American portable rocket launcher, radio, grenades and other gear not commonly used by Afghan troops, as well as close up views of identification cards for a United States Army soldier, Specialist Ryan Larson.

The U.S. military command in Kabul denied any suggestion the soldier had been captured, saying he "has been accounted for and remains in a duty status within his unit."

American special operations troops have been fighting alongside Afghan forces in a renewed offensive against militants who claim allegiance to ISIL in Nangarhar Province, which borders Pakistan.

"SPC Larson was attached to a unit conducting a partnered (operation) with

Afghan Forces," U.S. military spokesman Commander Ron Flesvig said in an emailed statement on Sunday. "The soldier's I.D. and some of the equipment were left behind after the (operation). The loss of personal identification is unfortunate."

In July, U.S. commanders said at least five Special Forces were injured in fighting in the province.

The website that published the photos speculated that the equipment and weapons were left behind during that engagement, but Flesvig said American officials are still trying to determine exactly when and how it was lost.

The push in Nangarhar came after President Barack Obama cleared American troops to take a more active role in fighting militants in Afghanistan.

Besides advising work and special operations missions, American aircraft deployed at least 545 weapons in the first six months of 2016.

(Source: Reuters)

## Three Ukrainian soldiers killed in fresh clashes

Three Ukrainian soldiers have been killed and four others injured in fresh clashes between rebels and government forces in Ukraine's war-scarred east, the military said on Sunday.

"In the past 24 hours, as a result of intense fighting, three Ukrainian soldiers were killed and four were injured," Ukrainian military spokesman Andriy Lysenko told journalists.

Lysenko said the servicemen had died as a result of an explosion and shelling in the town of Krymske, some 40 kilometers northwest of the rebel stronghold of Lugansk.

"Illegal armed groups fired throughout the front line," he said. "There were no quiet areas."

On Saturday, the leader of a self-proclaimed separatist republic in eastern Ukraine was injured in a suspected car bombing Kiev said was likely linked to an internal power struggle among rebel leaders.

Igor Plotnitsky, the head of the Lugansk People's Republic, did not sustain

life-threatening injuries in the blast, local media reported.

Lugansk is the smaller of two break-away pro-Russian provinces that have been fighting Ukrainian government forces for more than two years.

Fighting in the region has surged in recent weeks, with Kiev reporting increasing numbers of military casualties despite a ceasefire agreement aimed at halting the 27-month conflict.

The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) last month urged rebels and government forces to avoid a return to "large-scale military operations."

More than 9,500 people have died since Ukraine's mostly Russian-speaking eastern industrial regions revolted against Kiev's pro-Western government in April 2014.

Kiev and the West have accused Russia of supporting rebels and deploying troops across the border, claims Moscow has repeatedly denied.

(Source: AFP)

## Machete attack outside police station leaves two Belgian officers injured

A machete-wielding man injured two female police officers before being fatally shot in the Belgian city of Charleroi on Saturday, in what the prime minister said appeared to be a terrorist act.

The attacker was shot by a third officer and subsequently died of his wounds, but the police officers were out of danger, police said.

"Initial indications clearly point towards terrorism," Prime Minister Charles Michel told the television channel RTL.

Public broadcaster VRT said the attacker had taken out a machete when two officers asked to search him at a checkpoint set up outside the city's police headquarters as part of security measures imposed after major extremist attacks in the last nine months in Belgium and neighboring France.

One young man told the television station VTM that he and his friends heard five to six shots fired in rapid succession, then, 30 seconds later, three more shots.

There was no immediate indication of the man's identity; Belgian media reported that the attacker had no papers with him.

A spokesman for the federal prosecutor said the authorities expected to be able to issue more information

on Sunday morning.

Local media reported that Michel was returning from holiday and would meet with the security services on Sunday.

Belgium and its capital Brussels, home to European Union institutions and the headquarters of NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization), are currently on a security alert level of three out of a maximum four, denoting a "possible and probable" threat.

Last March, terrorists killed 32 people in suicide attacks at Brussels airport and a metro station. In addition, many of those who carried out the attacks on Paris last November, in which 130 people died, were based in Belgium.

Saturday's incident also follows a series of attacks in the last month, mostly in France and Germany, many of which have been claimed by the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Daesh) terrorist group. In the worst, in the French city of Nice, 84 people were killed.

### ■ New attack

Elsewhere, Belgian police arrested a man with a machete in the eastern city of Liege, broadcaster VRT reported on Sunday.

The arrest came the day after a machete-wielding



assailant attacked and injured two female police officers in the southern city of Charleroi.

VRT said Liege police received a call in the early hours of Sunday, and cordoned off an area before arresting the man. It said he was of Turkish origin, did not use the machete and was not previously known to the police.

Belgium is increasing security at police stations after Saturday's attack in Charleroi, Prime Minister Charles Michel told a press conference on Sunday.

(Source: agencies)

## Poll finds Clinton has widened lead ahead of Trump to 8 points

Hillary Clinton has emerged from the two major party conventions and their aftermath with an eight-point lead over Donald Trump, aided by a consolidation of support among Democrats and a failure so far by Republicans to rally equally behind their nominee, according to a new Washington Post-ABC News poll.

Clinton and her running mate, Sen. Tim Kaine (Va.), now lead Trump and his running mate, Gov. Mike Pence (Ind.), by 50 percent to 42 percent among registered voters, double the four-point advantage the Democrats held on the eve of the Republican convention in mid-July. Among likely voters, the Democratic nominee leads by 51 percent to 44 percent.

In a four-way race that includes Libertarian Party nominee Gary Johnson and Green Party nominee Jill Stein, Clinton leads Trump by 45 percent to 37 percent, with Johnson at 8 percent and Stein at 4 percent. Before the Republican convention, she had a four-percentage-point lead in a four-way matchup.

The poll confirms that Clinton received a larger post-convention bounce than Trump did from his convention. But she appears to have been aided as well by

days of controversy that Trump generated with his sharp criticism of a Muslim American family whose son, Army Capt. Humayun Khan, was killed in Iraq in 2004 and who rebuked Trump on the stage of the Democratic convention.

When asked about the criticisms Trump exchanged with Khizr and Ghazala Khan, 13 percent of registered voters said they approve of the way the business mogul handled the matter, while 74 percent said they disapprove. Overall, 56 percent said they strongly disapprove of the GOP (Grand Old Party) nominee's handling of the controversy.

The conventions did not ease public dissatisfaction with the choice in this election. Almost 6 in 10 registered voters say they are dissatisfied with the choice between Clinton and Trump as the major-party candidates, virtually unchanged from mid-July.

The Post-ABC survey is in line with most polls conducted in the days after the Democratic convention in Philadelphia ended. Advisers to the two major-party nominees agree that it will take several more weeks before it is clear where the race stands, as convention

bounces generally dissipate over time. After that, the next big opportunity for a shift in the race probably will not come until late September, when the first of the three scheduled presidential debates takes place.

Trump appears to have done little to improve his overall image, despite efforts primarily by his children to use their convention speeches to portray him as a loving father and a successful business executive. Almost 6 in 10 voters say he is not qualified to be president, unchanged from before his convention, and 3 in 10 say they would feel comfortable if he were to become president.

The underlying structure of the race as it now stands leaves Trump in a precarious position. His inability to command greater support among Republicans, if it continues into the fall, will give Clinton a significant advantage in the overall popular vote and probably in the key battleground states. Rather than taking steps to unify the party, Trump has done the opposite in recent days by declining to endorse House Speaker Paul D. Ryan (R-Wis.), Sen. Kelly Ayotte (R-N.H.) and McCain in their primary contests. On Friday, Trump reversed course and endorsed all three.

→ 9

## Yemen peace talks in Kuwait end amid fighting

United Nations-sponsored talks for establishing peace in Yemen have ended without a breakthrough, as fighting continues between government forces and rebels near the capital Sanaa.

The adjourning of the talks on Saturday came after Ansarullah (Houthi) movement fighters and the party of Ali Abdullah Saleh, the former president, rejected a UN peace plan and announced the appointment of a 10-member governing body to run Yemen.

Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed, the UN envoy on Yemen, announced on Saturday a month-long suspension of the talks, held in Kuwait for more than 90 days, but denied their failure.

"We will be leaving Kuwait today but the Yemeni peace talks are continuing," Ould Cheikh Ahmed said in Kuwait City.

"We have guarantees and commitments from the two sides that they are ready to return to the negotiating table," he said.

Meanwhile, forces loyal to Hadi launched a major new offensive east of Sanaa to "liberate the district of Nehem", the pro-government sabanew.net news agency said on Saturday.

The area is a key route to the capital, which has been under Ansarullah control since 2014.

"The army and the resistance have managed to liberate a number of important military positions that had been controlled by the coup militias, most prominent of which is the Manara mount which overlooks the center of Nehem district," the agency quoted a military spokesman as saying.

(Source: Al Jazeera)

## Chicago police 'possibly violated' policy in shooting

Chicago's police superintendent has said videos of the police shooting of a black man in the city last month indicate three officers may have violated the department's policies.

Eddie Johnson said on Saturday that it was against departmental policy to fire at or into a moving car when the vehicle was the only potential use of force by a suspect, and police were taking a hard look at training and tactics following the shooting.

Johnson said the lack of a body-camera video of the shooting of 18-year-old Paul O'Neal is under investigation, though he noted that the officers in that police district had the cameras for only about a week before the shooting.

Reverend Jesse Jackson, the United States civil rights activist, said the lack of a complete video accounting of O'Neal's shooting showed a cover-up.

A lawyer for O'Neal's family called for a special prosecutor to investigate the killing.

The union representing Chicago police officers urged the public not to rush to judgment.

Authorities on Friday released videos that captured the moments before and after police shot O'Neal, 18, on July 28.

No firearms were found on O'Neal, who was shot in the back, according to police.

In the video several officers are seen pursuing O'Neal through a back garden and over a fence in a residential neighborhood while several shots ring out.

Officers are then seen handcuffing O'Neal, who is face down on the ground with blood on the back of his white shirt.

One police officer is overheard in the video cursing the wounded teenager, and telling him "to put your hands behind your back".

No one is seen immediately administering first aid to the teenager. A minute after putting the suspect in handcuffs, the officers mention calling an ambulance.

It was not clear in the video if the teenager was armed, but one officer is heard saying "f\*\*k you shoot at us".

One of the officers is also overheard in the video asking another officer, "They [sic] shot at us too, right?"

### ■ 'Shocking and disturbing'

The fatal shot is not shown in the video and police are investigating why the body camera of the officer who fired the bullet was not turned on, or if it malfunctioned.

"Please bear in mind that this video material, as shocking and disturbing as it is, is not the only evidence to be gathered and analyzed," said Sharon Fairley, an investigator of the incident.

Michael Oppenheimer, a lawyer for O'Neal's family, described the shooting as "one of the most horrific things" he had seen, in a news conference.

He accused the police of carrying out the "execution" of a "loving son".

The video from the July 28 was made public by the agency that investigates Chicago police misconduct.

It was the first time the city has made video of a fatal police shooting public following adoption of a new policy that calls for the police to do so within 60 days.

The new transparency is an attempt to restore public confidence in the police department after video released last year showed Laquan McDonald, a black teenager, being shot 16 times by a white officer.

The killing spurred protests and led to the dismissal of the former police superintendent.

(Source: agencies)





SNIPPETS



**Iran allocates \$1.133 billion to Mehr houses water, electricity infrastructures**

**ECONOMY TEHRAN** — Iran allocated 4 trillion rials (about \$1.133 billion) to the water and electricity infrastructures of Mehr Housing Project, IRNA reported on Sunday.

Mehr Housing Project, which aims to build millions of residential units nationwide and stabilize housing prices, started in 2007 during the incumbency of former President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.



**ICCIMA delegation to embark for Switzerland in Sept.**

**ECONOMY TEHRAN** — A team of Iranian businessmen to be led by Pedram Soltani, the deputy chief of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA), plan to pay a visit to Switzerland, the chamber's website announced.

The visit will take place on September 20-23, 2016 and representatives of various business areas including tourism, heavy industries, machine manufacturing, banking, pharmaceuticals, chemicals and aeronautics are among the delegates.

The Iranian team is scheduled to attend two economic forums in Geneva and Zurich and will hold business talks with Swiss firms.



**Iran renews ties with foreign banks**

The official news agency of the Islamic Republic of Iran, reports Vice President for Executive Affairs Mohammad Shariatmadari as saying the country has re-established brokerage ties with 450 foreign banks.

Shariatmadari noted that the links followed implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, the international agreement on Iran's nuclear program that was reached in July 2015.

However, IRNA also reported that he warned that re-establishment of inter-banking relations and exchange of local currency through the World Bank takes time.

(Source: cpifinancial.net)

NEWS

**China's July forex reserves fall to \$3.20 trillion**

China's foreign exchange reserves fell to \$3.20 trillion in July, central bank data showed on Sunday, in line with analyst expectations.

Economists polled by Reuters had predicted reserves would fall to \$3.20 trillion from \$3.21 trillion at the end of June.

China's reserves, the largest in the world, fell by \$4.10 billion in July. The reserves rose \$13.4 billion in June, rebounding from a 5-year low in May.

China's gold reserves rose to \$78.89 billion at the end of July, up from \$77.43 billion at end-June, data published on the People's Bank of China website showed.

