

# TEHRAN TIMES



Iran's arms shipments to Lebanon awaiting Lebanon's thumb-up

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## FDI in Iran tops \$5b post sanctions

**ECONOMY** Iran has attracted \$5.168 billion in foreign direct investment (FDI) after the implementation of the nuclear deal in January, government spokesman Mohammad-Baqer Nobakht said on Monday.

He said 28 projects attracted \$2.873 billion in the last quarter of the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19) and 38 projects attracted \$2.295 billion since the beginning of the current calendar year, IRIB reported.

According to Nobakht, the mentioned projects have been mainly in the areas of transportation, renewable energies, tourism, recycling industries, electronics, machineries, and foodstuff.

That was while the country attracted just \$920 million in FDI for 41 projects in the Iranian calendar year 1393 (March 2014-March 2015), when the sanctions were still in place, Nobakht highlighted, adding that FDI amounted to \$6.711 billion for 63 projects in the previous Iranian calendar year.

Major international companies are rushing to establish a position in Iran as the Islamic Republic re-opens for business after the lifting of international sanctions.

Up for grabs is access to a market with 80 million people and annual output of some \$400 billion, making Iran the biggest economy to rejoin the global trading system.

## Rouhani, Putin, and Aliyev push for regional integration

Rouhani proposes the next trilateral summit be held in Iran

**POLITICAL** TEHRAN — The presidents of Iran, Russia and Azerbaijan held key talks in Baku on Monday. The talks between the three leaders promised a

new chapter for regional cooperation and integration.

Addressing the summit, President Hassan

Rouhani of Iran said the importance of such meetings lies in the joint challenges the countries of Iran, Russian, and Azerbaijan are facing as well as the opportunities they have at their disposal.

See page 9



President Hassan Rouhani (L), President Vladimir Putin (R), and President Ilham Aliyev held tripartite meeting in Baku on Monday.

## Adaptation of "Like Water for Chocolate" on stage at Tehran theater

**ART** TEHRAN — An adaptation of "Like Water for Chocolate", a popular novel by Mexican writer Laura Esquivel published in 1989 is on stage at Tehran's Iranshahr Theater Complex.



Members of director/writer Ebrahim Poshtekuhi's troupe act in a scene from "Like Water for Chocolate" on August 7, 2016. (ILNA/Sahar Zamani)

Ebrahim Poshtekuhi is the writer and director of the play starring Roya Nonahali and Masumeh Qabeigi, the theater announced in a press release.

The novel follows the story of a young girl named Tita who longs her entire life to marry her lover, Pedro, but can never have him because of her mother's upholding of the family tradition of the youngest daughter not marrying but taking care of her mother until the day she dies. Tita is only able to express herself when she cooks.

The play is highlighted with fusion of Mexican music and Bandari music, which is played in southern Iranian cities, and has been composed by Behranh Abbaspur. Poshtekuhi and Musa Bandari also perform songs during the play.

Poshtekuhi directed the play during the Fajr International Theater Festival in Tehran in 2013. Plans are for his troupe to perform "Like Water for Chocolate" in the southern Iranian city of Bandar Abbas during September.

## Zarif says Tehran-Baku ties have expanded after JCPOA

**POLITICAL** TEHRAN — Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has said that relations between Iran and Azerbaijan started growing both during the nuclear talks and after the conclusion of the nuclear pact, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

In an interview with Trend news agency published on Monday, Zarif said compared to the other neighboring countries, the pace of Iran's

growing relationship with Azerbaijan and Russia is notable.

"Under the sanctions, Iran's relations with neighbors were affected less than with others. However, with the onset of the nuclear talks, Iran's neighbors also took a more active approach toward Iran," he said.

Zarif also praised Azerbaijan and Russia's positive approach towards the nuclear deal.

Thanks to the JCPOA, the three countries can now enjoy expansion of cooperation, while under the sanctions there were many problems for Iran, especially cooperation in energy and transit sectors, the foreign minister remarked.

Foreign Minister Zarif was in Baku, accompanying President Hassan Rouhani who took a trip to Azerbaijan to participate in a trilateral summit with Russian and Azeri presidents.

## That limits on Iran's nuclear program will be eased after 10 years is a technical document: expert

**INTERVIEW**  
By Javad Heirannia

TEHRAN — Executive director of the U.S. Arms Control Association says the report by the Associated Press that restrictions on Iran's nuclear program will be lifted before the 15-year nuclear accord expires is a "technical document" which should surprise nobody.

"AP report is a technical document that is no surprise to either side," Daryl Kimball tells the Tehran Times.

However Kimball defends the report by the UN chief that Iran's missile tests were not consistent with the "spirit" of the July 2015 nuclear



ar deal, saying, "Iran's leaders should consider ways to reduce concerns about the purpose of their missile programs."

The UN Resolution 2231 that endorsed the nuclear deal between Iran and great power calls upon Iran not to test missiles capable of carrying nuclear warheads.

"Iran is called upon not to undertake any activity related to ballistic missiles designed to be capable of delivering nuclear weapons," part of the resolution states.

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

In a tweet posted on March 15, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said, "Neither JCPOA nor SC Res prohibit Iran from missiles not designed for nuke warheads. Read the document: It's plain English not legalese." →2

## S. Korea opens center to support trade, investment in Iran

South Korea opened a business center on Monday to help local firms expand trade and investment in Iran as part of its efforts to tap deeper into the Middle East country following the lifting of international sanctions, the trade ministry said.

Located in southern Seoul, the center will provide information and consulting services on trade and investment with Iran, backed by related government agencies including the Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency (KOTRA),

state-run Woori Bank and the Industrial Bank of Korea, according to the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy.

"The center will help our companies overcome difficulties in doing business with the Middle East country," the trade ministry said in a release. "It will contribute to invigorating the business relationship between South Korea and Iran."

Since Washington and Tehran concluded a landmark nuclear agreement last year, the United

States and the European Union have removed economic sanctions that were imposed on Iran over the past decade, opening up a new market with a population of 80 million.

Iran's re-entry into the global economy is regarded as a boon for the South Korean economy as the oil-rich country is working on infrastructure business and development projects.

South Korea is also seeking business opportunities in Iran, with

President Park Geun-hye visiting Tehran in May to hold a summit with her Iranian counterpart.

Following the Seoul-Tehran summit, South Korea resumed direct flight and maritime routes between the two countries to meet growing demand for bilateral trips.

Industry data showed that the trade volume between Korea and Iran stood at \$6.1 billion in 2015, down sharply from \$17.4 billion in 2011 due to the sanctions.

(Source: Yonhap)

## Suicide bomber kills at least 63 at Pakistan hospital

A suicide bomber in Pakistan killed at least 63 people and wounded dozens more in an attack on mourners gathered at a hospital in Quetta, according to officials in the violence-plagued southwestern province of Baluchistan.

The bomber struck as more than 100 mourners, mostly lawyers and journalists, crowded into the emergency department to accompany the body of a prominent lawyer who had been shot and killed in the city earlier in the day, Faridullah, a journalist who was among the wounded, told Reuters.

Abdul Rehman Miankhel, a senior official at the government-run Civil Hospital, where the explosion occurred, told reporters that at least 63 people had been killed, with more than 50 wounded, as the casualty toll spiked from initial estimates.

"There are many wounded, so the death toll could rise," said Rehmat Saleh Baloch, the provincial health minister.

Television footage showed scenes of chaos, with panicked people fleeing through debris as smoke filled the hospital corridors.

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**ARTICLE**  
Chris Cook  
University professor

By Mahmood Khaghani  
Oil expert

## The era of new energy diplomacy paradigm

The political framework for what can best be described as Eurasian Energy Cooperation is set to be formally recognised in the coming days.

The recent failed coup in Turkey has – temporarily at least – opened the way for a realignment of Caspian and Eurasian regional geopolitics by destroying a long standing U.S. geopolitical initiative to re-draw the regional map in favour of what has been the status quo for since man discovered oil, namely resource theft, and create a route to extract Caspian hydrocarbons for the profit of U.S. corporations.

President Putin continues to take the lead in Eurasia diplomatically, holding meetings with regional Heads of State, which include Iran and the Republic of Azerbaijan on 8th August, Turkey on the 9th August and Armenia on 10th August. President Putin's aim is for Iran to join a Eurasian Economic Union (EEU), initiated by Russia, beginning with Iran joining an EEU Free Trade zone.

The recent Brexit vote for the UK to leave the EU (European Union) was not merely a cry, but a loud scream from the people of the UK that they are tired of their voice not being heard by both the European parliament and non-elected European Union officials. Whilst open borders for trade are acceptable, a single financial union is not. Britons have tired of increasing housing prices, stagnating wages, cuts to pensions and the basic cost of essential services out of the reach of those who most need them. Putin's EEU has a rare opportunity to re-imagine the international agreements comprising unions, ones based on trade not fiscal (currency).