Net foreign exchange sales by the People's Bank of China in June jumped to their highest in three months, as the central bank sought to shield the Yuan from market volatility caused by Britain's decision to leave the European Union.

China's foreign exchange regulator recently said China would be able to keep cross-border capital flows steady given its relatively sound economic fundamentals, solid current account surplus and ample foreign exchange reserves.

China's foreign reserves fell by a record \$513 billion last year after it devalued the Yuan currency in August, sparking a flood of capital outflows that alarmed global markets.

The Yuan has eased another 2 percent this year and is hovering near six-year lows, but official data suggests speculative capital flight is under control for now, thanks to tighter capital controls and currency trading regulations.

However, economists are divided over how much money is still flowing out of the country via other channels, with opaque policymaking and some inconsistency in the data raising suspicions that the fall in the Yuan may be masking capital outflow pressure.

After the Yuan slipped to below the psychologically important 6.7/dollar level on July 18, it has seen a mild rebound as the central bank stepped in to control the pace of its depreciation.

Still, most China watchers expect it will resume its descent soon, risking a renewed surge in outflows.

A Reuter's poll on Wednesday showed analysts believe the Yuan may fall more than 3 percent against the dollar by a year from now, more than expected just a month ago, as the economy struggles to maintain momentum and as the dollar edges up on views of an eventual U.S. rate rise.

China will keep the Yuan basically stable and continue with market-based interest rate reform, the central bank said on Wednesday.

The country's economy expanded slightly faster than expected in the second quarter but private investment growth shrank to a record low, suggesting future weakness that could pressure the government to roll out more support measures.

(Source: Reuters)

**Ground broken for Iran-Azerbaijan joint car plant**

**ECONOMY TEHRAN** — Iran-Azerbaijan joint car manufacturing project launched in Azerbaijan's Neftchala Industrial District on Saturday, Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported.

According to IRNA, the ceremony was attended by Azerbaijani Minister of Economic Development and Co-chairman of Iran-Azerbaijan Joint Economic Committee Shahin Mustafayev and Iranian Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade Mohammad Reza Nematzadeh.

Production capacity of the \$15 million joint venture plant, which will be constructed by Iran Khodro Company and Azevrocar Company, is 10,000 cars per year and it is expected to create 300 new job opportunities.

According to the agreement, 25 percent of the total fund required for the plant's ac-



Representative of Iran Khodro and that of Azevrocar company signing the agreement documents regarding the joint automaking plant project in Neftchala on Saturday as Iranian Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade Mohammad Reza Nematzadeh (2nd R standing) and Azerbaijan's Minister of Economy Shahin Mustafayev (3rd R standing) are seen in the background

tivities will be provided by the Iranian side.

The memorandum of understanding for launching the joint car plant was signed between the two countries during Iranian Communications and Information Technology Minister Mahmoud Vaezi's visit to Baku on April this year.

Iran and Azerbaijan's joint automotive factory in Neftchala Industrial District will be operational in 2018.

Speaking at the ceremony, Azeri minister mentioned Iran as a major economic partner for Azerbaijan and said, "The volume of trade between the two countries increased by 66 percent in the first six months of the current year".

For his part, Nematzadeh also referred to huge capacity for the development of trade relations between the two countries and stressed the need for using such opportunities.

**Overseas investors allowed to buy 100% shares of Iranian petchem companies: NPC official**

The ground is set for overseas investors to possess even up to 100 percent of the stakes of the defined projects," he said, "However, as experience says and according to previously made contracts, foreigners are inclined to make joint ventures and they did so in Arya Sasol Polymer Company as well as Mehr Petrochemical Company and Razi Petrochemical Company."

"Some 50 percent of Arya Sasol's shares are purchased by foreigners while the figure stands at 60 percent in Mehr and at 95 percent in Razi," he explained.

Clarifying the specific petrochemical fields poised to attract foreign investments, Bossaqzadeh continued that "ole-

fin and NGLs (Natural Gas Liquids) projects are available for foreign investors to make joint ventures with Iranian petrochemical companies".

"Amir Kabir Petrochemical Company, Marun Petrochemical Company and Persian Gulf Petrochemical Company are conducting negotiations with foreigners to implement their projects in form of joint ventures," he added, "Some of these projects are valued at more than \$4 billion."

Furthermore, referring to the pivotal role that foreign banks play in backing foreign investments in Iranian petrochemical projects, the NPC official called for the international banks to improve their ties

with the Islamic country to facilitate foreign investments, as they did so before for supporting the projects in the special economic zone of Imam Khomeini Port in south of Iran.

As Marzieh Shahdaie, the managing director of NPC, announced in early April, negotiations are underway with several foreign companies over their plans for purchasing our petrochemical products as well as their cooperation in updating the industry noting that there are a number of projects that are not yet undertaken by any investors.

According to her, 14 projects for development of petrochemical sector are scheduled to get off the ground in the

current Iranian calendar year, which began on March 20.

By implementing the mentioned projects, Shahdaie said, the capacity of petrochemical output would be increased by about 6 to 7 million tons.

Completion of 55 unfinished petrochemical projects is also among the priorities of the NPC in the current Iranian year, she added.

Developing Mahshahr Petrochemical Special Economic Zone in southwestern Khuzestan Province, and setting up a new petrochemical complex in the port city of Assalouyeh, southern Bushehr Province, are among the upcoming plans of NPC, outlined by Shahdaie.

**Iranian automakers manufacture over 386,000 cars in 4 months**

**ECONOMY TEHRAN** — Automakers in Iran manufactured 386,160 cars in the first four months of current Iranian calendar year (March 20- July 21, 2016) which shows a 3.3 percent growth compared to same period last year, IRIB reported on Sunday.

According to IRIB, some 339,838 passenger cars were manufactured during the mentioned period which also indicates a 3.3 percent growth compared to the 329,053 of last year.

Iran is scheduled to produce 1.35 million cars by the end of the current calendar year of 1395 (which will end on March 20, 2017), according to Deputy Minister of In-



dustry, Mining and Trade Mohsen Salehinia.

As Salehinia underlined, the government seeks to improve the quality as well as the quantity of the domestically produced cars on the way to boost their exports, the IRIB reported on April 6.

Iran ranked 13th in the world sales of passenger cars, hitting the sale of 1,055,400 cars in 2015, according to a report of the International Organization of Motor Vehicle Manufacturers.

According to the report, the amount of passenger cars sold in Iran in 2015 accounted for 1.59 percent of the world's total sale.

**Oil, gas downturn spells trouble for Singapore**

Singapore Inc. is facing mounting concerns as the city-state's long-successful oil and gas sector turns sour with the oil price slump.

Oil and gas services have been a lucrative niche for the country. It is the world's biggest maker of jack-up rigs, which are used to drill for oil in shallow ocean waters.

But the plunging price of oil, currently hovering around \$40 a barrel, has turned this strength into a source of economic pain as rig builders have been forced to slash jobs while smaller oil services providers face bankruptcy.

The latest company to get into difficulty is Swiber, a Singapore-listed marine engineering company that has been placed under a court-supervised rescue plan.

Analysts say Swiber's troubles underline the particular risks faced by the country's three big banks — DBS, OCBC and UOB — which are the main lenders to the country's offshore oil and gas services sector.

Swiber, valued at just over \$50m (US\$37m) before trading was suspended, defaulted on a coupon payment last week, hit by a slowdown in its business including the delay of a \$710m oilfield project in west Africa.

A total of \$1.2bn in bonds issued by Singapore oil and gas services companies is set to mature by the end of 2017, according to data compiled by OCBC Bank, and there are now worries there could be more defaults.

"I would expect sporadic default cases going forward. I would expect widespread default in the event that oil prices remain depressed on a sustained basis," said Wee Siang Ng, a Singapore-based analyst at Fitch Ratings.

Big players such as rig builder Keppel Corp are also struggling. Keppel cut 16 percent of its staff in the first half of the year as net profit fell 45 percent. Rival Sembcorp Marine reported a 70 percent drop in first-half profit.

(Source: Financial Times)

**Signs of relief for sluggish Indonesian economy**

When Indonesia's fast-growing consumer market was the talk of global investors back in 2012, the local operator of brands such as Starbucks, Zara and New Balance could simply open stores and the customers came.

But as the commodity slump hit Southeast Asia's biggest economy, Mitra Adiperkasa, a Jakarta-listed group, has had to scale back its ambitions drastically, cutting costs, offering big discounts to clear stock and curbing expansion plans.

"This has been our longest-ever period of internal consolidation," says Fetty Kwartati, an executive at the company, Indonesia's biggest operator of international retail brands. "People who used to buy \$100 Reebok trainers have been going for the \$50 pair and Zara shoppers who used to buy two items are picking up just one."

A decade-long, China-driven boom in demand for Indonesian natural resources such as coal and palm oil pumped up the economy and turbocharged consumer

spending, attracting an influx of international investors keen to profit from the rapidly expanding middle class in this nation of more than 250m people.

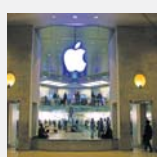
But the slowdown in China, and the related slide in commodity prices, has hit Indonesia hard. While data released on Friday showed annual growth in gross domestic product had risen to 5.2 percent in the second quarter of this year, the highest rate in 10 quarters, it is still far short of a peak of 6.5 percent in 2011.

Domestic consumption is responsible for about 60 percent of economic activity so retailers, carmakers and other companies focused on the middle class have been hit particularly badly.

Although President Joko Widodo was elected in 2014 after promising to revamp the economy and propel growth to 7 percent, economists say it is hard to see such a turnaround happening given that the structural slowdown in China is unlikely to be reversed soon.

(Source: Financial Times)

NEWS IN BRIEF



**Apple offering up to \$200,000 for hackers to find flaws in its products**

Apple is offering hackers up to \$200,000 to find security loopholes in its products, the company announced on Thursday, as it joins a number of major technology firms that have so-called "bug bounty programs".

The amount researchers are paid are based on the severity of the flaw they find. The lowest reward is for \$25,000, going up to \$200,000.

It's one of the biggest rewards in the industry.

Uber for example offers hackers up to \$10,000 while Google's maximum prize pot is \$20,000.



**Bitfindex exchange customers to get 36% haircut, debt token**

Crypto-currency exchange Bitfindex, which lost \$72 million to hackers last week, told customers on Sunday they would lose just over 36 percent of the assets they had on the platform but would be compensated for these losses with tokens of credit.

The Hong Kong-based exchange said losses from the theft would be shared, or "generalized", across all the company's clients and assets, widening the group of those affected announced last week.

"This is the closest approximation to what would happen in a liquidation context," Bitfindex said on its website early on Sunday.



**Lower Saxony has no plans to sue VW over emissions scandal**

The German state of Lower Saxony, Volkswagen's second-largest shareholder, has no plans to sue the carmaker for damages caused by its emissions-test cheating scandal, its prime minister, Stephan Weil, told a German weekly.

Earlier this week, the state of Bavaria said it would sue Volkswagen, the first regional government in VW's home country to take legal action against the company.

Lower Saxony, which has a veto power on VW's supervisory board and holds a fifth of VW's voting rights, currently sees no legal basis to claim damages, Weil told Welt am Sonntag.



## In Presence of Deputy Minister of Industry, Mine and Trade: Inaugurating Three Qualitative, Quantitative and Environmental Development Projects in EMSCO.



Shahid Kharrazi, Deputy Minister of Industry, Mine and Trade, is seen at the inauguration ceremony of three development projects in EMSCO.

Trade and Head of Operating Board of Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO).

Preserving environment and creating value added have been cited as the main objectives behind inauguration of these three projects.

The ceremony was also attended by the Governor General and Representative of people of Mobarakeh in the Islamic Consultative Assembly, Head of Isfahan Province Industry, Mine and Trade Organization, managing director, deputies, managers and staff of the company.

Deputy Industry Minister and Chairman of Board of Directors of IMIDRO Mehdi Karbasian pointed to the inauguration of these projects in line with materializing objectives of "Resistance Economy, Action and Implementation" as named after by the supreme leader of the Islamic Revolution as motto of current year 1395 (started March 20, 2016) and said: "The company owes its success to the unflinching and unsparing efforts industrious personnel of the company and also functionalities of contracting companies."

### Special Status of EMSCO in Development Field

Elsewhere in his remarks, Deputy Minister of Industry Mehdi Karbasian expressed his satisfaction on performance of the company over the past years and said: "EMSCO has safeguarded its status in the development field considerably."

The issue of "resistance economy" which was emphasized by the Leader of Islamic Revolution, President and Cabinet of Ministers, will be considered as one of basic policies in implementation of Sixth Five-Year Socioeconomic and Cultural Development Plan, he maintained.

Apart from environmental issue, it is a great honor that the company has taken value added into serious consideration, he said, adding: "Using wastes, the company focuses on producing high-value added products which exactly accords with the imple-

mentation of resistance economy."

### Using World's Most Modern Technology, Saving Water and Supplying Equipment at EMSCO.

IMIDRO senior official pointed to taking advantage of world's cutting-edge and state-of-the-art technology in implementing projects of the company and expressed his special thanks to the managers and expert engineers of Esfahan's Mobarakeh Steel Company and contractor of this giant project for implementing R.O. Mixed Bed project.

If objective of plan entitled "moving out of recession" is realized in the country and/or once production workshops and construction industry are boomed, steel production capacity in the country will hit 24 million tons, he maintained.