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**MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS**

TASNIM



**Iran regrets UN official's statement on execution of terrorists**

**TEHRAN** — Mohammad Javad Larjani, secretary general of the Iranian High Council for Human Rights, wrote a letter on Sunday to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights regretting his criticism of Tehran for the execution of a number of terrorists.

Larjani said Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein's statement ignores the scope of the terrorists' crimes.

Larjani stressed that the Islamic Republic will spare no efforts to ensure security for its people and continue its serious fight against terrorism within the national borders and beyond, Tasnim reported.



**Iran to drastically reduce goods smuggling: justice minister**

**TEHRAN** — The justice minister has said Iran is firm to greatly reduce the amount of goods smuggled into the country.

"We have managed to reduce the amount from \$25 billion per year three years ago to \$15 billion last year. We are planning to drive the number to \$10 billion by the end of the current year (March 20)," Mostafa Pourmohammad said on Sunday, Etemad reported.

He went on to stress the need to pay attention to goods smuggling as well as tax evasion as "instances of fraud which are much greater than the inflated salaries."



**Guardian Council, Majlis to discuss amendments to election law**

**TEHRAN** — The Guardian Council and Majlis are going to meet in the near future to discuss amendments to election law, the council's spokesman said on Monday.

"We are going to invite the Majlis presiding board to join us for the discussions," Abbasali Kadkhodaei said, according to ISNA.

He said the council will later hold further meetings with expert committees of the Majlis as well as other representatives to further delve into the issue.



**Iran raps West's double-standard policies on terror fight**

**TEHRAN** — Iran's Judiciary chief, Ayatollah Sadeq Amoli Larjani, said on Monday that the West is pursuing double-standard and contradictory policies in the fight against terrorism, Press TV reported.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran will make no compromises in the fight against terrorism and will never sacrifice its important divine, ethical and legal values for some incorrect and untrue statements and reactions by the so-called advocates of human rights," Amoli Larjani said.

He added that Iran will always remain committed to its principles but the West and some international organizations, including the UN and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, are pursuing contradictory policies in the campaign against terrorism.



**UN backs sustainable development in Iran**

**TEHRAN** — UN Resident Coordinator in Iran Gary Lewis has voiced support for the materialization of sustainable development in Iran.

Talking in the opening ceremony of the 5th National and International Skill and Employment Workshops on Monday, he said all agencies working for the United Nations in Iran will support Iran's sustainable development program, IRNA reported.

Lewis said the United Nations will give priority to environment, healthcare, anti-drugs campaigns and resistance economy in Iran.

He also stressed the importance of connection between education and economy.



**220 tons of narcotics seized in Iran in 4 months**

**TEHRAN** — Iran's Deputy Police Chief Eskandar Momeni said on Monday that 220 tons of narcotics have been discovered and seized across the country in the first quarter of the current year (since March 20), a 16% increase compared to the same period last year, Mehr reported.

Momeni also said during the same period, 65 trillion rials (\$2 billion) worth of smuggled goods were seized in the country, showing a 21% increase year on year.

ETEMAD

ISNA

PRESSTV

IRNA

MEHR

# Rouhani deems it essential to restore peace in Islamic world

**POLITICAL TEHRAN** — Iranian desk President Hassan Rouhani said on Sunday that it is essential to make efforts to boost unity among Muslims and restore peace in the Islamic world.

"Today, scholars and scientists in seminary schools and writers have heavy duty to raise awareness of the young generation in the world of Islam and show them real image of Islam," he said during a meeting with clerics and intellectuals in Baku, Azerbaijan.

He said that "division and assassination under the name of Islam is a plot in line with Islamophobia".

Calling Islam a religion of "security" and "brotherhood", Rouhani said that all the Muslims are "brother" and "members of the family of Islam".

He also highlighted the importance of respecting the countries' territorial integrity.

Pointing to growing ties between Iran and Azerbaijan, the president said, "Common religion and culture are the source



President Rouhani during a meeting with Iranians living in Azerbaijan on Sunday

of Tehran-Baku trust and cooperation."  
**'Iran pushes for regional peace and prosperity'**

During a meeting with Iranians living in Azerbaijan, Rouhani also said Iran's policy is to be actively involved in efforts to promote "peace" and "prosperity" in the region.

"Today, all the countries in the world admit that Iran's role in the security of the region is positive, effective and important," he pointed out.

Rouhani also said his government is pursuing a win-win policy in international interactions.

Iran seeks to establish "good relations" with the other countries except the ones which adopt hostile stance against the country, he added.

Rouhani visited Baku on Sunday morning for a two-day tour. The key part of his visit was a trilateral meeting with Russian and Azeri presidents on Monday afternoon.

## Iran's arms shipments to Lebanon awaiting Lebanon's thumb-up: MP

**POLITICAL TEHRAN** — A senior Iranian parliamentarian said on Monday that Tehran has packed up arms shipments bound for Lebanon months after Saudi Arabia's revocation of a 4-billion aid to the Lebanese army.

"Not only has Iran taken the decision in this regard, but has prepared the shipment and shown it to the Lebanese defense minister," said Alaeddin Boroujerdi, head of the Iranian parliamentary committee for national security and foreign policy, according to Tasnim.

Boroujerdi is just back from a two-day visit to Lebanon after meetings with senior Lebanese officials, including Prime Minister Tammam Salam.

While the lawmaker did not provide more details, he stressed that the decision was motivated by security issues in Lebanon which has a diverse sectarian composition.

"The security of Lebanon is important for us and we want this to be sustainable. We felt called upon and now it's up to the Lebanese government to make their mind up," Boroujerdi explained.

The announcement is a new step in the fierce rivalry

between Saudi Arabia and Iran, which back opposing sides in Syria and are competing for regional influence.

In February, Saudi Arabia announced it was giving a second thought to a military aid of \$4 billion worth earmarked for the army and security services of Lebanon because Beirut voiced no condemnation of the storming of Saudi diplomatic missions in Iran.

Official condemnations of the attacks by the Arab League and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) did not draw endorsement from the Lebanese government as it lambasted Hezbollah, as well.

The attacks were public objections to the execution of the prominent Shia cleric Sheikh Nimr al-Nimr by Riyadh on terrorism charges.

Meanwhile, other resources said the decision had more to do with Saudis' shrinking purses after plunging oil prices left the oil-rich country short of money as well as costs of the war on Yemen.

"Saudi has money problems," said Hisham Jaber, a retired major general in the Lebanese Army.

"If I were Saudi Arabia, I would prefer to spend this



Alaeddin Boroujerdi, head of the Iranian parliamentary national security and foreign policy committee

money to buy weapons and ammunition to shell Yemen instead of giving it to Lebanon," said General Jaber, a retired major general in the Lebanese Army, according to the Washington Post.

He also criticized the kingdom for using Lebanon in its struggle against Iran.

"There is a problem between Saudi Arabia and Iran; why should that involve Lebanon?" he said.

## Iran censures terrorist act in Pakistan



**POLITICAL TEHRAN** — Iran's desk Supreme National Security Council Secretary Ali Shamkhani condemned the deadly terrorist attack in a hospital in the Pakistani city of Quetta on Monday which left at least 50 people dead and dozens injured.

"Suicidal blast and shooting in a hospital showed once again that the terrorists and extremists have targeted all aspects of the human's ordinary life and committing crime against humanity is their only cause and actual belief," Shamkhani said in a message to Nasser Khan Janjua, the National Security advisor of Pakistan.

Shamkhani highlighted the necessity of reaching a common understanding

among all the countries to fight terrorism.

"We cannot be hopeful about eradication of terrorist groups without the international community's sincere effort in blocking the ways of providing the terrorist groups with financial and arms aid and helping them to recruit," he stated.

He also highlighted the need to fight the roots and ideology of terrorism which "harm the innocent people and ruin the Islamic identity".

There has been no claim of responsibility for the blast in the hospital.

The explosion occurred soon after dozens of lawyers gathered at the hospital following the killing of the Balochistan Bar Association President who was shot dead on Monday morning.

## Al-Jubeir posed victoriously when told war on Yemen was 'strategic blunder'



**POLITICAL TEHRAN** — Hossein desk Amir-Abdollahian, the man who was Iran's point man for the Arab world for some years, said on Monday that he had warned the Saudi foreign minister that the Riyadh committed a "strategic mistake" in waging a war on Yemen, but al-Jubeir posed victoriously.

"I explicitly told him (during a meeting) that the military aggression in Yemen is the new strategic mistake of Riyadh which will bring more insecurity both to the region and Saudi Arabia, but he arrogantly told me that they would achieve victory in Yemen," said Amir-Abdollahian, former Iranian ambassador to Bahrain and incumbent parliament's general director for inter-

national affair.