Turning to the production vision of 55 million tons of steel in 2025, he added: "Export volume of various steel products in first quarter of current year (March 20 - June 20) has increased significantly as compared to the same period last year."

He further noted that steel production factories should focus on increasing productivity, quality and using world's most modern technology in order to compete in world market.

### Exports of \$7b Worth of Minerals in Current Year

In line with materialization of "resistance economy", effective steps were taken for exploring mines in more than 250,000 km, deputy minister of industry maintained.

He put the exports value of mines and minerals since the first three months of current Iranian calendar year (March 20-June 20) up to the present time at more than \$7 billion, expandable more than the said figure once domestic and foreign investment is supported.

Vast exploration activities are underway in the

country which can generate more employment opportunities, he said, adding: "Considering the high production capacity of minerals in the country, it is expected that 55 million tons of minerals will be produced in mine deposits."

### 2% Water in country Used in Industrial Sector

Chairman of Operating Board of IMIDRO Mehdi Karbasian placed special emphasis on saving water and said: "It is believed that high volume of water is consumed in industrial sector but actually, it is the other way round in a way that industrial sector uses only 2 percent (2%) of available water in the country."

However, IMIDRO will throw its heavyweight on projects which deal with reducing and saving consumption of water in industrial sector wholeheartedly, for, water is one of the basic challenges and all should do their utmost efforts to save and reduce its consumption seriously.

In the end, Deputy Industry Minister and Chairman of Operating Board of IMIDRO Mehdi Karbasian pointed to salient achievements of Esfahan's Mobarakeh Steel Company and said: "Given the production of 50% of steel needed in the country, EMSCO can be considered as centerpiece of development and national economy."

### Official: EMSCO Accounts for Maximum Contribution in Provincial Social Projects

Esfahan's Mobarakeh Steel Company (EMSCO) has the highest and maximum participation in social projects in Isfahan Province.

Governor General of Isfahan Province Zargarpour announced the above statement in the inaugural

ceremony of commissioning development projects in the company and termed salient measures taken by the company in the field of social accountabilities and responsibilities as "significant and valuable".

He pointed to the key role of the company in construction of grand Naqsh-e Jahan Stadium in this province and also its contribution in equipping 400 prayer chambers at primary and high schools across disadvantaged areas of the province and said:

In briquetting project, the iron ore, which is turned into powder in process of manufacturing sponge iron, is used and the produced briquette is reused in steel-making cycle as raw material of electric arc furnaces, he said, adding: "Moreover conserving environment, this project has high value added for the company."

### Producing New Sheets at EMSCO as Needed in Country

He pointed to Sulfur-Removal Station as the other projects inaugurated in the company and said: "Sulfur in molten steel is used for producing ordinary and commercial steels but it is not used for manufacturing special steels as it is known as detrimental element."

The sheets, which are manufactured using sulfur-removal method, are applied in sour gas transfer pipelines, he maintained.

Until before, the sheet was imported into country from Germany but it is currently produced in the company using world's state-of-the-art technology, he opined.

By commissioning this unit, impurities of molten steel are removed and a clean steel with reduced amount of sulfur to (PPM 10) is produced.

### EMSC Listed as Main Supplier of Pipes Needed by NIGC

Esfahan's Mobarakeh Steel Company was listed among main suppliers of pipes needed by the National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC).

An agreement was inked between the company and Khuzestan Oxin Steel Company, based in Ahvaz, based on which, it was agreed to produce steel needed by Oxin Company, the managing director maintained.

In addition, Oxin Company was tasked with manufacturing sheet for pipes with high diameter used in transferring gas pipelines, he said, adding: "After evaluation made in this regard, NIGC placed EMSCO in list of main suppliers of gas pipelines."

The senior official of the company pointed to commissioning R.O. Mixed Bed Project with the production capacity of 450 cubic meters/hour as the third project inaugurated in EMSCO and said: "This purified water is used for cooling steelmaking and casting equipment."

### Boosting Steel Production Capacity at 10.5 M/T by Yearend

Benefited from experienced and competent domestic engineers, the said project was commissioned in line with boosting production capacity of steel, generating more employment opportunities and also yielding national income, he said, adding: "With the studies made in this regard, 10.5 million/tons steel will be produced in the company by the yearend (to end March 19, 2017)."

In the end, he said: "In formulation of country's Vision Plan in 2025, it is predicted that 55 million tons of steel would be produced, 25 million of which would be manufactured by EMSCO."



"Salient measures taken by the company have boosted spirit of cooperation among people and senior officials of the province to a great extent."

### EMSCO New Projects, Giant Strides towards Generating Employment, Production and Cutting Dependency

Elsewhere in his remarks, the provincial governor general said: "Booming economy, generating employment, production, new capacities, creativity and cutting dependency are of the salient cases which are taken into serious consideration at the company."

The company has thus far focused on preserving and safeguarding environment, he said, adding: "Reducing detrimental effects of environment and moving towards 'clean industry' are considered as one of the most important components as practiced in Isfahan Province."

### EMSCO's Effort towards Green Industry "Admirable"

Contribution of the company in collecting and treating wastewater at surrounding areas and using sewage effluent in order to conserve water consumption are one of the salient measures taken by the company, the governor general maintained.

Inauguration R.O. Mixed Bed construction project is of salient projects of the company which was implemented within the framework of conservation of water in this company, he said, adding: "Other companies in the country are advised to consider the company as role model in line with preserving and safeguarding environment."

### Implementing New Steel Projects in Line with "Resistance Economy" and "Preserving Environment"

Managing Director of Esfahan's Mobarakeh Steel Company (EMSCO) Bahram Sobhani was the last speaker who expressed his special thanks to the provincial officials who supported objectives of industrial sector in this province and said: "These projects were inaugurated at the company in current year as named after 'Resistance Economy, Action and Implementation'"



# LONGINES



SARMAN CO.

1832 Dr. Shariati Ave. Next to Pol-E-Roomi Tehran IRAN  
Tel.: +98 21 226.137.52

LONGINES DOLCEVITA  
A NEW APPROACH TO CHARM  
AND GRACE



# Pars Diplomatic Real Estate

## Apartment

**Apt. in Elahieh**  
270 sq.m, 4 bdrs, fully furn,  
Good balcony, lobby, SPJ, 2 Pkgs,  
high security, 4500 USD  
**Diba: 09128103206**

**Apt. in Zafranieh**  
250 sq.m, 3 bdrs, fully furn,  
marbel floor, 3300 USD  
**Mr.Arvin: 09128103207**

**Apt. in Elahieh**  
First Fl., 180 sq.m, 3 bdrs, luxury  
furn, nice lobby,  
SPJ & roof garden, **International**  
**Bldg.**, \$3500  
**Diba: 09128103206**

**Apt. in Zafranieh**  
120 sq.m, 2 bdrs, mountain view,  
furn, SPJ, Pkg, garden,  
**International Bldg.**, \$2300  
**Diba: 09128103206**

**Apt. in Elahieh**  
280 sq.m, 4 bdrs, unfurn, \$3300  
**Mr.Arvin: 09128103207**

**Apt. in Velenjak**  
180 sq.m, 3 bdrs, fully furn,  
nice view, 2600 USD  
**Mr.Arvin: 09128103207**

## Villa

**Duplex Villa in Niavaran**  
800 sq.m built up in 2200 sq.m land,  
6 bdrs, all renovated, pool, nice green  
yard, 12000 USD  
**Mr.Arvin: 09128103207**

**Duplex Villa in Aqdasieh**  
700 sq.m built up, 5 bdrs, outdoor  
pool, completely renovated,  
green garden, Pkg, **Suitable for**  
**Embassy & Ambassador**, \$11000  
**Ms.Diba: 09128103206**

**Duplex Villa in Elahieh**  
500 sq.m built up in 1000 sq.m land, 5  
bdrs, unfurn, pool, \$8000  
**Mr.Arvin: 09128103207**

**Duplex Villa in Farmanieh**  
800 sq.m built up, 4 bdrs,  
pool, garden, Pkg, completely  
renovated, **Suitable for Residency &**  
**Embassy**, \$15000  
**Ms.Diba: 09128103206**

**Duplex Villa in Farmanieh**  
500 sq.m built up in 1000 sq.m land,  
furn, completely renovated, outdoor  
pool,  
nice garden, 8000 USD  
**Mr.Arvin: 09128103207**



**Best Consultation,  
Best Services, Best Result**

Section Manager "Tina 09128440154"  
Tel: 22662452-8, Fax: 22667173

**Hot Line: 28141**  
info@parsdiplomatic.com

## Building & Office

**Administrative license Office in  
Jordan**  
Brand new, 3000 sq.m built up,  
5 units, Pkg lot  
**Mr.Arvin: 09128103207**

**Administrative license Office in  
Jordan**  
All brand new, 600 sq.m built up, open  
space, Pkg lots, \$45 per sq.m  
**Mr.Arvin: 09128103207**

**Whole Bldg. in Zafranieh**  
3 levels, each level 400 sq.m, totally 14  
rooms, 2 entrances, pool, nice garden,  
renovated, 18000 USD  
**Diba: 09128103206**

**Whole Bldg. in Zafranieh**  
3 levels, each level 400 sq.m, totally 14  
rooms, 2 entrances, pool, nice garden,  
renovated, 18000 USD  
**Diba: 09128103206**

**New Administrative license Bldg.**  
500 sq.m office, open office, Pkg,  
highway, **Suitable for Foreign**  
**Companies**, each sq: \$45  
**Diba: 09128103206**

## Occasion

**Apt. in Jordan**  
60 sq.m, 1 bdrs, new Bldg.,  
nice furn, **Diplomatic**, \$1500  
**Diba: 09128103206**

**Apt. in Andarzgoo**  
1st Fl., 90 sq.m, 2 bdrs, fully furn,  
Pkg, nice & cozy, \$1200  
**Diba: 09128103206**

**Apt. in Farmanieh**  
160 sq.m, 2 bdrs, furn, **\$2300**  
**Mr.Arvin: 09128103207**

**Apt. in Elahieh**  
200 sq.m, 3 bdrs, fully furn,  
balcony, nice view, **\$2300**  
**Mr.Arvin: 09128103207**

**Apt. in Qeytarieh**  
120 sq.m, 2 bdrs, furn,  
View of park, nice & cozy,  
**International Bldg.**, 1200 USD  
**Diba: 09128103206**

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

**Apt. in Jordan**  
130 sq.m, 2 bdrs, furn, **\$1700**  
**Mr.Arvin: 09128103207**

مالکین محترم  
ویلاي شمارا جهت اجاره به منزل سفیر  
و مدیران شرکت های بین المللی  
در مناطق شمالی تهران نیاز مندیم

بهترین مشاوره، برترین سرویس، بالاترین رضایت  
مالکین محترم املاک مبله و غیر مبله، مسکونی، لاری و تجاری، ویلا و مستغلات شمارا جهت اجاره به سفارتخانه ها و شرکت های خارجی نیاز مندیم

مالکین محترم  
ساختمان در بست در مناطق شمال تهران  
جهت اجاره به یک سفارتخانه  
و کمپانی های خارجی نیاز مندیم

**FIRST  
CHOICE  
REAL  
ESTATE**



Mr. Ghanizadeh  
Nobody does  
it better

آژانسی املاک انتخاب اول در خدمت شماست  
TEL: 22041212 - 09121081212  
APARTMENT - VILLA - OFFICE  
PROPERTY@FIRSTCHOICECO.COM  
WWW.FIRSTCHOICECO.COM

**Don't Waste Your Time**

Visit our website to choose your desired rental Properties

**www.DeltaHOME.ir**  
The Most Specialized Website for Foreigners

**HOME**  
Real Estate

Member of DELTA Real Estate Group  
(021) 88888865

REAL ESTATE  
**PORSALEH**

**villa in reclusive area (Velenjak)**

2500 sq.m with the beautiful old trees and lush courtyard,  
swimming pool, gym and tennis court

Mede Shah 09372748090 - 021-22051919 - Mede78@yahoo.com

**Soheil Neighborhood**

170 sq.m, three bedrooms, Fully Furnished, Rent to Foreigner  
Mr. Amir Ghasemi 0912-7610700

**New Apt. in  
Darband**



Top floor, 4 bedrooms,  
5 bathrooms, 300 sq.m,  
Mountain View, 2 balconies  
Furnished /Unfurnished  
Call Owner at:  
**0936-127-5944**



**TEHRAN TIMES**

Iran's Leading International Daily

**Advertising Dept**

Tel: **021-430 51 450**

times1979@gmail.com



**TEHRANTIMES**

Iran's Leading International Daily

Advertising Dept:  
times1979@gmail.com



**+9821 430 51 405**

**+9821 430 51 450**

www.tehrantimes.com

**SHAR GROUP**

**SHAR FOREIGN DEPARTMENT**

AFFILIATED TO SHAR GROUP REAL ESTATE

**DISCOVER YOUR PERFECT HOME**

Telephone: +98 21 95 11 90 80

Department Manager Nader: +98 912 301 39 06

@shargroup

shar\_group



Address: No.52, Darya-Noorani Blv.Crossroad,  
Farahzadi Blv, Shahrak-e-Gharb

Tel: **88562040 - 88562050**



# Refugee deal at risk: Europe takes a soft approach on Erdogan

By SPIEGEL Staff

Despite Turkish President's crackdown on opponents in the wake of the failed coup attempt, German Chancellor Angela Merkel is calling for strong continued ties to the country. It may be the only way to preserve the EU's crucial refugee deal.

The chancellor prefers her usual role, as the one calling for calm and levelheadedness. After a phone conversation with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Angela Merkel said there had been "worrying developments" in Turkey in the wake of the military coup and that the opposition had been treated harshly.

But, she said, it was understandable that the government take action against the rebels and mentioned that Turkey had "been exemplary in its treatment of refugees." She argued that the priority should be "to keep the discussion going." As usual, Merkel adopted a let's wait and see approach.

The problem is that the chancellor's words didn't find much of an audience. Hardly had they appeared on the news ticker, did German and Turkish politicians set off an angry spiral of insults, threats and accusations. It almost seemed like coup supporters and opponents were now marching in protest in Ankara, Berlin and Brussels.

Erdogan's foreign minister, Mevlut Cavusoglu, said



the refugee agreement between Turkey and the European Union would be abandoned if Brussels didn't ease travel rules for Turkish people before October. In Germany, many politicians were also on a confrontation course. Arm in arm, Bavarian Governor Horst Seehofer of the conservative Christian Social Union (CSU) and Baden-Württemberg Governor Winfried Kretschmann of the Green Party demanded the suspension of EU accession talks with Turkey. The head of the national Green Party, Cem Özdemir, argued for economic sanctions. And the human rights commissioner of the German government, Bärbel Kofler, a member of the center-left Social Democrats, also put the refugee agreement in question. She said the EU cannot "overlook" the fact that the processing of asylum applications in Turkey "does not follow the democratic rule of law."

Amid the bluster of ultimatums and counter ultima-

tums, people overlooked the fact that the more level-headed forces in Ankara and in the capitals of the EU were singing a very different tune. There may be no reason to fulfill Erdogan's wishes for the extradition of supposed coup supporters or to excuse his brutal measures against members of the opposition. And there are good arguments for admonishing Erdogan to return to the rule of law.

### Unlikely defenders

But among the member states of the EU, there is an aversion to sharpening the conflict. According to experts, Ankara has thus far abided by the refugee agreement, which significantly aids the interests of both sides. The German security services believe that they can't do without their Turkish partners in the fight against terrorism. And more significantly, even many members of the Turkish opposition and opponents of the regime have warned the West that it shouldn't be too shrill in its criticism of Erdogan.

Istanbul political scientist Nuray Mert, for example, is not someone you would expect to support autocratic Erdogan. She has repeatedly criticized the government in essays and interviews. In 2011, she lost her TV show on Turkish TV after Erdogan complained about her.

→9

## COMMENT

### Jabhat al-Nusra's rebranding is more than a simple name change

By Mona Alami

On July 28, Jabhat al-Nusra announced it was severing all ties with its parent organization, al-Qaeda, and changing its name to Jabhat Fatah al-Sham (Conquest of Syria Front). Al-Qaeda gave its blessing to the move, reflecting an evolution by both organizations in their international strategies and a deep understanding of local Syrian dynamics.

Jabhat al-Nusra leader Abu Mohammed al-Golani appeared on camera late last month declaring "the complete cancellation of all operations under the name of Jabhat al-Nusra." He said the new organization has no affiliation with any external entity.

Yet Abu Haniya noted that Golani's announcement carried many references to al-Qaeda: Golani was dressed in military fatigues, like the late al-Qaeda founder Osama bin Laden, and used Arabic expressions and references used by the infamous leader.

The move also garnered the approval of Saudi Sheikh Abdullah al-Muhaysini, the cleric of Jaish al-Fatah (Army of Conquest). Ahrar al-Sham also applauded Jabhat al-Nusra's decision, while figures such as Abu Hamza Hamawi, head of the Salafist Aynad al-Sham faction, said Jabhat al-Nusra's decision could facilitate military unity.

In addition, al-Qaeda's second-in-command, Abu al-Khayr, who blessed the secession, is currently in Syria with the consent of Jabhat al-Nusra. "What does this tell you of the supposed [split] in relations? If there was a real break of the pledge of allegiance between the two organizations, it is supposed to be condemned by death," said Abu Haniya. He said the groups' separation appears to be only tactical.

The expert added that the transformation also indicates al-Qaeda's move since the Arab Spring to an emphasis on Syria-centered politics.

That move to prioritizing local politics has translated into Jabhat al-Nusra adopting a pragmatic approach to external and internal pressures. On July 13, Russia and the United States discussed forming a Joint Implementation Group to share intelligence, to possibly direct operational cooperation against Jabhat al-Nusra and to keep Russia from targeting jointly designated, and presumably opposition-controlled, areas.

Aleppo-based journalist Ahmad Abi Zeid told Al-Monitor many Syrians within Jabhat al-Nusra do not necessarily espouse al-Qaeda's ideology, but have joined the organization because of the power it projects.

→9

Standard Copper Slag Grit for Blast Cleaning.  
Conform to ISO 11126-3

Sale Office : +(9821) 88 600 901-5  
Mob : +(9891) 2290 1955

Deutscher  
Zertifizierungs  
Rat  
DAR  
TGA - ZM - 16-06-00-60

UNICERT  
ISO 9001:2008  
Certificate No.: QMS 0010 011838

INTERNATIONAL  
IAF  
CERTIFICATION SYSTEM  
TGA - ZM - 16-06-00-60

**The German security services believe that they can't do without their Turkish partners in the fight against terrorism.**

**PALLADIUM FITNESS CLUB**  
كلوب ورزشی پالادیوم

GOOD IS NOT ENOUGH IF BETTER IS POSSIBLE

6<sup>th</sup> floor, Palladium mall, Alef Sq.,  
Moghadas Ardebili Ave., Zaferanieh

palladium\_fitness\_club  
fitness.palladiummall.com  
22667710



## NEWS

**Iranian researchers produce vaccine for cancer**

Iranian researchers at Ibn Sina Research Center managed to produce cancer vaccine for prevention and treatment of the disease in animal phase.



Hojatollah Rabbani, who is director of the project, said immunotherapy is a secure method for treating cancer, adding the researchers are trying to make body smartly react to growth of cancer cells and control or kill them.

He said that the researchers aimed to produce vaccine to be injected to babes as it is done in many cases of diseases, so that they would never suffer cancer.

Rabbani noted that the vaccine can be used for preventing all kinds of cancers. The vaccine is made of protein anti-genes and studies on its animal phase have been accomplished.

(Source: ISNA)

**Common pregnancy procedure could be safer with one simple change**

The procedure, called a cervical stitch, is performed on roughly 2 million women a year worldwide who are considered at high risk of miscarriage or premature birth. To delay labor, doctors place a stitch in the cervix to keep it closed.

But researchers found the most commonly used suture — a braided thread — was associated with tripled odds of stillbirth compared to a single-strand suture. And risk of preterm birth was nearly doubled.

"We don't have very good tools for determining who would and who would not benefit from that operation, and probably put cervical stitches in many women who don't really need them, so it's important that we first do no harm," said researcher Dr. Phillip Bennett, a professor of obstetrics and gynecology at Imperial College London.

Bennett said about 80 percent of doctors who do the procedure use the braided, tape-like material. Just one in five uses a simple nylon thread that's like a fishing line.

"We found that women who had the braided tape material had significantly poorer outcomes than the women who had the nylon," he said.

**Harmful bacteria**

These women were more likely to have harmful bacteria grow in the vagina, Bennett said. This was associated with inflammation and changes to the cervix.

"We didn't see any of those changes when we used the nylon stitch," he said. "We think the tape stitch allows bad bacteria to grow in the vagina and that then affects the cervix through activation of inflammation," he added.

Among nearly 700 women who had the procedure, 15 percent who got the braided "shoe lace" stitch had a stillbirth, compared with 5 percent of those who had the nylon suture. In addition, 27 percent of women who received the braided tape gave birth prematurely, compared with 17 percent of women who got the nylon stitch, Bennett said.

(Source: ktva.com)

**The mystery of why sunflowers turn to follow the sun solved**

Researchers say the young plant's sun-tracking (also called heliotropism) can be explained by circadian rhythms — the behavioral changes tied to an internal clock that humans also have, which follow a roughly 24 hour cycle. A young flower faces east at dawn and greets the sun, then slowly turns west as the sun moves across the sky. During the night, it slowly turns back east to begin the cycle again.

"It's the first example of a plant's clock modulating growth in a natural environment, and having real repercussions for the plant," UC Davis professor and study co-author Stacey Harmer says in a press release from the university.



The researchers found that the plant's turning is actually a result of different sides of the stem elongating at different times of day. Science released this animation to illustrate the phenomenon:

"Growth rates on the east side were high during the day and very low at night, whereas growth rates on the west side were low during the day and higher at night," the journal article reads. Here's more:

**Higher growth rate**

The "higher growth rate on the east versus west side of the stem during the day enables the shoot apex to move gradually from east to west. At night, the higher growth rate on the west side culminates in the apex facing east at dawn."

The researchers tied plants up so they couldn't move or turned them away from the sun — and they found those flowers eventually had "decreased biomass and less leaf area" than flowers that could move with the sun.

And in support of the circadian rhythm theory, plants exposed to artificial light at different intervals "could reliably track the movement and return at night when the artificial day was close to a 24-hour cycle, but not when it was closer to 30 hours," the press release states.

Mature sunflowers respond differently to the sun.

(Source: npr.org)

**World's largest aircraft leaves hangar for first time ahead of maiden flight**

As compliments go, being compared with a giant, gas-filled 300ft long, 143ft-wide 'flying bum' cannot rank highly on most women's wish lists.

But as the airship Martha Gwyn inched its way out of an enormous green hangar for the first time, the soubriquet seemed anything but blimpish.

Named after the wife of businessman Philip Gwyn, Saturday's public unveiling represented a milestone in a £350million project that had once appeared doomed to remain grounded.

Four years after the U.S. Army deemed it too expensive, the hybrid airship — a carbon-composite cross between a zeppelin, a helicopter and an airplane — was gently piloted into the open in a delicate five-minute operation.

It was towed 30 minutes to its resting point at a primary mast site, one of two specially prepared on the same airfield at Cardington, Bedfordshire, where in 1919 British engineers embarked on their own failed attempts to challenge Germany's fated Zeppelin program.

It came after tests on bulbous dirigible's engines, generators and systems were completed ahead of some 200 hours of test flights, with engineers keen



**Once airborne, the huge aircraft, which is filled with 1.3 million cubic feet of helium, can stay airborne for around five days during manned flights, cruising at speeds of up to 90 miles per hour 20,000ft above the Earth.**

to avoid disaster.

Thirty-six people lost their lives on May

6, 1937, when the hydrogen filled Hindenburg airship, which was three times longer

than the Martha Gwyn, burst into flames at Manchester Township, New Jersey.

**Huge aircraft**

Once airborne, the huge aircraft, which is filled with 1.3 million cubic feet of helium, can stay airborne for around five days during manned flights, cruising at speeds of up to 90 miles per hour 20,000ft above the Earth.

Some 50ft (15m) longer than the largest Airbus A380 passenger jets, the behemoth was developed by British firm Hybrid Air Vehicles (HAV), after it launched a campaign to return the Airlander 10 to the skies in May 2015.

It derives 60pc of its lift aerostatically (by being lighter-than-air), and 40pc aerodynamically (by being wing-shaped), and was helped into being by a £250,000 donation from Iron Maiden singer Bruce Dickinson.

HAV claims vehicle, which is capable of carrying loads of up to 10 tons, could be used for a variety of functions such as surveillance, communications, delivering aid and even passenger travel.

Further ground assessments will now be carried out before the craft, formerly known as the Airlander 10, takes to the skies for the first time at a date yet to be announced.

(Source: The Telegraph)

**Study identifies 20 'second Earth' candidates with potential to harbor life**

Finding life beyond Earth means combing through an incredibly vast array of potential planetary candidates, but one new study from a team of researchers led by San Francisco State University astronomer Dr. Stephen R. Kane hopes to add some additional specificity to the search.

The international group of scientists behind the study examined the over 4,000 planets outside of our Solar System (exoplanets for those in the know) to identify the ones most likely to harbor life based on the model of the only life-bearing planet we know of: Earth.

The result of the research is a long list of 216 planets from the Kepler list, a catalog of space-based spheres gathered by the Kepler space observatory launched by NASA in 2009 to identify and observe Earth-sized exoplanets. From that list, which includes all planets found to be within the so-called "habitable zone" surrounding a star in which water could remain liquid on the surface of the celestial body.



As we know from the makeup of our own solar system, occupying that solar sweet spot is crucial for supporting life. Any further away, and water freezes — closer

in, and it evaporates. Based again on the only example we currently have (Earth), life generally requires liquid water for sustenance.

**Habitable zone**

From that group of 216 — which fit the broad definition of occupying the habitable zone around their particular star, which meant looking at other factors including size and composition of planets — came a short list of 20 candidates which are located in a more "conservatively" defined habitable zone, and that are small and rocky.

Coming up with a short list of Earth-like planets has very real value to the continued project of searching for signs of extraterrestrial life. Simply investigating every exoplanet identified by Kepler just isn't feasible in terms of available resources, but a core group of 20 with characteristics that greatly increase the likelihood of finding Earth-like life is manageable.