The Saudi kingdom waged a war on Yemen in March 2015 after Mansur Hadi resigned and fled to Saudi Arabia. The war has left millions of the Yemeni people displaced and thousands dead.

"Saudis by encouraging Mansur Hadi to resign, began the policy of 'stateless Yemen' and today, in continuation of their many mistakes, they have put on agenda the policy of waging and escalating civil war in Yemen," the Iranian official said.

"[Yet], the Yemeni people stood up against the aggression courageously and made history," he added, highlighting that Saudis have been trapped in the Yemeni quagmire.

## That limits on Iran's nuclear program will be eased after 10 years is a technical document: expert

Following is the full text of the interview with Kimball:

**In his report the UN chief claimed that the Iranian missile program is "not consistent" with the spirit of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). Even the U.S. and Russia criticized Ban Ki-moon for the report, saying he had overstepped his mandate. What is your assessment of the report?**

A: UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has a responsibility to speak out on international peace and security matters and Iran's continued pursuit of ballistic missiles is a serious matter that has an impact — and I believe an adverse impact — on achieving greater peace and security in the Middle East region. The UN report said the ongoing

Iranian ballistic missile testing was "not consistent with the constructive spirit" of the JCPOA. Iran's leaders should consider ways to reduce concerns about the purpose of their missile programs and, in particular, should pledge not to develop longer range and higher-payload missiles that could be used at some future point to deliver nuclear warheads, if Iran were to decide to try to do so.

**On July 18 the Associated Press said it had obtained a document that outlines Tehran's plans to expand its uranium enrichment program after the first 10 years of the nuclear deal. It said that "confidential document eases Iran nuke constraints". Why did the AP publish such a report at this time?**

A: As the State Department correctly

noted in response to the Associated Press report, the document is not "secret" but is likely the confidential technical annex describing Iran's plan for centrifuge research and development under the JCPOA, including past year ten, that negotiated last year and submitted to the IAEA. Our understanding of the document as reported by the Associated Press is that it describes how Iran may begin to replace its older IR-1 centrifuges and produce and deploy smaller numbers of more advanced centrifuges after year 10 and through year 13. This is a technical document that is no surprise to either side.

This does not mean that the restrictions on Iran's nuclear program are "eased" or "lessened" as the Associated Press headline suggests. The JCPOA

clearly specifies that through year 15 of the deal, Iran may not have more than 300kg of low-enriched uranium, and even after the limits on centrifuge numbers is lifted after year 13, its centrifuge manufacturing, operations, and enrichment work will be under close monitoring to ensure that the program aligns with potential domestic fuel needs, which are currently still extremely low.

This means that from a technical standpoint, it would take well over a year for Iran to amass enough weapons grade material for one nuclear bomb through about year 12 or 13 of the agreement — which was the goal of the EU3+3 group. Any such effort would be detected within days or weeks by the IAEA.



# Erdogan: I will open 'new page with my friend Putin'

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan expects talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin to open "a new page" in bilateral relations, he told the Russian news agency TASS in an interview.

"This will be a historic visit, a new beginning. At the talks with my friend Vladimir (Putin), I believe, a new page in bilateral relations will be opened. Our countries have a lot to do together," TASS quoted Erdogan as saying. Erdogan is due to travel to Russia on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, more than 1 million flag-waving Turks gathered in Istanbul on Sunday for an anti-coup rally to mark the end of nightly demonstrations since the July 15 abortive military insurrection that left more than 270 people dead.

The Yenikapi meeting area by the Marmara Sea waterfront in Istanbul's European side was transformed into a sea of red and white, the colors of Turkey's flag. The "Democracy and Martyrs' Rally" was billed as a cross-party event representing Turkish unity in the wake of the failed coup, in which a group of renegade military officers attempted to seize power with tanks, helicopters and fighter jets.

No official estimate has been provided, but Turkish media said millions were attending.

Religious leaders and two of Turkey's three opposition parties were attending, sitting next to President Erdogan, who arrived on board a helicopter with his wife Emine. The pro-Kurdish People's Democracy Party, or (HDP/Halklar'n Demokratik Partisi), wasn't invited.

The event kicked off with a minute of silence for those killed while opposing



the coup, followed by the Turkish national anthem and a recitation of prayers.

A 60-meter (200-foot) stage was set up for the event, framed by two platforms and draped with massive national flags and banners depicting Erdogan and Turkey's founding father Mustafa Kemal Ataturk. A roll call of those who died opposing the coup was read out as the event began.

Construction cranes suspended giant Turkish flags beside the meeting area, while flag-draped boats and yachts zipped back and forth along the water.

Following the abortive putsch, the Turkish government has been encouraging nightly anti-coup rallies in all of the country's 81 provinces as well as in cer-

tain foreign locations such as Cologne, Germany.

The event was being simultaneously broadcast on giant screens in all of Turkey's provinces, and crowds of thousands gathered to watch in the country's major cities.

Nearly 15,000 police were providing security at the event. Anti-aircraft batteries were also set up at the event grounds, while two helicopters circled overhead.

Thousands of buses and more than 200 boats were commissioned to bring attendees to the area, where they passed through one of 165 metal detectors before being given hats and flags. Those wounded during the attempted coup, and the families of those who died, were

given special passes for a seated area.

Erdogan urged people to bring only the Turkish flag instead of party banners.

"There we will stand together as a single nation, a single flag, a single motherland, a single state, a single spirit," he said on Saturday in comments carried by Turkish media.

An Ottoman marching band entertained the crowd before the official start of the event, with 240 members representing the number of those authorities who gave their lives fighting off the coup.

Turkish media also said a giant screen was to be set up in the state of Pennsylvania, the United States that is home to cleric Fethullah Gulen, who moved there in self-imposed exile in the late 1990s. The Turkish government says Gulen is the mastermind behind the failed coup and is seeking his extradition. The cleric denies any involvement.

The government has launched a sweeping crackdown in the coup's aftermath, targeting followers of Gulen's movement. Nearly 18,000 people have been detained or arrested, mostly from the military, and tens of thousands of people have been suspended or dismissed from jobs in the judiciary, media, education, health care, military and local government.

The scope of the crackdown has alarmed European countries and rights groups, who have urged restraint. Erdogan has lashed out at such criticism, and complained of a lack of support from the West for his government for surviving the coup.

(Source: TASS)

## Syria-bound arms arrive in Saudi Arabia first: report

A recent report has disclosed that large volumes of arms and ammunition, supplied by East European and Balkan states, routinely arrive in Saudi Arabia and a number of other regional countries before reaching militants in conflict-hit Syria.

The Persian service of Germany's Deutsche Welle news network reported on Monday that the munitions, including Kalashnikov AK-47 assault rifles, machine guns, grenades as well as anti-tank guns, are initially off-loaded in Saudi airbases and ports before smugglers dispatch them to Syrian militants.

The weapons mostly come from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Montenegro, Serbia and Romania.

The report further revealed that the Syria-bound weapons are also exported by air and sea to Jordan, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Turkey besides Saudi Arabia.

International norms governing the control of exports of military technology and equipment are brazenly flouted, the report said, and a considerable amount of mu-

nitions exported from Bulgaria to the aforementioned countries only bear the sign "unknown consignment."

Such weapons have previously ended up in the hands of such terrorist groups as the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Daesh) terrorist group, which Saudi Arabia is widely believed to be supporting.

Earlier reports had already exposed that arms were purportedly being trucked into Syria under Turkish military escort, and transferred to militant leaders at pre-arranged rendezvous.

In May 2015, the center-left Turkish daily Cumhuriyet posted on its website footage showing trucks belonging to Turkey's National Intelligence Organization, also known as the MIT (Milli Istihbarat Te'kilat)/National Intelligence Organization, allegedly carrying weapons for militant groups in Syria.

Damascus has long been complaining that the House of Saud regime, Turkey and Qatar are the main supporters of the militants fighting the Syrian government forces.

Syria has been gripped by foreign-backed militancy



since March 2011.

The United Nations Special Envoy for Syria Staffan de Mistura estimates that over 400,000 people have been killed in the conflict.

The UN has stopped officially counting the dead in the Syrian conflict.

(Source: Press TV)

## American, Australian kidnapped at gunpoint in Kabul

Gunmen wearing police uniforms kidnapped an American and an Australian in the heart of the Afghan capital Kabul, officials said on Monday, the latest in a series of abductions of foreigners in the conflict-torn country.

The two professors at the American University of Afghanistan were seized from their vehicle on Sunday evening, as the kidnapers smashed the passenger window and hauled them away at gunpoint.

No group has so far claimed responsibility for the abductions, which come three days after a group of foreign tourists were ambushed by the Taliban in western Herat province, underscoring the growing insecurity in Afghanistan.