(Source: Tech Crunch)

**How to deal with toxic waste buried in Greenland's rapidly melting ice caps**

Greenland's ice sheet is melting at a rapid pace. According to a new study published Wednesday in the journal *Geophysical Research Letters*, this significant snow and ice loss could cause buried toxic waste to resurface unexpectedly.

Camp Century was a U.S. military base built on and under the Greenland ice sheet in 1959 to test nuclear missiles during the height of the cold war. But the United States decommissioned the military base in 1967, leaving behind the various waste from a nuclear reactor such as gasoline, sewage, and radioactive coolant. The U.S., along with Denmark who controlled Greenland at the time, did not think much of the buried waste, assuming continual snowfall would only bury the remnants deeper.

But now scientists say the waste, which is currently about 115 feet below the surface of the ice, will resurface in as little as 75 years.

**Anthropogenic climate change**

"Our study highlights that Camp Century now possesses unanticipated political significance in light of anthropogenic climate change," the paper's authors write. The "potential remobilization of wastes that were previously regarded as properly sequestered, or preserved for eternity, is an instance, possibly the first, of a potentially new pathway to political dispute associated with climate change."

Now, as study lead author William Colgan told *Smithsonian* magazine, "We've gone from 'eternity' to 'we really need to start thinking about this.'"

When the toxic remnants are exposed to



the open ocean, surrounding ecosystems will likely suffer devastating consequences. And while removing the waste is necessary, the process will also be extremely costly.

Political disputes may occur when deciding who holds the responsibility to pursue the expensive clean-up project. While the U.S. constructed Camp Century, Denmark permitted the project, and Greenland is now an autonomous country.

The "study identifies a big hole in the extant set of laws and rules we have to deal with environmental problems globally," Jessica Green, a political scientist specializing in international environmental law at New York University who was not part of the study, said in a press release.

Significant ice melt came early to Greenland in 2016, as *The Christian Science Monitor* reported earlier this year. Based on models from the Danish Meteorological Institute, one day in April saw average temperatures between 41 and 50 degrees Fahrenheit, causing more 12 percent of the ice sheet lose at least one millimeter of ice. (Source: The CSM)

**Alcoholism influenced by hundreds of genes, study finds**

New research published in *PLOS Genetics* provides evidence that alcoholism has a genetic influence, after uncovering hundreds of genes that may increase the desire to consume alcohol.

Researchers say they have shed light on how genetics might influence preference for alcohol.

Alcohol use disorders remain one of the leading causes of preventable death in the United States, responsible for around 88,000 deaths every year.

According to co-senior study author William M. Muir, Ph.D., professor of genetics at the Indiana University (IU) School of Medicine, and colleagues, it has been challenging for researchers to pinpoint genetic causes of alcoholism in human studies.

They note that this is partly down to the array of confounding factors that need to be considered when assessing human alcohol use, such as social, economic, and cultural factors, as well as family history of drinking.

For their study, Muir and team set out to identify genes that may influence alcohol use in rats, in order to eliminate the confounders present in human studies.

**Certain genes**

While the genetics of rodents are not identical to those of humans, the researchers say they are similar enough to gain insight into how certain genes might affect human alcohol consumption.

To reach their findings, the researchers used whole-genome sequencing to analyze the genetic signatures of two lines of rats:



one line was bred to consume high amounts of alcohol, possessing many characteristics of human alcoholism, while the other was bred to consume low amounts of alcohol.

By comparing the genomes of both rat lines, the researchers identified "signatures of selection" — areas of genetic code — in 930 genes that were linked to preference for alcohol.

Further investigation revealed that many of these genes had not been previously associated with alcoholism; some included genes that are linked to memory formation and reward behavior.

"(...) some of the regulatory pathways included those involved with the brain's ability to make new connections over time in response to new activities or environmental factors, what we call neuronal plasticity. Others included neurological and immune systems involved with stress," adds co-senior author Dr. Feng C. Zhou, Ph.D., professor of anatomy and cell biology at IU School of Medicine.

(Source: Medical news today)

**Hearing test may predict autism risk sooner: study**

A simple hearing test may help identify young children at risk for autism before they're old enough to speak, a new study suggests.

Researchers from the University of Rochester in Rochester, NY, say they've identified an inner-ear problem in children with autism that may impair their ability to recognize speech.

"This study identifies a simple, safe and noninvasive method to screen young children for hearing deficits that are associated with autism," said study co-author Anne Luebke, an associate professor in the departments of biomedical engineering and neuroscience.

"This technique may provide clinicians a new window into the disorder and enable us to intervene earlier and

help achieve optimal outcomes," she said in a university news release.

Autism spectrum disorder is characterized by impaired social-communication skills and restricted and repetitive behaviors. While many signs of autism appear before age 2, most children aren't diagnosed until after age 4, the researchers said. They suggested that if treatments could start sooner they might have more impact.

For the study, Luebke and her colleagues tested the hearing of children between ages 6 and 17 with and without autism. Those with autism had hearing difficulty in a specific frequency (1-2 kilohertz, or kHz) that is important for processing speech.

**Hearing impairment**

The degree of hearing impairment was associated with the severity of autism symptoms, according to the study.

Hearing "impairment has long been associated with developmental delay and other problems, such as language deficits," said study co-author Loisa Bennetto, an associate professor of clinical and social sciences in psychology.

"While there is no association between hearing problems and autism, difficulty in processing speech may contribute to some of the core symptoms of the disease," Bennetto said.

(Source: HealthDay News)



RT had interviewed the founder of Wikileaks about how the recent DNC leaks have no connection to Russia. Plus what are Hillary Clinton's connections to the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Daesh) terrorist group, the House of Saud regime and Russia?

Here are some of Assange's most insightful lines:

#### ■ Clinton, Saudi Arabia & jihadists

"The U.S. government at the times when Hillary Clinton was in charge of the foreign policy did use Libya as a conduit to get arms to jihadists in Syria. That is well-established not just by a range of raw materials but also by ... investigative reporters in the U.S., some of which were even published in The New York Times."

"La Farge, which is ... giant transnational concrete company was involved in Syria. There are more than 350 La Farge related emails in our Syria emails release. The investigations by Le Monde reveals that they paid ISIL money, taxes for their operations in certain areas, were engaged in a variety of business deals with ISIL."

"Money from La Farge in 2015 and 2016 went to Hillary Clinton foundation. There is actually a long-term relationship between La Farge and Clinton; she was a member of the board."

## Assange special: Do Wikileaks have the email that will put Hillary Clinton in prison?



"There is also an extensive relationship between Hillary Clinton and Saudi Arabia, between the Clinton Foundation and Saudi Arabia. Saudi Arabia is probably the largest single donor to the Clinton Foundation and you can see Clinton's arms export policies when she was a secretary of state favoring extensively Saudi Arabia."

#### ■ On Clinton alleging Russia behind DNC email hack

"What [Hillary Clinton] is attempting to do is to conflate our publications of pristine emails ... and whatever hacking has occurred of the DNC or other political organizations in the U.S. by a range of actors."

"In this batch of documents ... there

are claims that metadata after someone completed a document to PDF conversion, the language of the computer that was used for that conversion had been Russian. It remains circumstantial evidence – some Russians were involved or someone who wanted it to look like Russian was involved with these other media organizations. That is not the case for the materials that we have released."

#### ■ Clinton accusing Donald Trump of having ties with Russia

"There is a much deeper connection on record with Hillary Clinton and Russia than we are presently aware of with Donald Trump."

"Hillary Clinton did quite well strategically to draw a connection between Trump and Russia because she has so many connections of her own. There is no substantial connection [between Trump and Russia]."

"There is an extremely well-documented pattern of when Hillary Clinton was secretary of state, those people, companies, governments, who wanted a decision by the secretary of state in their favor, made large donations to the Clinton Foundation or in some other cases made business deals with people around Hillary Clinton." (Source: RT)

## S. Korea presidential office: China 'out-of-place' on THAAD

South Korea's presidential office rebuked on Sunday China's criticism of its decision to deploy an advanced anti-missile defense, urging Beijing to instead play a stronger role against North Korea's provocations on the peninsula.

The statement by President Park Geun-hye's office marked an escalation of diplomatic tensions between South Korea and China, which has sharply criticized Seoul's move to host a Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) unit with the United States military.

Park's senior press secretary, Kim Sung-woo, said in the statement recent commentary carried by China's state media was "out of place" in blaming South Korea for raising tension on the Korean peninsula with the move to deploy a THAAD unit.

"Rather than taking issue with our purely defensive action, China should raise issue in a stronger manner with North Korea which is breaking peace and stability on the Korean peninsula and Northeast by conducting



four nuclear tests and, just this year, launching more than 10 ballistic missiles," it said.

South Korea and the United States began discussions

to deploy a THAAD unit in the South after the North's fourth nuclear test in January and a long-range rocket launch in defiance of United Nations sanctions.

South Korea has said the move is purely to counter growing missile threats from the North and was not intended to target China, but Beijing has protested it would destabilize regional security balance.

On Wednesday, China's People's Daily in an editorial said: "It is impossible for South Korea's leader not to know America's strategic plot. (She) is well aware of the real direction of the THAAD anti-missile system."

"(She) has no hesitation about undermining regional stability and flagrantly damaging the security interests of neighboring powers," it said.

North Korea has launched a series of missiles in recent months, the latest on Wednesday when one ballistic missile that flew about 1,000 km (600 miles) landed near Japanese-controlled waters.

(Source: Reuters)

## Lack of foresight has led to spread of terror in Europe: American professor

1 → ■ According to credible reports, some of the terrorists fighting in Syria have now returned to Europe and are committing acts of terror. Don't you think that Europe has been negligent toward such a serious threat?

A: Yes, this is indeed a major problem. Unfortunately, many European countries did not take this

issue as seriously as they should have, and they realized the enormity of the problem too late. Lack of foresight and lax security measures have indeed led to the spreading of the scourge of terrorism in today's Europe.

■ What are the main reasons behind the repeated terrorist activities in Europe in the recent weeks?

A: In recent weeks, Daesh (ISIS) has suffered battlefield defeats in Iraq and Syria. As a result, it has increased its terrorist operations against soft targets, including those in Europe, to keep itself relevant in the eyes of its supporters and potential recruits. It has also increased its cyberspace activities to encourage "lone wolf" operatives that may be sympathetic to its objectives or

be easily swayed to carry out terrorist activities in Europe.

The returning Daesh fighters from the Middle East to Europe have created pockets of extremism to carry out their terrorist activities in Europe now. But we also have to remember that 85 to 90 percent of the victims of Salafi and Wahhabi terrorism are still in the Middle East and South Asia.

## Refugee deal at risk: Europe takes a soft approach on Erdogan

7 → Yet now, after the failed coup in July, she is defending the president against those who have been overzealous in vilifying him: "I support his government not only against any coup, but I also reject the Western coverage that depicts him as a monster."

Politicians in Europe and the United States, she argues, have made too little of the fact that the majority of Turkish citizens and even the opposition was united in standing up against the military rebellion. "If our Western friends want to support democracy in Turkey, then they should have supported this broad anti-coup spirit."

That's how many supporters of the opposition see it. They oppose Erdogan's attempts to abolish democracy. They denounce the witch hunts against supposed followers of Islamist cleric Fethullah Gülen, whom the government sees as being behind the coup. But they also wish the West would offer more constructive criticism these days, along with greater encouragement.

"What we need now is unity and reconciliation, not more hatred," says the head of the pro-Kurdish Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP), Selahattin Demirtas. Observers fear that overly curt opinions from Europe and the United States could drive the country further from the West. An atmosphere of opposition to the EU and the U.S. is already spreading, even among liberal, pro-democratic Turks.

Erdogan has deliberately seized on these disappointments. "The West supports terrorism and sides with the people behind the coup," he told international investors in Ankara last Tuesday. Sinan Ulgen, a former Turkish diplomat and the head of Istanbul's Edam think tank, also accuses Western politicians of failing to clearly condemn the uprising. "If they had, their criticisms of anti-democratic developments would be much more credible," he says. The EU now needs to show "that it hasn't given up on Turkey yet."

#### ■ Refugee Deal in Peril?

But in Europe, not many people are currently listening to the Turkish opposition. Lots of politicians are paying attention to Erdogan's worked-up tirades without noticing that his bluster is a bigger sign of weakness than strength.

This also isn't the first time the Turkish government has threatened to end the refugee deal if Brussels doesn't finally move to lift visa requirements for Turks entering the EU. Similar warnings had been uttered in the spring, but Ankara never followed through on them. In response, the EU acted in an unconventionally cohesive manner on the issue. As long as all of the criteria are not fulfilled, Brussels argued, there would be no freedom of travel.

Under the terms of the deal, Ankara is supposed to commit itself to bringing Turkish anti-terror laws in line with European law by mid-October. In the wake of the coup attempt, however, it is difficult to imagine that happening. Luxembourg Foreign Minister Jean Asselborn argues that more patience is needed with Turkey. He anticipates the talks will stretch on until "at least the end of the year."

The politician thinks it's unlikely Ankara will cancel the refugee deal. Erdogan has too big an interest in having a functioning relationship with Europe. Besides, the Turkish economy is at risk of crashing following the military coup. Ankara needs European capital and tourists in order to fill up the giant resorts on the Aegean once again. Asselborn is convinced that "the government could really use the 6 billion euros it has been pledged by 2018 as part of the refugee agreement."

Erdogan had also largely held to the terms of the agreement. In July, 60 refugees arrived in Greece every day. This past weekend, it was six. Before the EU-Turkey deal, over 1,000 refugees reached the Greek coast every day.

This decrease in numbers is not least due to the fact that countries like Slovenia and Macedonia closed the so-called Balkan Route. But neither Berlin nor Brussels has interest in a new experiment in which the Turkish coast guard shuts their eyes when boats take off toward the West.

The fact that the EU is persistently pursuing its course of negotiation is also due to its lack of alternatives. Neither Berlin nor Brussels has a detailed Plan B.

The European institutions -- the European Commission, European Parliament and European Council -- want to make a final decision on expanding the EU agency Frontex into a European border and coast guard in September, but it remains questionable whether that step would go far enough if Turkey were to once again open its borders and permit an exodus of migrants. There are currently 632 officials from other EU countries deployed in Greece on behalf of Frontex -- they control passports, take fingerprints and carry out repatriations. They work under the leadership of the Greeks, who have difficulties organizing their own people. If it came to a Plan B, the Greeks would require lots of help from Brussels and the other member states.

#### ■ Crucial Cooperation

There's another reason the relationship with Turkey shouldn't be jeopardized lightly. In many cases, the authorities on both sides are frequently, silently working together. When it comes to the fight against the Islamic

State (ISIL) terrorist group, authorities in Ankara play a key role.

Over 800 terrorists from Germany are believed to have traveled to Syria and Iraq in order to join ISIL. Most chose the land route via Turkey to get there. While the authorities there at first treated the terrorist tourism nonchalantly, their collaboration with European intelligence services is now working at least selectively better.

In security circles, people are saying that "Turkey is an important and necessary partner" while wondering "in every specific case just how far the cooperation can go." The building of a joint terrorism database, recently made possible by a new law, wasn't in the cards before the coup and now it's even less of a possibility, especially given that Berlin and Ankara have very different definitions of what constitutes a terrorist.

But Erdogan doesn't shy away from any attempt to get the German government's support in his fight against the PKK, the militant pro-Kurdish party. In an apparent attempt to put pressure on Berlin, he claimed that his authorities had transferred "over 4,000" files about wanted terrorists to Germany, but that they were ignored by the Germans.

The responsible authorities have been trying to figure out what Erdogan meant ever since. In any case, a list with such a large number of suspects doesn't seem to exist. Furthermore, the number of extradition requests by Turkey has been manageable. According to the Federal Office of Justice, only 33 applicable requests have been received so far this year. Last year, there were a total of 65 requests. In 14 of the 33 cases, the Germans did move to extradite the suspect. The majority, the office says, were accused of assault, theft, drug crimes or murder.

Despite irritations, contacts between the two countries are being maintained, as the example shows, but the mood is dark. As a result, many Turkey experts argue that the relationship between Berlin and Ankara should be rebalanced. They argue that the democratic powers in the country should be supported, that one should hold firm on joint projects and that Erdogan's impositions should be refuted where necessary. But to alienate the Turks, they argue, would be the wrong reaction.

Niels Annen, the foreign policy expert for the center-left Social Democrats, believes that a critical realignment is necessary. At the same time, he suggests that the government should "stay in dialogue" with the Turkish leadership so that Europe doesn't lose another partner and ally. "First Brexit, then Turkey -- that would be a catastrophe." (Source: Spiegel)

## JUMP

### Journalism and the prospects ahead

1 → 7. Public awareness and professionalism is on the rise as the press are aging in Iran. The participation of the old generation and the new one can provide a good mixture for the future.

8. Cooperation between Iranian and foreign media outlets on news coverage, analysis, as well as managerial cooperation and information technology are the harbingers of brighter days ahead.

9. The Iranian journalists are looking forward to work at global level in order to prove their professionalism to the world. Here, the education of internationally capable journalists is a way that should be taken. Although with relatively less experience, Iranian media have taken valuable steps in this regard so far.

10. With over one century of activity, the Iranian press are now standing at a level with new horizons ahead to be discovered. In the coming decades we will have more professional press that are more properly aware of shaping the public opinion.

As a last word, although a great many of men and women are active in journalism in Iran, their primary concern is to preserve the norms and culture of the Islamic Iran at an international level. This is the very thing that can be a great contributor to the exaltation of human beings in future.

## Poll finds Clinton has widened lead ahead of Trump to 8 points

3 → The Post-ABC poll shows Clinton winning 92 percent support among self-identified Democrats. That compares with 86 percent support just before the Republican convention and is an indication that the Democratic convention helped consolidate supporters of Sen. Bernie Sanders (Vt.) behind her candidacy. Those Sanders Democrats favor Clinton by 86 percent to 5 percent over Trump, larger than the 79 percent to 10 percent in July.

In contrast, Trump is winning 83 percent of self-identified Republicans, nearly identical to the 82 percent support he had among Republicans before his convention in Cleveland. Among those who favored candidates other than Trump in the Republican primaries, Trump leads Clinton by 74 percent to 17 percent -- no improvement over the 76 percent to 12 percent before the convention.

Trump enjoyed about equal support among Republican men and Republican women heading into the conventions. In the new poll, his support among Republican men has increased, but his support among Republican women has declined marginally. Among self-identified independents, Trump edges Clinton by 46 percent to 42 percent. In 2012, exit polling showed Republican nominee Mitt Romney won independents by about the same margin while still losing the election to President Obama by four percentage points, as self-identified Democrats outnumbered Republicans.

Overall, Trump leads Clinton among whites by 52 percent to 40 percent. Romney led Obama among whites by 59 to 39. Among nonwhite voters, Clinton leads Trump by 57 percentage points (75 percent to 18 percent), which is only slightly smaller than the 61-point margin by which Obama led Romney among this group.

The survey highlights a potentially significant fault line within the electorate that could shape the outcome: the division based on education levels. Among whites without college degrees, Trump leads Clinton by 58 percent to 33 percent, while Clinton has a 50-to-44 edge among whites with college degrees.

Trump enjoys a roughly 40-point lead among white men without college degrees but only a high single-digit lead among college-educated white men. Among white women without college degrees, he leads by low double-digits but trails by nearly 20 points among college-educated white women. At this point, he is outperforming Romney among white men without college degrees but trailing Romney's performance with the other three groups.

(Source: The Washington Post)

## Jabhat al-Nusra's rebranding is more than a simple name change

7 → However, Abu Haniya believes the break with al-Qaeda was the result of a simple opportunity-and-threat analysis. "Al-Nusra felt it was losing popularity, and it affected their relations with other groups. Since the break, the rebel coalition was given new impetus with the Aleppo offensive." On July 31, rebel groups launched the "Great Battle" (Malahem) on Aleppo, which is still underway.

Nonetheless, severing ties with the global terrorist movement may also place the organization at a disadvantage. Dgheim underlines that in the past three months, several members of the group defected to join the Islamic State terrorist group. This phenomenon may indicate a wider dissatisfaction among Jabhat al-Nusra's hard-liners, specifically its foreign fighters. Abu Haniya, however, disagreed.

"The decision to break ties with al-Qaeda had the approval of foreign leaders within the organization. During the secession announcement, Golani surrounded himself with a Syrian national, Abu Abdullah al-Shami, and a foreign fighter, Ahmad Salama Mabruk, also known as Abu Faraj the Egyptian, which is highly symbolic and shows the prevalence of its foreign affiliation," Abu Haniya explained, adding that the number of defections to this date has been limited.

Regardless of the repercussion of its name change on the Syrian scene, Jabhat al-Nusra's decision to rebrand is a clear indicator of al-Qaeda's repositioning in the Levant. Jabhat Fatah al-Sham's new coalitions and its view of the Syrian political system and the peace process will reveal the extent of the organization's pragmatism and whether it is really willing to evolve. (Source: Al Monitor)



NEWS

**First series of Persian Leopard insurance claims paid**

**ENVIRONMENT** TEHRAN — The first series of Persian Leopard insurance claims were paid by Ma Insurance co. over a ceremony held in Bushehr province on Wednesday, the website of Iran Environment and Wildlife Watch reported.

The Department of Environment, the National Environment Fund, and the Ma Insurance Co. first signed a memorandum of understanding on March 16, 2016, aiming to coordinate measures to save the endangered Persian Leopard. The insurance aims at compensating for the losses inflicted upon human beings, livestock, and the leopards themselves.



In general, some 125 million rials (nearly \$3,500) was paid to make up for the losses caused by the leopard to the livestock in addition to 1.2 billion rials (nearly \$35,000) to compensate for the loss of two leopards killed in the current year starting from March 20, 2016.

The 1.2 billion rials will be spent on improving the Persian Leopard conservation and eliminating the threats to this species.

Owing to the insurance scheme within the first 130 days of the current Iranian calendar year, starting March 21, 3 Persian leopards died due to various reasons while some 13 died last year over the same period.

**Fire extinguished after burning 60 hectares of land**

**ENVIRONMENT** TEHRAN — Firefighters succeeded in putting out the fire raging Rasvand Mountains in the central province of Markazi, after 8 hours, Shazand natural resources and watersheds director has said.



The fire broke out at 7 p.m. on Friday and a group of firefighters were dispatched to the scene immediately but due to the extent of the fire it took until Saturday small hours to extinguish it, Mostafa Mohammadi said, Mehr news agency reported on Saturday.

Mohammadi went on to say that in addition to the forces dispatched to the area people also helped in controlling the fire.

Certainly, human error was the main cause of the fire, he regretted, adding, more than 60 hectares of the area is burnt.

**Rio Olympics opening ceremony reminds world that climate change is very real**

The Opening Ceremony at the Rio 2016 Olympics Games may have opened up with a dance party, but it was a video on climate change watched by roughly 3.3 billion that made people stop what they were doing and focus on human-made pollution. "The heat is melting the ice cap," a narrator said. "It's disappearing very quickly."

The video segment highlighted global carbon pollution, with projections of melting ice caps and rising sea levels in places like Amsterdam, Dubai, Florida, Shanghai, Lagos, and Rio de Janeiro.

The ceremony also featured a spiral animation comparing average surface temperatures increasing during pre-industrial times, Mashable reported. And Olympics rings were formed with sprouting seed boxes during the ceremony, with athletes given tree seeds and soil cartridges that will be planted in a Rio park. It's expected that 11,000 new trees will sprout, representing the number of athletes at this year's Games.

The focus on climate change at the Rio Olympics is timely given that 2016 may beat out last year for the warmest year on record. Already, there is evidence of devastating effects to the planet like coral bleaching in the Great Barrier Reef and a rise in temperature in Greenland, a country where if all its ice melted, could raise sea levels by 20 feet.

Climate change has already had real effects in Brazil, home to 60 percent of the Amazon rainforest. About 240,000 acres were cleared in June as a result of deforestation, the environmental news site Mongabay reported, with fears of catastrophic forest fires thanks to the dry season. Some people who take climate change seriously appreciated the lecture, noting that climate change is a topic that most people in the world understand and believe is a real thing. According to Pew Research Center's FactTank, majorities in 40 nations believe climate change is a serious problem.

(Source: Think Progress)

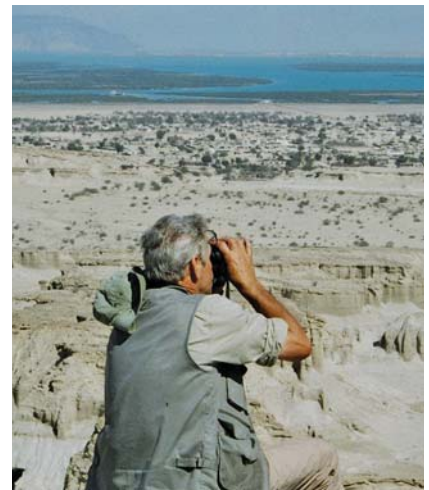
**On the wings of Caucasian Black Grouse in Iran**

→1

The Tehran Times had an interview with Dr. Derek Scott as an honorable and great ornithologist who did his best in Iran. Dr. Scott was born in England in 1944. After completing his Ph.D. on the breeding biology of the Storm Petrel *Hydrobatas pelagicus* at the Edward Grey Institute in Oxford in 1970, he worked for almost six years at the Department of Environment in Iran, as head of the Department's Ornithology Unit. Since then, he has worked as a consultant ornithologist and wetland specialist for international conservation bodies such as Wetlands International, BirdLife International, WWF and IUCN, as well as for the Ramsar Convention Bureau, World Bank, UNDP, FAO and various national agencies.

Below is the text of the interview:  
**■ Why did your investigations gear toward birds of Iran?**

A: I first developed an interest in the bird fauna of the Middle East during two vacations from university in 1964. In 1965, I spent nine days in northern Iran on my way overland to India. I was greatly impressed with the beauty of the country and decided that I must return one day. Quite by chance, in the final year of my PhD in Ornithology at Oxford University, I was sharing an apartment with Dr. Lindon Cornwallis who had spent several years working as a lecturer at the University of Shiraz in Iran. In early 1970, the Iran Game & Fish Department contacted him and asked him if he knew of anyone who might be interested in working as advisor in ornithologist at the



Derek on Qeshm Island, January 2004

Department's Division of Research and Development. Lindon asked me, I said yes, and on October 1, 1970, soon after finishing my PhD, I flew out to Tehran to start work at the Department. Initially my colleagues and I in the Ornithology Unit concentrated on waterfowl and game-birds, but by 1972, our activities had been broadened to include general avifaunal surveys throughout the country.