"Two foreign professors, one American and the other Australian, were abducted at gunpoint from Dar-ul-Aman road in the center of Kabul city," interior ministry spokesman Sediq Sediqqi told AFP.

"Indications are that they were kidnapped by a criminal group."

The driver and a guard inside the vehicle, both unharmed, have been held for questioning, another security official told AFP.

Four gunmen wearing police uniforms were involved in the abduction, according to a Western official in Kabul.

The Afghan capital is infested with organized criminal gangs who stage kidnappings for ransom, often targeting foreigners and wealthy Afghans, and sometimes handing them over to insurgent groups.

The United States State Department said it was aware of reports of the kidnapping of an American but declined to comment further.

The Australian government confirmed the "apparent kidnapping" of one its citizens, citing its embassy in Kabul, but also refused to elaborate due to security considerations.

"We continue to advise Australians not to travel to Afghanistan because of the extremely dangerous security situation, including the serious threat of kid-

napping," the government said in a statement.

### ■ Growing insecurity

This appeared to be the first reported abduction related to a private university in Afghanistan.

The elite American University of Afghanistan, which opened in 2006 and enrolls more than 1,700 students, was not immediately reachable for comment. It has attracted a number of visiting faculty members from Western countries.

The abductions highlight the growing dangers faced by foreigners in Afghanistan.

Foreign tourists, including British, American and German nationals, came under Taliban fire on Thursday in a volatile district of Herat, leaving some of them wounded. They were safely evacuated to Kabul and were flown out of the country.

Aid workers in particular have increasingly been casualties of a surge in militant violence in recent years.

Judith D'Souza, a 40-year-old Indian employee of the Aga Khan Foundation,

a prominent NGO (non-governmental organization) that has long worked in Afghanistan, was rescued last month after she was abducted near her residence in the heart of Kabul on the night of June 9.

D'Souza's abduction came after Katherine Jane Wilson, a well-known Australian NGO worker, was kidnapped on April 28 in the city of Jalalabad, close to the border with Pakistan.

Wilson, said to be aged 60, ran an organization known as Zardozi, which promotes the work of Afghan artisans, particularly women.

The United States in May warned its citizens in Afghanistan of a "very high" kidnapping risk after an American narrowly escaped abduction in the heart of Kabul.

In April last year the bullet-riddled bodies of five Afghan workers for Save the Children were found after they were abducted by gunmen in the strife-torn southern province of Uruzgan.

(Source: AFP)

## Rallies against police killing of black teen in Chicago continue

United States demonstrators gathered in Chicago's Millennium Park to protest the police killing of black teenager Paul O'Neal, August 7, 2016.

Hundreds of demonstrators have taken to the streets of Chicago, Illinois, for the third to continue protests over the police killing of a young African-American boy, after authorities released new footage of the incident.

The protesters, including over 100 high school students, flooded the Millennium Park in Chicago's Loop community area, demanding justice for Paul O'Neal, an 18-year-old unarmed teenager who was killed by a white officer on July 28.

The protests began three days ago, when the Inde-



pendent Police Review Authority released footage from nine police cameras—four body cams and five car dash-cams—that purported to show officers shooting at O'Neal.

Although police say the actual moment of death was not captured, the footage still shows the bleeding teenager being handcuffed as he was pinned down by officers.

Organizers of the Sunday demonstration said they were gathered to speak out against the surge in police violence and "systemic oppression" against minorities.

The protesters were planning to continue their march through the streets of Chicago until their demands were met.

(Source: agencies)

## Hundreds join crucial battle for Aleppo 2,000 terrorists killed in Syria

Syrian army forces and terrorist factions sent hundreds of reinforcements to Aleppo on Monday as opposition fighters announced an all-out offensive to take the country's second city, AFP reported.

The battle for Syria's former economic powerhouse is intensifying after an opposition advance at the weekend broke through a three-week government siege of the city's rebel-held east, dealing a major setback to regime troops.

Rebel forces on Sunday announced a bid to capture all of Aleppo city, which if successful would mark the biggest opposition victory yet in Syria's five-year foreign sponsored war.

But forces loyal to the legitimate Syrian President Bashar al-Assad are putting up a fierce fight and have begun pouring reinforcements into the city.

The so-called Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR), a monitoring group, said some 2,000 pro-regime fighters had arrived in Aleppo since late Sunday.

"Both sides are amassing their fighters in preparation for the great battle of Aleppo," said Rami Abdel Rahman, the head of the Britain-based Observatory.

The Monday edition of Al-Watan, a Syrian daily close to the government, reported that the army had received "the necessary military reinforcements to launch the battle to retake the areas from which it withdrew."

Citing a source on the ground, the paper said military warplanes "are carrying out a barrage of air strikes targeting the armed (terrorist) groups."

### ■ 'New phase to liberate Aleppo'

Aleppo has been roughly divided between government forces in the west and rebel groups in the east since fighting first broke out there in mid-2012.

After years of stalemate, fighting for the city entered a new phase last month when government forces took control of the last supply road into rebel-held areas, leaving some 250,000 people in eastern districts surrounded.

In a desperate bid to break the siege, a coalition of rebels and terrorists overran a series of buildings in a military academy on the southwestern edges of Aleppo on Saturday.

They then pushed northeast to link up with rebel groups inside the city.

Emboldened by the victory, the fighters -- largely grouped under the banner of the Army of Conquest -- then set their sights on recapturing all of Aleppo city.

In a statement on Sunday the Army of Conquest announced "the start of a new phase to liberate all of Aleppo," pledging to "double the number of fighters for this next battle."

Abdel Rahman told AFP on Monday that hundreds of opposition fighters had arrived in Aleppo from the surrounding province and neighboring Idlib.

Most were from the Fateh al-Sham Front (Front for the Conquest of the Levant), the powerful terrorist group previously affiliated with al-Qaeda that leads the Army of Conquest. The group changed its name from al-Nusra Front (Jabhat al-Nusra) last month after breaking with al-Qaeda.

Fateh al-Sham boasted at the weekend that it had captured military vehicles and artillery from government positions.

### ■ Aid to Army areas

Meantime, residents of both sides of the city have been living in fear of competing sieges of their neighborhoods in recent weeks.

The rebel advance at the weekend cut off a key government access route on the city's southern edges, which had been used to bring in supplies for the estimated 1.2 million residents of western districts.

Overnight, Syrian government forces brought in dozens of trucks carrying food and fuel into the western neighborhoods via the northern Castello Road, according to the Observatory.

"This is the new route that the regime forces are securing as a temporary alternative to the route they previously depended on," Abdel Rahman said.

Syrian state television Al-Ikhbariyah confirmed that "fuel, food, and vegetables entered Aleppo city."

A military source in Damascus denied that the city's west had been besieged, saying "the situation is under control and the situation is not worrisome."

Seven trucks of fruits and vegetables entered the eastern rebel-held districts on Sunday and were quickly purchased by residents.

More than 280,000 people have been killed since Syria's conflict erupted in March 2011.

However the United Nations Special Syrian Envoy Staffan de Mistura puts the figure at over 400,000.

Half of the pre-war population has been displaced, including an estimated five million people seeking refuge in neighboring countries.

International efforts to resolve the conflict have repeatedly failed though the United Nations is hoping that peace talks can resume later this month.

### ■ 2,000 terrorists killed in Aleppo

Meanwhile, Syrian military operations and Russian airstrikes have claimed the lives of some 2,000 terrorists from the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Daesh) and al-Nusra Front — now renamed Fateh al-Sham Front — and their allied groups in Syria's northern city of Aleppo, Russian media say.

The heavy casualties have been caused in the main stage of the liberation operation for Aleppo, which began two weeks ago, IRNA reported on Monday, citing a Russian state television channel.

According to the report, many militants were also injured in the operation, which has also destroyed armored vehicles and weapon depots.

Syrian forces have managed to liberate vast areas in the southern part of Aleppo from the control of the militants in ongoing operations.

Militants are said to be using civilians as human shields in parts of Aleppo still under their control. The militants have also been targeting the civilians attempting to leave the city through the humanitarian corridors set up by Syria and Russia.

(Source: agencies)



SNIPPETS



Central banks of Iran, Azerbaijan sign MOU on mutual co-op

**ECONOMY TEHRAN** — Central banks of Iran and Azerbaijan signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) for broadening cooperation in areas such as brokerage and banking networks in order to facilitate trade and economic relations, IRNA reported on Sunday.

Based on the MOU, signed by Central Bank of Iran Governor Valiollah Seif and Central Bank of Azerbaijan Governor Elman Rustamov in Tehran on Sunday, two countries central banks would license establishing branches of Iranian and Azerbaijani banks in each other's territory.

Providing technical and training services to each other in order to adapt to the latest techniques and standards of global banking systems were also among the terms.



U.S. oil companies' presence in Iran limited by Congress

**ECONOMY TEHRAN** — Iran sees no limitations in negotiation with the U.S. oil firms and these companies are limited by the laws of the United States Congress, Iranian Deputy Oil Minister for International Affairs and Commerce Amir-Hossein Zamaninia was quoted by IRNA as saying on Monday.

Restrictions for the U.S. companies' activity in Iran is related to the early sanctions that the congress passed and still survives, Zamaninia said.

According to IRNA, with implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), Iran has started negotiating with international companies and firms to participate in the country's oil industry.

NEWS

Oil market on path to rebalancing, OPEC monitoring situation: Qatar

Qatar's energy minister, and current OPEC president, said on Monday the oil market is on the path to rebalancing despite the recent decline in global oil prices, adding that OPEC was in continuous talks to stabilize the market.

"The recent decline observed in oil prices and the current market volatility is only temporary," Mohammad bin Saleh al-Sada, Qatar's minister of energy and industry said in a statement.

"OPEC continues to monitor developments closely, and is in constant deliberations with all member states on ways and means to help restore stability and order to the oil market."



Qatar holds the OPEC presidency for 2016.

An informal meeting of OPEC member countries is scheduled to take place on the sidelines of the International Energy Forum, which groups producers and consumers, in Algeria from Sept. 26-28, the statement said.

Oil prices rose on Monday, lifted by reports of renewed talks by some members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries to restrain output.

The price rise came on the back of renewed calls by some OPEC members to freeze production in a bid to rein in output, a demand that non-OPEC oil producing giant Russia was quick to dismiss.

Brent futures were up 15 cents at \$44.42 per barrel Monday, though still lag a 2016 high near \$53 a barrel hit in June.

Sada said the recent decline in price was "more of an outcome resulting from weaker refinery margins, inventory overhang — particularly of product stocks, timing of Brexit and its impact on the financial futures markets, including that of crude oil".

He said an expected "higher crude oil demand in third and fourth quarters of 2016, coupled with a decrease in availability, is leading the analysts to conclude that the current bear market is only temporary and that the oil price will increase in the later part of 2016."

Some OPEC officials had said a revival of talks on a global oil production freeze could be discussed at an informal meeting of OPEC and non-OPEC in Algeria in September, if oil prices weaken.

OPEC member Iran has been the main opponent of a freeze as it looks to raise its output to levels seen before the imposition of now-ended Western sanctions.

(Source: Reuters)

Indonesia's Pertamina eyes two Iran oilfields for possible investment

Indonesia's state-owned Pertamina on Monday signed a memorandum of understanding to conduct preliminary studies on two Iranian oilfields, a step closer to the company's first investment in the Middle Eastern country's upstream sector.

Under the agreement, Pertamina has six months to look into Iran's Ab-Teymor and Mansouri oilfields, which are located onshore and contain an estimated total reserves of more than 5 billion barrels.

"Iran is one of Pertamina's priorities. We're serious about investing in Iran's upstream oil and gas, which will help Iran to increase its oil production," said Pertamina CEO Dwi Soetjipto in a statement.



Ali Kardor (R), the managing director of NIOC, and Dwi Soetjipto, the CEO of Pertamina, after signing the MOU in Tehran on Monday

Iran has been able to raise its crude oil output to around 3.6 million barrels per day (bpd) since international sanctions were lifted in January, and the country, the world's sixth-largest oil producer, may reach its pre-sanctions production levels in coming months.

Still, Tehran is looking to boost investment in oil and gas infrastructure and field development that has stagnated over the last few years.

Pertamina also said it would import its first shipment of liquid petroleum gas (LPG) from Iran in September.

Pertamina in May agreed to purchase 600,000 tons of LPG from state-owned marketer National Iranian Oil Co. (NIOC).

(Source: Reuters)

Iran's spot oil sales to go long-term

**ECONOMY TEHRAN** — Iran is working on a program to convert its spot oil sale contracts with Europeans to long-term ones, Shana news agency reported on Sunday quoting Seyed Mohsen Qamsari, the director for international affairs of National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC).

The official said that the country is constantly sending more than 600,000 barrels per day (bpd) of oil to

Europe.

Mentioning oil exports to India, the official also said Iran has a 360,000 bpd of oil contract with India while the country is now importing more than 390,000 bpd of Iranian crude.

After lifting of the sanctions, European companies such as Saras, Repsol SA, Hellenic Petroleum SA, Total and Shell have signed contracts with Iran, part of which

are term contracts and some in the form of spot sales.

Before the EU embargo on Iran in 2012, Europe imported on average about 400,000 barrels of oil a day from Iran, according to the International Energy Agency. Spanish refiner Cepsa alone was buying about 60,000 barrels a day. Total SA was among the biggest purchasers. Other European top buyers in the past included Repsol SA, Eni SpA and Hellenic Petroleum SA.

The era of new energy diplomacy paradigm

Control

Most Westerners are accustomed, and increasingly becoming tired, to a form of democracy whereby elected leaders are given the power - through an executive branch - to impose policies on what is usually a majority of the population which either voted against, or did not vote for, the policies imposed. This is evidenced most notably by recent Australian elections, which took more than a week for a party to form a razor thin one seat majority in the lower house, and no party able to form a majority in the upper house. In the UK the unexpected yes vote for the UK to leave the EU, Brexit, caused the fall of its sitting Prime Minister, and who knows what will happen in the U.S. elections in November? The UK's constitution and governance has been termed, not entirely wrongly, an elective dictatorship. Australia's system of government is no different based on the Westminster system.

Iran's vibrant democracy is the complete opposite. No branch of government has the power to impose policy, but several have the power to block or veto it, with the role of the Supreme Leader being to wield the power of ultimate veto.

The result of democracies such as the UK, Australia and the USA is often the imposition of bad policy on usually half of the population who voted against it. The result of the latter, Iran is all too often, no policy at all. More to the point there are countries which act, and there are countries which are acted upon: countries which impose policy; and countries which have policy imposed upon them by military or market power. Yet, Russia and Iran, as members of the EEU, have the opportunity to create co-operative policy; Mutual frameworks of agreement through trade.

Politics and policy

While traditional U.S. politics melts down ahead of elections in November the EU is taking the lead in engaging with Iran. However, it is clearly the case that the EU sees engagement with Iran as lending sufficient Euros to buy over-priced, over-complex and over-engineered technology and solutions. In other words, the EU wishes to apply the US Petrodollar approach to create a Petro Euro based upon debt claims over Iran's oil



& gas resources. Where that path may lead is visible in Greece.

But if such a political economy is no longer viable, due to the fundamental unsustainability of the Western financial system based upon debt, how else may Iran engage with other nations?

The answer lies in a new generation of international agreements of co-operation to a common purpose which are specific to a particular theme or function. The starting point should be in the field of energy, and the fact that Iran and Russia has between them over 50% of global natural gas reserves is a good starting point and basis for co-operation, in pricing trading and delivering of energy to the consumer.

EU Energy Union

The EU approach to energy is to create an EU Energy Union monolith through which to exercise market power in engaging competitively with energy supplier nations and - through the international Energy Charter Treaty - for EU nations to invest in global oil and gas production, thereby creating the Petro Euro.

The problem is that the original energy market paradigm of energy as a commodity bought and sold for \$ and € profit has now evolved into a market paradigm of energy as an asset which investors buy because they fear that the (inherently worthless) dollar and euro will decline in value, whereas energy will not. The result of this has been that the energy markets have become completely

detached from reality and dysfunctional, so that producers and consumers see massive volatility in price, at their expense while investment in infrastructure becomes excessively costly at best and impossible at worst.

Energy Clearing Union

Rather than competing against each other for \$ or € profit, Iran, Russia and regional nations such as the Republic of Azerbaijan could co-operate to reduce resource costs, since all nations have an interest in cost reduction, heralding an era of resource efficiency.

This is achievable through the organising principle of least resource cost: that is to say that for a given use of electricity, heat/cooling or power the use of finite resources such as water and carbon fuels should be minimised. The economic rationale for this approach is simple: the more expensive that water and carbon fuels become in dollars or euros, the more profitable it is to save them.

Indeed, it is not only nations seeking to reduce resource costs, it is corporations also: we see Exxon Mobil prioritising cost reduction and stating that investment in Caspian oil and gas is not viable at current oil prices and cost levels.

Resource efficiency frameworks can be launched in two ways:

Firstly, the regional launch of the networked Institute for Resource Resilience, which on the basis of Caspian Energy Grid (CEG) initiative launched in Tehran on 20th June 2016, was recently founded in the UK to

link Iranian and Scottish/UK academic institutions to pursue research into least resource cost solutions.

Secondly, the creation of a regional Energy Clearing Union (ECU) to mobilise people and resources using both conventional financing and funding and a new generation of energy swaps for funding and energy credits for development financing.