**■ What was the brightest spot of avifaunal surveys in Iran?**

A: One of the highlights for me was my first visit to the mountain forests of northern Azarbaijan in November 1971, when we finally confirmed the presence of Caucasian Black Grouse in Iran. Other wonderful experiences included several trips to remote regions of Persian Baluchistan, a voyage by dhow to investigate the sea-birds breeding on islands in the southern Persian Gulf and our annual excursions to Lake Urumiyeh to ring Greater Flamingo and Great White Pelican chicks.

**■ Is it true that the priority of Department of Environment was devoted to species of interest to the sport hunter?**

A: Back in the 1950s and 1960s, there were rather few naturalists who loved wildlife for its own sake and were concerned about its



Derek (R) and Bijan Darehshoori (L) in Qeshm Island in January 2004

**One of the highlights for me was my first visit to the mountain forests of northern Azarbaijan in November 1971, when we finally confirmed the presence of Caucasian Black Grouse in Iran.**

welfare, even in Western Europe and North America. However, there were large numbers of sport hunters. Many of these hunters realized that the populations of game animals and waterfowl were decreasing rapidly, partly in response to uncontrolled hunting but mainly because of the rapid degradation and destruction of natural habitats. It was largely thanks to these concerned hunters in Iran, as in North America, that the first steps were taken to conserve wildlife populations and their habitats. It was the interests of influential sport hunters that led to the establishment of the Iran Game & Fish Department in the 1960s and paved the way for the creation of the Department of the Environment in 1972.

**■ Which ecosystems brought remarkable and rare information to light?**

A: Apart from the pioneering work of Zarudny in eastern Iran in the late 19th century, almost all of the ornithological investigations carried out in Iran prior to my arrival in 1970 had been in the Tehran area, Alborz Mountains, south Caspian region, Azarbaijan and central Fars. Surveys in just about any other part of the country came up with new discoveries. In my first winter in Iran, we carried out the first ever mid-winter water bird counts in the wetlands of Khuzestan and made some remarkable finds, notably a concentration of some 20,000 Marled Teal – a globally threatened species. The Department had its own light aircraft and with this we were able to carry out comprehensive aerial surveys of the vast wetland ecosystems of the Urumiyeh basin, Khuzestan, central Fars and the Sistan basin, as well as the entire south coast of Iran from the Iraq border to the Pakistan border.

These aerial surveys produced some staggering counts of wintering water birds – far higher than would ever have been possible from ground surveys. Our surveys of the vast rolling uplands of southern Azarbaijan, Kurdistan, Kermanshah and Hamadan in western Iran confirmed the existence of a healthy population of Great Bustards, while our surveys of desert ecosystems in Iran's central plateau

added greatly to our knowledge of the status and distribution of the Houbara Bustard and Iran's one and only endemic bird species, Plebe's Ground Jay. Of all Iran's ecosystems, the one that had been neglected the most was perhaps the mangrove ecosystem along the southern coast of the Persian Gulf and Persian Baluchistan. We carried out a number of surveys of this habitat from the air, from the ground and by boat and made a number of exciting finds, including the discovery of a small breeding population of Goliath Herons.

**■ Please tell me about the number of your personal records and also about material and methods of observation at that time.**

A: During my five and a half years with the Department of the Environment, I managed to see a total of 475 species of birds in Iran, out of the grand total of about 500 species ever recorded at that time. I kept a detailed record of all my observations which in total number over 65,000. Much of our fieldwork in winter involved undertaking water bird counts, especially during the month of January. This was simply a matter of counting all the water birds present at each wetland visited, but because of the vast size of many of the wetlands and often limited access, this was not always easy. We invariably travelled around in small teams and used nothing more sophisticated than binoculars and telescopes.

These surveys often took us to very remote, poorly known regions and usually involved camping. Because of the huge size of the country, the surveys were of necessity very rapid and we seldom had time to do more than record which species were present and whether or not they were likely to be breeding. Very occasionally we used nets to trap birds to confirm their identity. We took some photographs, but unfortunately the wonders of digital photography were not available to us at that time.

**■ What are some of your published and non-published documents?**

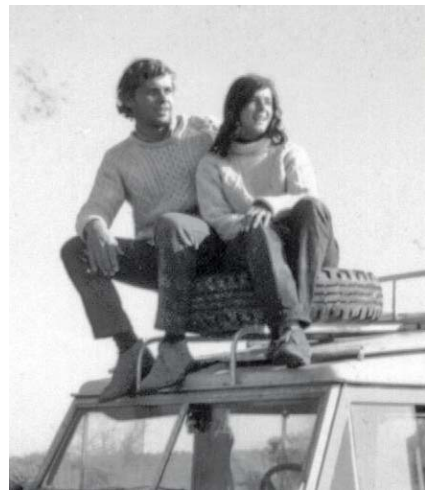
A: It was a requirement of all personnel in

the Division of Research and Development in the Department of the Environment that they produce a 'Project Completion Report' after each field trip and before they could get travel authorization for their next trip. Thus during my time at the Department, I produced about 40 reports ranging in length from a few pages to over 50. However, at that time we seldom published anything in the international scientific literature.

The only papers that I wrote for international journals in the 1970s were on the status of the Greater Flamingo in Iran, the discovery of the Caucasian Black Grouse in Iran, and pheasant conservation in Iran.

It was not until early 1992 that I was able to return to Iran on a Ramsar Monitoring Procedure Mission and to get back into the field with some of my old colleagues from the 1970s. Soon after, I began work on an inventory of important wetlands in the Middle East for IUCN, IWRB, WWF and BirdLife International. The final report of this project, A Directory of Wetlands in the Middle East, was published in 1995 and includes a lengthy chapter on the wetlands of Iran.

In June 1997, I was able to return to Iran again, this time as an advisor to a BBC Natural History Film Unit making a film of the wildlife of Iran, and then in 1998 and 2001, I led two very enjoyable bird-watching tours to Iran for Birdquest Ltd., a bird tour company based in the U.K. By now my interest in the birds of Iran had been reignited, and as I had some time on my hands, I began to consider writing up and publishing more of my data from



Derek and Joanna in Azarbaijan, November 1971

the 1970s. Thus, in the last few years I have published several papers on the birds of Iran.

At present I am working on a paper on bird migration seasons in Iran in the 1970s, as this could provide valuable baseline material in any future assessment of how bird migration in Iran might be changing in response to climate change.

**■ What was the most memorable experience in your journey to Iran?**

A: This is a difficult one! I can say without hesitation that my five and a half years in Iran were amongst the most enjoyable years of my life, full of wonderful journeys and remarkable experiences. If I have to choose, I suppose it must be travelling with my wife Joanna on horseback through the Kalbar Mountains in Azarbaijan and seeing Caucasian Black Grouse, Brown Bears and Wolves for the first time, against a backdrop of the snow-covered peaks of the Caucasus Mountains. This was also our honeymoon – Joanna and I were married at the British Embassy in Tehran only two days before we set out for Azarbaijan.

(Dear readers for the complete version of the interview you can refer to the Tehran Times website.)

**IN FOCUS** @iew.ir / Hossein Khademi



Four red deer born in the Semes Kandeh captive breeding facilities were transferred to central Alborz protected area by helicopter on Thursday and returned to the wild.





# Winning the second Olympic gold is my biggest dream, says Sourian

**SPORTS** Iranian wrestler Hamid Sourian has **d e s k** set his eyes on a second Olympic gold medal.

The 30-year-old, who clinched the gold medal in the men's 55-kilogram Greco-Roman competitions at the London 2012 Summer Olympics, revealed that winning the second Olympic gold is his biggest wish before putting an end to his glamorous career.

"In the last 10 months I've been under real pressure doing very tough trainings in order to reach my top form at the 2016 Rio Olympics. Winning the second Olympic gold is my biggest dream and I've done anything to get it," Sourian said.

Sourian, who is also a six-time world champion, impressed the audience at the 2nd Olympic Games (OG) World Qualifying Tournament in Turkey's largest city of Istanbul on May 6, and won a ticket for the Rio Olympics.

"I believe competing at the Olympics is an honor for every sportsman and I'm glad I've already earned it. This is going to be my last Olympic and according to what I've done so far at the trainings I believe this tournament has something for me," he added.

"I hope to win 2016 Rio Olympics gold medal with the support of the Iranian fans," Sourian, who will turn 31 just days after Rio Olympics, said.

Wrestling at the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro is scheduled to take place from 14 to 21 August at Hall 3 of the Olympic Training Center in Barra da Tijuca.



## Eftekhari appointed Esteghlal acting president

**SPORTS** TEHRAN — Seyyed Reza Eftekhari has **d e s k** been appointed as acting president of Esteghlal football club.

Eftekhari, who currently is also head of Iran's futsal committee, replaced Bahram Afsharzadeh in Esteghlal.

Afsharzadeh was appointed as Esteghlal's acting president in May 2014 but was forced to leave his post because

he works two jobs.

Iran's Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports appointed Reza Hassanihoush as Esteghlal acting president but he retired from the new role just after two days.

It's a chaotic season for Esteghlal since the team has lost two times in three games.

Esteghlal is 15th in the Iran Professional League.

## Iran wins IFCPF World Championship Qualification Tournament

Iran defeated Scotland 4-0 in Vejle, Denmark on Saturday to win the IFCPF World Championship Qualification Tournament.

Jasem Bakshi gave Persians a lead in the 19th minute. Returning for the second half, Iran seemed to take control from the start working to increase its lead with an early goal from Mehdi Jamali.

The score remained 2-0 for the majority of the second half right up until the 58th minute where Jasem

Bakshi took his second goal of the game.

Substitute Ehsan Masoumzadeh sealed the gold medal for Iran with a goal in the 60th minute.

Venezuela won the bronze medal after defeating Portugal 2-1.

Iran booked a place at the 2017 International Federation for Cerebral Palsy Football (IFCPF) World Championships.

(Source: Tasnim)



## Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang: I will definitely stay at Borussia Dortmund

Borussia Dortmund striker Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang has reiterated his desire to stay at the club.

Aubameyang told a news conference: "I will definitely stay with BVB, and I won't answer this question again."

Last month, the Gabon international told Sport Bild he wanted to remain at Borussia Dortmund "for a long time" and believes they can beat Bayern Munich to the Bundesliga title this season.

Aubameyang, who scored 39 goals in all competitions last season, was linked with a move to Manchester City and also hit out at journalists over reports that he could join Real Madrid.

The 27-year-old said he was excited about the chance of winning silverware alongside BVB summer signings Mario Gotze and Andre Schurrle.

"I'm not done here yet," Aubameyang, who is under contract until 2020, added. "I want to stay with BVB for a long time."

"I still want to achieve a lot with Dortmund, and I'm not interested in



changing clubs.

"I want to win titles with Gotze and Schurrle this season. At least one trophy must be the aim."

Dortmund were runners-up to Bayern in the Bundesliga and DFB Pokal last season, and Aubameyang stressed that they were capable of finishing ahead of their rivals.

"We have the potential to beat FC Bayern this season and want to cause them problems this season," he said.

(Source: ESPN)

## Paul Pogba set for Manchester United medical

Manchester United are on the brink of signing Paul Pogba from Juventus in the world's first £100m transfer deal.

The 23-year-old will have a medical in the next few days ahead of what is set to be a world record transfer. Pogba, who left United for £1.5m in 2012, is set to return for a fee that surpasses Gareth Bale's £85m move to Real Madrid in 2013. Personal terms are still to be agreed with the French midfielder, although they are expected to be a formality. United boss Jose Mourinho said on Friday he wanted the deal done by the time his side play their opening Premier League game at Bournemouth on 14 August.

In four seasons in Turin Pogba, who helped France reach the Euro 2016 final, won four league titles. He is Jose Mourinho's fourth signing at United, after Eric Bailly, Zlatan Ibrahimovic and Henrikh Mkhitaryan. It is the first time in 20 years an English club has paid a world-record fee. Newcastle United were the last to do so when they spent £15m signing striker Alan Shearer from Blackburn Rovers.

Pogba joined United from French club



Le Havre in 2009 as a 16-year-old, but made just a handful of appearances before his contract expired in July 2012.

Sir Alex Ferguson, the Red Devils' manager at the time, said: "I don't think he showed us any respect at all so, to be honest, I'm quite happy [he is leaving]."

Pogba made 178 appearances for Juventus, scoring 34 goals, and helped the club reach the 2015 Champions League final. The Serie A side had offered him a new contract, while Real Madrid were also interested in signing him.

(Source: BBC)



## Swimming: Golden start for Australia on day of records

Hungary's Katinka Hosszu ended her long wait for Olympic victory and Australia captured two gold medals in an exhilarating first day of swimming competition that saw three world records smashed in Rio on Saturday.

Hosszu, five times a world champion but without a medal from three previous Olympics, demolished the world record by 2.07 seconds in the final of the women's 400 meters individual medley.

Australia's women retained their Olympic title by winning the 4x100m freestyle relay in world record time, with sisters Bronte and Cate Campbell swimming the last two stages to overhaul the United States, despite the efforts of Katie Ledecky on the anchor leg.

Mack Horton's victory in the men's 400 freestyle also meant Australia had already doubled their gold medal tally from a disappointing showing four years ago.