Energy Paradigm and resource efficiency

Financial Technology or Fin-Tech, simply takes agreements of existing organisations and applies ICT (Information and Communication Technology) in the form of Exchanges or simple platforms to create accessible and liquid market places where consumers, producers and investors can all interact together.

Consumers, producers and investors can co-operate in a market to apply latest technology and investment which is measured not by profit but by efficiency. Who can produce the most from the least?

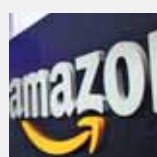
When buying a car these days, one of the most critical metrics people use to decide which car they buy is how fuel efficient the car is. The more fuel efficient, the less it costs, and the better value per litre of petrol one gets.

Energy co-operation is no different, and can be measured by Energy efficiency. If we extend this out to other resources, then we have a market place measured by resource efficiency.

Russia and Iran already have the Exchanges or platforms in place for the trading and pricing of energy and other commodity or resources; namely the St Petersburg International Mercantile Exchange (SPIMEX) and in Iran, the Iranian International Oil Bourse (IOB) in Kish Island. Both have the desire and ability to trade in multiple currencies, so as to provide access for the settlement of trade between Nations and corporations.

All that is missing is the agreements in the form of political framework, which by all accounts President Putin of Russia and President Rouhani of Iran in the Summit hosted by the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan in Baku, can agree and which will form the backbone of the EEU, and a new Paradigm not simply in Energy Co-operation, but the basis for a market in Resource efficiency.

NEWS IN BRIEF



Amazon Japan raided on suspicion of antitrust practices: Nikkei

Japan's Fair Trade Commission has raided the offices of Amazon.com Inc's local unit on suspicion of pressuring retailers to offer products at lower prices than on rival sites, the Nikkei business daily said on Monday.

The paper, which cited unidentified sources with knowledge of the case, did not say when the raid took place.

A Japan Fair Trade Commission spokesman said he could not confirm the report but added: "I won't say the contents are incorrect."

Amazon Japan's website booked net sales of \$8.3 billion last year, equivalent to 7.7 percent of Amazon.com's worldwide net sales.



Delta hit by computer outage, flights delayed worldwide

Delta Air Lines Inc experienced what it called a "major system-wide network outage" on Monday which delayed flights worldwide and said technicians were working to resolve the computer problem as soon as possible.

Flights scheduled for departure were not taking off, but those already in the air were operating normally, Delta said in a statement.

Delta operates 5,000 departures a day and is a member of the SkyTeam alliance alongside airlines including Air France-KLM.

"Delta experienced a computer outage that has impacted flights scheduled for this morning," said Delta, the world's second largest airline measured by revenue passenger kilometers flown.



Takata earnings driven down by \$35m charge

Takata Co took a \$35 million charge to account for the cost of defending itself in U.S. lawsuits over its air bags, driving down its profit in the April-June quarter.

Tens of millions of Takata air bags fitted with rupture-prone inflators have been recalled worldwide after some exploded, spraying shrapnel in vehicle cabins. The faulty air bags have been linked to deaths and injuries world-wide.

Takata's latest quarterly earnings, released Friday, pointed to the company's continued struggles, which have been exacerbated by a strong yen. Revenue fell 6.6 percent to ¥169 billion (\$1.67 billion) and net profit dropped 33 percent to ¥2.1 billion.



# A road trip through Iran's Kordestan

By Silvia Lawrence

After seriously exhausting my eating abilities during Nowruz celebrations with Mina and her family in Tehran, I was excited to get back on the road and explore more of Iran. Luckily for me, our trip to Isfahan seemed to have given Mina a bit of the travel bug as well, and she was eager to join me on another adventure. But in a country of such an abundance of historical sites and diverse landscapes, how were we to choose where to go? Should we head out into the desert, see the ruins of Persepolis, or visit the historical village Abyaneh?

I was at a bit of a loss, but Mina knew exactly where we were going. After making a few phone calls and coming up with an acceptable story to tell her family, she announced that we were going to visit Marivan, a small Kurdish city bordering Iraq, and that we could stay in the empty home of a friend's brother, as he was away on holiday. Perfect.

You guys, it was sooo so perfect! Kordestan is incredible.

We spent our first day exploring Marivan, Lake Zarivar, and driving a little through the surrounding green hills.

Nowruz was a particularly nice time to be visiting Marivan, as everyone was in fes-



tive spirits. We passed countless families picnicking and dancing together in the sun.

No one even seemed to mind too much when I played the obnoxious tourist, constantly snapping photos out the car window.

Of course Mina and I had to ask a friend to drive us to the Iraqi border, seeing as we were so close to a country that had had such a firm presence in both of our countries' politics while we grew up. Together we peered across into Iraq, a country this American girl and Iranian girl had both been taught to fear: just green hills and trees.

The next morning over breakfast, our friend told us that we were going on a road trip up into the mountains over to Ouraman Takht. I was immediately excited, but I had no idea quite how much wonder and awe Kurdistan would have in store for me that day.

Driving through the mountains with Mina and two other friends will probably always be one of my top travel memories. Sharing embarrassing stories, arguing about Heidegger, and listening to Leonard Cohen and Edith Piaf, I easily forgot that we came from different back-

grounds. It was like being back with my friends at university.

Except while many of the discussions and debates I had with fellow students at Williams seemed to be at least as much about showing off our intelligence as any genuine interest in what we were talking about, Mina, and our friends' passion was obvious.

Most of our talks would come back to Iran and my friends' hopes and fears for their country. For them, Hegel and Zizek weren't just impressive names to drop but potential sources of answers for their future. Their passion for philosophy, literature, music, and poetry was inspiring, but also one I sensed that I, coming from a position of stability and privilege, couldn't quite grasp.

Visiting Kordestan was such a special experience, and a destination I'd highly recommend to other tourists! The locals were friendly, the landscape beautiful, and the culture distinctly unique from what else I experienced in Iran.

The overnight bus from Tehran cost 330,000 Rial (\$11) and took about 12 hours.

There is a hotel in Marivan, but as with the rest of Iran, I'd recommend staying with a local! I know there is at least one Couch-surfing host in town, and if you send me a message I can put you in contact with him.

(Source: [heartmybackpack.com](http://heartmybackpack.com))

## China's outbound tourism slows amid weak yuan

The weaker yuan has slowed growth in China's outbound tourism, said analysts, with the yuan down more than 7 per cent against the US dollar since its one-off devaluation in August last year.

"The devaluation of the Chinese yuan has no doubt increased the cost of outbound tourism," Sinolink Securities analyst Zhang Bin wrote in a report. "The weaker yuan will dampen the enthusiasm for outbound travelling and shopping among Chinese tourists."

Data from the China National Tourism Administration (CNTA) shows that the growth rate of Chinese outbound visitors is slowing, up only 4.3 per cent year on year to 59 million in the first half of 2016 – the slowest growth in the past six years and the first time it has fallen to single-digit levels in that period.

"The weaker yuan, nevertheless, cannot be seen as the fatal blow to China's outbound tourism," Zhang said, adding that recent acts of terrorism in Europe have seriously scared away Chinese tourists.

Take for example Christina Wang, a high-school teacher in Shenzhen. "I don't care a lot about exchange rates but I take safety as a priority when we make travel plans," she said.

"I always travelled outside [China] with my children in the summer holiday but this year we just travelled around China because I don't feel safe to go abroad, especially European countries after a series of terrorist attacks there," Wang added.

The weaker yuan will dampen the enthusiasm for outbound travelling and shopping among Chinese tourists. "A detailed holiday plan is always discussed and made two months in advance, and we won't change it easily just because of exchange rate fluctuations. But we will definitely change our destination if there is terrorism."

Chinese arrivals dropped the most in Hong Kong. Mainland visitors to the city declined 4 per cent year on year in June, with an 8 per cent decline in May. For the first half of 2016, the number fell 10.6 per cent to 20.42 million compared with the same period a year earlier.

GF Securities analyst Albert Yip expects Chinese visitor numbers to Hong Kong will rebound because the Japanese yen and South Korean Won continue to rise and European countries are haunted by terrorism.

However, Chinese domestic tourism still remains strong as it is not affected by the weakening yuan. The first half of 2016 saw domestic tourist volume increase 10.5 per cent to 2.2 billion travellers.

The revenue per available room (RevPAR) of Shanghai and Beijing hotels continued to show strong momentum in June. Shanghai and Beijing recorded 11.7 per cent and 4.8 per cent growth in 5-star RevPAR respectively due to the increase in occupancy rates.

For the second half of 2016, CNTA expects the growth rate of outbound visitors to drop to 3.9 per cent year on year while domestic visitor numbers will grow 10 per cent for the same period.