The day's record spree began with Britain's Adam Peaty, who broke his own world mark of 57.92 in the heats of the 100 breaststroke when he clocked 57.55.

Tipped to become the first British man to win an Olympic gold since 1988, he then swam 57.62 in the semi-finals.

FIRST HONORS TO JAPAN

In the first of four evening finals, Japan's Kosuke Hagino won the men's 400m individual medley, the grueling discipline that combines butterfly, backstroke, breaststroke and freestyle.

Hagino, the bronze medalist in 2012, won with a time of four minutes, 6.05 seconds to end a U.S. stranglehold on the event dating back to 1996.

Chase Kalisz of the United States, who had been fastest in the heats, finished second and Japan's Daiya Seto took the bronze.

In the men's 400 freestyle, Australia's Horton edged out defending champion Sun Yang of China and Italy's Gabriele Detti, pulling ahead in the final quarter after shadowing Britain's James Guy and Conor Dwyer of the U.S. for much of the race.

Hosszu then grabbed the spotlight with a stunning victory in the 400 individual medley.

Having suffered a nightmare Olympics in London, where she started as a hot medal prospect but came away empty-handed, she led from start to finish and stormed down the final length with the crowd roaring her on to the record.

"It's just crazy that I've been able to swim two seconds faster than anyone ever, ever did. It's just crazy," said the Hungarian, who will also contest the 200 IM, 200 butterfly and 100 and 200 backstroke.

In the women's relay, the Australians led off with Emma McKeon while Brittany Elmslie swam the second leg before Bronte Campbell overhauled the Americans and handed over to sister Cate, who touched in three minutes, 30.65 seconds, beating the previous world record of 3:30.98 they set in Glasgow in 2014.

"Definitely my favorite race ever," said Cate Campbell. "In an Olympic final with my sister and two girls I have known since I was 12, 13 years old - and a gold and a world record."

(Source: Reuters)

## Venus Williams crashes out in first round of 2016 Rio Olympics

Former World No. 1 Venus Williams fought a tough first round battle against Belgium's Kirsten Flipkens. After three tight sets, the American fell hard, 4-6, 6-3, 7-6.

Williams - a seven-time Grand Slam champion who was seeded fifth - was neck-and-neck with the unseeded Flipkens in the first set, but managed to overcome her opponent. She then surrendered the second set in a fairly decisive fashion. In the third set, Williams seemed to take control with a 4-1 lead, but experienced difficulty closing out the match. Flipkens soon tied up the score.

Finally, the two players swung it out in a tense third set tiebreak. The Belgian quickly established a lead and emerged the victor, 4-6, 6-3, 7-6.

She fell to the ground in disbelief. The Belgian had missed out on the London 2012 Games due to blood clots in her leg.

It's a huge loss for Williams, who showed promising signs earlier this year by making it to the fourth round of the French Open and the semifinals of Wimbledon. At 36, the Rio Olympics are likely her last Games.

Still, Venus isn't totally finished with the tournament - not yet. Tomorrow, she'll compete alongside her sister, current World No. 1 singles player Serena Williams, in doubles. The siblings are seeded first in the division, having won the category at this year's Wimbledon Championships.

(Source: NBC)



@djokernole Just wanted to thank you all for sharing #Olympic values with all of us here



@fcbayern Looking forward to the new season! ;-) #FCBayern #MiaSanMia



@ronaldolima Welcome @rafaelnadal! #rio2016 #rioolympics2016





### Poem of the day

At a period when our time was pleasant  
The Hejret was six hundred and fifty-six.  
Our intention was advice and we gave it.  
We recommended thee to God and departed.

Sadi

### Prayer Times

Noon:13:10 Evening: 20:21 Dawn: 4:45 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:19 (tomorrow)

■ Managing Director: Ali Asgari  
■ Editor-in-Chief: Hassan Lasjerdi  
■ Editorial Dept.: Fax: (+98(21) 88808214 editor@tehrantimes.com  
■ Switchboard Operator: Tel: (+98 21) 43051000  
■ Advertisements Dept.: Tel: (+98 21) 43051450 ads@tehrantimes.com  
■ Public Relations Office: Tel: (+98 21) 88805807  
■ Subscription & Distribution Dept.: Tel: (+98 21) 43051603  
■ www.eshtarak.ir Distributor: Padideh Novin Co. Tel: 88911433  
■ Webmaster: webmaster@tehrantimes.com  
■ Printed at: Kayhan - ISSN: 1017-94

## NEWS

### Tehran exhibit chronicles 70 years of cooperation between UN, Iran

**T A R T TEHRAN** — An exhibition of historic desk photos and documents illustrating 70 years of cooperation between the United Nations and Iran opened in the Iranian Artists Forum on Sunday.

The photos have been carefully selected by the UN Information Center in Tehran and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in collaboration with the Islamic Republic of Iran News Agency (IRNA).

The Head of the Iranian Delegation signing the UN Charter on July 26, 1945, visits of 7 UN Secretaries-General to Iran, and documents and photos related to the negotiations over Security Council Resolution 598, which was approved by Iran, are among the highlights of the exhibit, the UN Information center has announced on its website.

The United Nations Information Center Director Maria Dotsenko, Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi, and a number of ambassadors and political figures attended the opening ceremony.

The exhibit will be running until August 13 at the forum located on Musavi St., Taleqani Ave.

## NEWS IN BRIEF



### "Sadi" opera puppet show to go on stage at Mobarak festival

**T A R T TEHRAN** — Iranian director Behzad Gharibpur is preparing his puppet theater group Aran to stage his latest opera puppet show on Persian poet Sadi at the 16th Mobarak International Puppet Theater Festival, which will be held in Tehran from August 22 to 28.

The prominent Iranian vocalist Mohammad Motamedi will loan his voice to the Sadi character in the opera puppet show.

Gharibpur has previously staged opera puppet shows on Hafez, Rumi and Khayyam in Iran and at a number of international events.



### "Fifteen Dogs" appears in Iranian bookstores

**CULTURE TEHRAN** — The 2015 bestseller novel "Fifteen Dogs" by Canadian writer André Alexis has recently been released in Persian by Mahabeh Publications in Tehran.

An apologue, the novel is about a group of fifteen dogs kenneled at a veterinary clinic in Toronto.

The story reaches its climax when they are suddenly gifted by the gods with human consciousness and language.

Rendered into Persian by Najmeh Borumandi, the novel was originally published by Coach House Books in 2015. It won the Scotiabank Giller Prize and the Rogers Writers' Trust Fiction Prize.

### Prince Estate Administrator denies plan to sell paisley park

**MINNEAPOLIS (AP)** — The administrator of Prince's estate says it is not planning to sell Paisley Park, one day after asking a judge for permission to offer several Prince properties for sale.

A court filing on Friday had included Paisley Park, Prince's home and recording complex, among a list of properties that could be sold.

But on Saturday, Bremer Trust issued a brief statement saying: "Bremer Trust, the special administrator for the Prince Rogers Nelson estate, has no plans to sell either Paisley Park or the property referred to as the "Purple Rain" house." That Minneapolis house was filmed in Prince's 1984 movie.

Court papers filed by Bremer has asked a judge for permission to offer for sale nearly 20 properties owned by Prince worth an estimated \$28 million.

# Cineastes honored at Tehran gathering

**T A R T TEHRAN** — Prominent cineastes Dariush Mehrjui, Kianush Ayyari, Reza Mirkarimi, Farhad Aslani and Shahab Hosseini were honored during a ceremony held on Saturday at Khaneh Hamayesh, a convention center in northern Tehran.

The ceremony was arranged on the side section of launching Iran's Art Fans Club, a center that aims to promote artistic activities in across the country, Persian media reported on Sunday.

Director of Golestan Art Gallery Leili Golestan, filmmaker Khosrow Sinai, scholar and poet Shams Langerudi, stage director Behruz Gharibpur and musician Fereyduh Shahbazian, who are cooperating with the club as the advisors, were also honored at the ceremony.

The advisors expressed their happiness over the establishment of the club and hoped the club helps remove some of the obstacles in other cities and boosts artistic activities nationwide.

All the participants were delighted over the establishment of the club and elaborated the reasons behind their cooperation.

Sinai, who was first on stage to be honored, asked parents to encourage children to go after art. "Many families are afraid if their children follow art, but I am telling them not to be afraid, because if they go after art, they will experience a new perspective in life."

When filmmaker Ayyari was called on stage, Siani called him a filmmaker who has preserved the sanctity of cinema and has beautifully portrayed what the society needs in his films.

Filmmaker Rakhshan Bani-Etemad also regarded Ayyari as her main teacher in cinema.

Shahab Hosseini, who won Palme d'Or for best actor at the 69th Cannes Film Festival for his role in "The Salesman" (Asghar Farhadi), was next on stage, saying, "I



Left to right, stage director Behruz Gharibpur and filmmakers Kianush Ayyari, Reza Mirkarimi, and Khosro Sinai attend a ceremony that Iran's Art Fans Club organized on August 6, 2016 in Tehran to honor a number of cineaste. (Mehr/Mohammad Mohsenifar)

used to believe an international award would bring luck for the winner, but it seemed to be a bad omen for me.

"After all these sad (showers) things I have confronted all these days, tonight a breeze of kindness has blown over me, making me fresh and pushing me to try for the elevation of Iranian citizens in every part of the world,"

said Hosseini in his speech.

Mirkarimi for his part expressed his gratitude to the organizers of the event, and Aslani was honored next.

Mehrjui was the last who was honored and hoped that talented artists in other cities would get the chance to grow.

### Iranian director to stage "I Shall Not Hate" in Cologne

**T A R T TEHRAN** — The Germany-based Iranian director Alireza Kushk-Jalali is slated to stage "I Shall Not Hate" at Theater Tiefert in Cologne from September 2 to 10, Kushk-Jalali told the Persian service of Honaranline on Saturday.

The play is based on the memoirs of the Canadian-Palestinian medical doctor and author Izzeldin Abuelaish, and has been adapted for stage by Silvia Armbruster from Germany and Ernst Konarek from Austria.

"I Shall Not Hate" unfolds his extraordinary life as a Harvard-educated physician who was born and raised in a refugee camp in the Gaza Strip and has devoted

his life to medicine and peace in his native land.

Michael Morgenstern will be the sole cast of the monolog, which in part reads: "January 16, 2009 at 16:45, Israeli tank fired shells into the bedroom of my daughters. Bessan, Aya and Mayar died instantly, and with them their cousin Noor. Because the Israeli military had forbidden journalists' access to Gaza..."

Kushk-Jalali has recently completed translating Lebanese-Canadian playwright Wajdi Mouawad's "Incendies" into Persian.

Also known as "Scorched", the 2003 play follows the journey of twins Jeanne and Simon who attempt to unravel the mystery of their mother's life.



Stage director and writer Alireza Kushk-Jalali in an undated photo

### PICTURE OF THE DAY



Mahlaqa Baqeri acts in a scene from "Rooster Crows" based on a work by Persian poet Nima Yushij at Tehran's Iranshahr Theater Complex on August 6, 2016. The play, which is being directed by Shahram Karami, will run until August 26.

### "The Blue-Veiled" coming to Iranian Artists Forum

**T A R T TEHRAN** — Prominent Iranian filmmaker Rakhshan Bani-Etemad's 1995 acclaimed drama "The Blue-Veiled" will be screened at the Cinematheque of the Iranian Artists Forum (IAF) at 5:30 p.m. today.

The screening will be followed by a review session, which will be attended by members of the cast and crew of the film.

"The Blue-Veiled" starring Fatemeh Motamed-Arya and Ezzatollah Entezami is about Rasul, an elderly owner of a tomato farm and sauce factory who falls in love with one of the poor workers of the factory after his wife's death.

But with differences in class and age worrying his tradition-bound family, Rasul might not be able to pursue his newfound love.

Winner of the Bronze Leopard of Locarno International Film Festival in 1995, "The Blue-Veiled" is the 13th most popular film in the history of Iranian cinema after the Islamic revolution.

### "Scary" Lucille Ball statue replaced in her New York hometown

**NEW YORK (Reuters)** — Lucille Ball fans can rest easy.

A new statue honoring the "I Love Lucy" star was unveiled on Saturday in Celoron, New York, on what would have been Ball's 105th birthday, after residents of her hometown made it clear they did not "love" an unflattering previous version.

The life-size bronze artwork was created by the well-known sculptor

Carolyn Palmer, whose proposal was selected from more than 60 submitted by artists around the world.

The statue at Lucille Ball Memorial Park will replace another that was installed seven years ago. Critics panned the sculpture, saying it looked nothing like the iconic redhead, and it eventually became known as "Scary Lucy."

Palmer spent nine months working

on the project, including watching countless episodes of "I Love Lucy" and hiring models to pose in 1950s-style dresses.

"I not only wanted to portray the playful, animated and spontaneous Lucy, but also the glamorous Hollywood icon," Palmer said in a statement.

Palmer has sculpted a number of other famous figures. Her marble statue of Pope Francis stands at the papal

residence in New York City, where the pope blessed it during his visit last year.

A bronze version of that statue is being produced for St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York.

"I Love Lucy" aired in the 1950s and is considered one of the greatest television comedies ever. Ball played the wife of bandleader Ricky Ricardo, who was portrayed by her real-life husband, Desi Arnaz.