(Source: [South China Morning Post](http://South China Morning Post))

## TRAVEL GUIDE

### Secrets to making the most of your time off

Who wouldn't love more time off? Our days away from work are a chance to relax, unwind... and of course, travel!

#### ■ Schedule your trip thoughtfully

You can extend limited annual leave by linking your trips to long weekends and national holidays. These vary by country and workplace, so plan carefully and get familiar with the dates ahead of time.

#### ■ Research in advance for a stress-free getaway

Spend at least 10 minutes of research for every 4 hours of holiday time. This equates to 60 minutes (1 hour) a day. You will have insight into what is available there, a better understanding on how to organize your daily sightseeing, upcoming events and dining schedule. You will have a game plan for transportation and other logistics and be aware of health, safety, security, visa and other important issues that may concern you.

#### ■ And the not-so-good times to go

Don't travel in the first few weeks of the school summer holidays. They are the busiest and most expensive. If you're planning on taking the family over to Europe during the winter, it's the perfect time since it's off season. There are some great bargains to be had and many destinations that are usually overrun with tourists are fairly quiet.

#### ■ Know your travel style and plan accordingly

If you enjoy exploring and/or leisurely, relaxing visits, visit fewer total numbers of places and stay longer at each destination. If you like active and focused pursuits and/or enjoy seeing the best a place has to offer but prefer to move on after the highlights, visit more total number of places and stay shorter periods at each destination.

#### ■ Bringing the kids? Pick a family-friendly hotel

Search for a hotel offering extra amenities or ample room size, both vital when planning a family trip," recommends mcpinder. In the off-season, "even expensive hotels that rely mainly on business and conferences will drop their prices, which are a bonus as many have indoor swimming pools, which are perfect to entertain the kids. Fee-free perks including complimentary breakfasts can help family travelers save money in the long run, so always consider what's being offered before a room is booked.

#### ■ Prioritize and set a budget

Planning and keeping track of travel expenditures will help you to recognize research and narrow down the important things that you are willing to spend on during your vacations. Budgeting appropriately helps maximise your holiday experience as you will get the best bang for your travel buck.

#### ■ Keep an open mind while traveling

While you may have planned all the details thoroughly, things may happen during one's travels," says Avanti\_SG. "Keep an open mind and continue exploring the areas – who knows you may end up in unique and pleasant small towns with lovely little shops, weekly markets and fascinating museums.

(Source: [Trip Advisor](http://Trip Advisor))

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**Ms.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  
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**New Apt. in Mahmoudieh**  
9<sup>th</sup> Fl., 112 sq.m, 2 bdrs, furn & unfurn, lobby, SPJ, gym club, nice view, 3500 USD  
**Ms.Diba: 09128103206**

**Apt. in Zafranieh**  
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**Apt. in Jordan**  
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**Duplex Villa in Aqdasieh**  
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**Duplex Villa in Elahieh**  
500 sq.m built up in 1000 sq.m land, 5 bdrs, unfurn, outdoor pool, nice garden, \$8000  
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**Mr.Arvin: 09128103207**

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# Draghi jumps Brexit hurdle to find oil damping inflation outlook

Whenever Mario Draghi clears a hurdle on his path to higher inflation, a new one appears.

Just as the 19-nation economy sends encouraging signals that challenges from Brexit to terrorism won't derail the modest recovery, a new decline in oil prices is casting a shadow over an expected pick-up in inflation. With growth not strong enough to generate price pressures, the European Central Bank president may have to revise his outlook yet again.

Inflation remains far below the ECB's 2 percent goal after more than two years of unprecedented stimulus and isn't seen reaching it before 2018. Staff will begin to draw up fresh forecasts in mid-August, and while officials are in no rush to adjust or expand their 1.7 trillion-euro (\$1.9 trillion) quantitative-easing plan in September, economists predict Draghi will have to ease policy before the end of the year.

"Now that the euro-area economy seems to have shrugged off the Brexit vote, focus will again shift on inflation, against the background of those negative news from oil prices," said Johannes Gareis, an economist at Natixis in Frankfurt. "Yes, the ECB has managed to dispel deflation fears, but all the uncertainty means inflation will stay lower for longer -- and Draghi will have to take notice."

The UK's vote to leave the European Union, the soundness of the region's banks and a string of terror attacks from Germany to France dominated the public debate in the past weeks. Draghi and his fellow policy makers have worked to reassure businesses, consumers and investors that they would react to these shocks as needed while buying time to better assess the effects.

Now, surveys suggest the impact of Brexit on the euro-area economy will be limited, with the recovery continuing at its slow but steady pace. Economic sentiment improved in July and a Purchasing Managers' Index points to a slight acceleration in activity.

Euro-area output unexpectedly accelerated to the highest in six months, signaling that manufacturers and services providers were shrugging off concerns that the UK's vote to leave the European Union will harm business.

A Purchasing Managers' Index for both industries rose to 53.2 in July from 53.1 in June, Markit Economics said on August 3. A July 22 estimate was for a drop to 52.9. A reading above 50 indicates expansion.

The increase "presents a slightly better picture" and "is especially encouraging as it suggests the region saw little overall contagion from the UK's Brexit vote," said Chris



Williamson, chief economist at Markit in London. An "improved hiring trend suggests firms have gained sufficient confidence in the durability and sustainability of the upturn to expand capacity in increasing numbers."

But now a more familiar concern is rising to the fore: The price of Brent crude has fallen more than 13 percent since the UK's June 23 referendum.

The drop may not be as severe as previous ones, which have seen the cost of oil plunge some 40 percent over periods of similar length. However, it is set to mute an inflation rate that was projected to pick up as effects of previous commodity-price declines peter out. The ECB currently sees consumer-price growth accelerating to an average of 0.6 percent in the fourth quarter, from 0.2 per-

**With growth not strong enough to generate price pressures, the European Central Bank president may have to revise his outlook yet again!**

cent last month.

#### Modestly negative effect

"Oil will have a modestly negative effect on inflation, revising the profile for inflation slightly downward," said Frederik Ducroz, an economist at Banque Pictet & Cie SA in Geneva. "Inflation is still likely to increase but it will be a very gradual and modest increase."

The domestic economy probably won't be able to contribute much. According to a recent ECB research paper, the gap between actual and potential output might have been as big as 6 percent in the past two years, compared with typical estimates closer to 2 percent. That would mean the economy has a long way to go until it reaches capacity limits and generates higher prices.

Core inflation, which strips out volatile elements like energy and food, stood at 0.9 percent in July. Gizem Kara, an economist at BNP Paribas in London, predicts the rate won't rise but fall to record lows in the coming months.

"With growth being revised lower after Brexit, the output gap is going to remain large for longer," she said. "The source of inflation for the euro area will have to be external," and "this is the key problem for the euro area right now." (Source: Bloomberg)

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### China's July exports, imports fall more than expected

China's exports and imports fell more than expected in July in a rocky start to the third quarter, suggesting global demand remains weak in the aftermath of Britain's decision to leave the EU.

Exports fell 4.4 percent from a year earlier, the General Administration of Customs said on Monday, while adding that it expects pressure on exports is likely to ease at the beginning of the fourth quarter.

Imports fell 12.5 percent from a year earlier, the biggest decline since February, suggesting domestic demand remains sluggish despite a flurry of measures to stimulate growth.

That resulted in a trade surplus of \$52.31 billion in July, versus a \$47.6 billion forecast and June's \$48.11 billion.

Economists polled by Reuters had expected trade to remain weak but show some signs of moderating.

July exports had been expected to fall 3.0 percent, compared with a 4.8 percent decline in June, while imports were seen falling 7.0 percent, following June's drop of 8.4 percent. (Source: Reuters)

### Oil rises on renewed output freeze talks, but fundamentals remain weak

Oil prices rose in early trading on Monday, lifted by reports of renewed talks by some members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to restrain output.

U.S. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude futures were at \$41.90 per barrel at 0411 GMT, up 10 cents from their last close. Brent futures were trading at \$44.34 per barrel, up 7 cents.

The price rise came on the back of renewed calls by some OPEC members to freeze production in a bid to rein in output that has been consistently outpacing demand.

"OPEC members including Venezuela, Ecuador and Kuwait are said to be behind this latest reincarnation. But just like previous endeavors, it seems doomed to fail, given key OPEC members (think: Saudi Arabia, Iraq, and Iran) persist in their battle for market share, ramping up exports apace," said Matt Smith of ClipperData in a note.

Yet in the absence of an agreement, a fight for market share via high output and price discounts is still weighing on markets. (Source: Reuters)

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Turmeric smells slightly like mustard but has a hot, almost pepper-like bitterness to it that complements a variety of dishes and makes turmeric very popular in soups, sauces, curries, meat dishes, biscuits, rice preparations, and as a general spice flavoring for dozens of other cultural dishes and specialties. Aside from its wide usage in food preparation, it has also been praised as one of the most comprehensive and powerful herbal medicines in Ayurvedic treatments and other traditional cultural remedies.



## Health benefits of turmeric

1. Helps to prevent cystic fibrosis and cancer
2. Boosts cognitive abilities
3. Helps to detoxify body
4. Aids in reducing stress and depression
5. Useful for treating gastrointestinal disorders
6. Beneficial in maintaining healthy heart
7. Rich in anti-inflammatory properties
8. Relieves menstrual pain and gives relief from fatigue, nausea, pelvic pain and cramps

## NEWS

## Study: Reading books leads to long life

The latest key to a long life may be as close as your local library. A new study suggests that people who read a lot of books tend to live longer. And it doesn't matter whether it is Harry Potter or "War and Peace" -- it is the time spent reading that counts.

Researchers at the Yale University School of Public Health crunched data on 3,635 people older than 60 who took part in a health survey that included questions on reading.

They were split into three groups: those who read up to three and a half hours a week; those who read more; and those who never picked up a book at all.

After controlling for factors such as age, gender, education and income, the researchers found that, in general, those who read books lived up to two years longer than those who did not.

The benefit rose with the amount of time spent reading. The researchers also found that reading newspapers and magazines helped, too, but not as much as books.

The study was published in the journal *Social Science and Medicine*.

(Source: wtop)

## Electronic tattoo powered by smartphone monitors health

An electronic sticker has been developed by researchers that monitors a wearer's health using power transmitted from their smartphone or tablet.

The "optoelectronics system" is described in the latest issue of the journal *Science Advances*, and is the latest in a series of skin-patch electronics developed by researchers at the University of Illinois.

The device resembles a temporary tattoo and uses tiny sensors to measure sun exposure, a person's blood oxygenation and heart rate. Information is displayed as a flashing light and is wirelessly transmitted back to the wearer's device.

Unlike previous iterations, the device takes power from near-field communications (NFC) signals emitted from a phone rather than its own embedded battery.

The "technology is a thin, skin-like platform of wireless, battery-free electronics," John Rogers, the head of the lab that created the stretchy skin patch, tells *Newsweek*. "The system receives power wirelessly and transmits data wirelessly back to the device."

Rogers adds: "We are focused on health monitoring applications, where the intimate skin interface allows accurate, clinically relevant measurement modes, with data that correlates to clinical gold standards."

A skin patch developed by Rogers' lab in the past was picked up by cosmetics giant L'Oreal and marketed as a device to help people educate themselves about sun protection.

(Source: Newsweek)

## Spectacular comet suicide: Does that happen often?

Astronomers watched the comet plunged towards the sun, where it was rapidly devoured by solar forces. Comet suicides aren't necessarily the result of a direct impact with the sun, but typically occur when a comet passes too close to the sun to withstand the sun's gravitational forces and heat, and disintegrates.

"This comet didn't fall into the sun, but rather whipped around it -- or at least, it would have if it had survived its journey," said Sarah Frazier of NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland, according to *Space.com*. "Like most sungrazing comets, this comet was torn apart and vaporized by the intense forces near the sun."

The comet, first noticed by SOHO on August 1, was speeding at approximately 1.3 million miles per hour as it plummeted towards the sun, according to Dr. Frazier. It was part of the Kreutz comets, a group of comets with similar 800 year orbits, all of which broke off from a larger comet hundreds of years ago.

"SOHO is seeing fragments from the gradual breakup of a great comet, perhaps the one that the Greek astronomer Ephorus saw in 372 BC," Dr. Brian Marsden of the Center for Astrophysics in Cambridge, Mass., told NASA in 2000. "Ephorus reported that the comet split in two. They split again and again, producing the sungrazer family, all still coming from the same direction."

(Source: The CSM)

## Hidden, local climate impacts of drought-friendly vegetation

To address the recent drought in California, policymakers have created incentives for homeowners to replace existing lawns with drought tolerant vegetation. However, new research from George Ban-Weiss, an assistant professor in the Astani Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the USC Viterbi School of Engineering, has found that these efforts might have some hidden consequences on local climate.

Ban-Weiss and post-doctoral scholar Pouya Vahmani used a model of the Los Angeles basin to investigate the climate impacts of widespread adoption of drought tolerant vegetation. Their findings, put forth in the article "Climatic Consequences of Adopting Drought Tolerant Vegetation over Los Angeles as a Response to the California Drought" in the journal *Geophysical Research Letters*, indicate that in fact, if all lawns were replaced with drought tolerant vegetation, that Angelenos could expect an average daytime warming of 1.3 degrees Fahrenheit due largely to decreased evaporative cooling, as irrigation is stopped.

For the hottest regions of the Los Angeles basin, such as the inland empire and San Fernando Valley, the researchers predict a daytime increase in temperature of 3.4 degrees Fahrenheit. Such temperature increases could exacerbate heatwaves, increase photochemical smog production,



Dr. Pouya Vahmani

## Post-doctoral scholar Pouya Vahmani used a model of the Los Angeles basin to investigate the climate impacts of widespread adoption of drought tolerant vegetation.

and increase air conditioning energy use.

## Planting of drought

However, one effect of widespread plant-

ing of drought tolerant vegetation -- which the researchers believe could counteract these higher daytime temperatures -- is an

even greater decrease in nighttime temperatures. The researchers forecast that the average nighttime temperature decrease could be as much as 6 degrees Fahrenheit. Lower nighttime temperatures are important for preventing adverse human health consequences like heat stroke or even death during heat waves, says Ban-Weiss. People, especially vulnerable populations like the elderly, need temperatures to reduce sufficiently at night to allow their bodies to recover from high daytime temperatures and prevent heat-related illness.

"Our interest in this topic was initially piqued because we hypothesized that the reductions in irrigation associated with adopting drought-tolerant vegetation would cause temperature increases," says Ban-Weiss. "We were surprised to find the reduced temperature signal at nighttime. But this actually has a simple physical explanation, since reducing soil moisture decreases upward heat fluxes from the sub-surface to the surface at night, subsequently reducing surface temperatures."

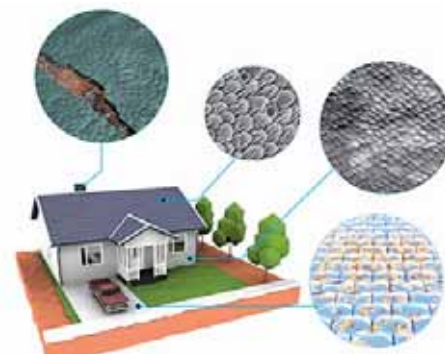
"Our research highlights how water and climate are intimately coupled," says Ban-Weiss. "You can't change one without affecting the other."

(Source: EurekAlert)

## DARPA developing programmable, self-healing building material

The structural materials that are currently used to construct homes, buildings, and infrastructure are expensive to produce and transport, wear out due to age and damage, and have limited ability to respond to changes in their immediate surroundings. Living biological materials -- bone, skin, bark, and coral, for example -- have attributes that provide advantages over the non-living materials people build with, in that they can be grown where needed, self-repair when damaged, and respond to changes in their surroundings. The inclusion of living materials in human-built environments could offer significant benefits; however, today scientists and engineers are unable to easily control the size and shape of living materials in ways that would make them useful for construction.

Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) is launching the Engineered Living Materials (ELM) program with a goal of creating a new class of materials that combines the structural properties of traditional building materials with attributes of living systems.



## Living materials

Living materials represent a new opportunity to leverage engineered biology to solve existing problems associated with the construction and maintenance of built environments, and to create new capabilities to craft smart infra-

structure that dynamically responds to its surroundings.

The "vision of the ELM program is to grow materials on demand where they are needed," said ELM program manager Justin Gallivan. "Imagine that instead of shipping finished materials, we can ship precursors and rapidly grow them on site using local resources. And, since the materials will be alive, they will be able to respond to changes in their environment and heal themselves in response to damage."

Grown materials are not entirely new, but their current manifestations differ substantially from the materials Gallivan envisions. For instance, biologically sourced structural materials can already be grown into specified sizes and shapes from inexpensive feedstocks; packing materials derived from fungal mycelium and building blocks made from bacteria and sand are two modern examples. And, of course, wood has been used for ages. However, these products are rendered inert during the manufacturing process, so they exhibit few of their components' original biological advantages.

(Source: nextbigfuture.com)

## Asthma pill Fevipiprant shows 'massive promise' in reducing severe symptoms

In a study published Friday in the journal *Lancet Respiratory Medicine*, researchers at Leicester University found that patients who tried the new drug Fevipiprant showed a drop in their symptoms, including a reduction in lung inflammations and improvement in lung function. There were also signs that the drug helped repair the lining of the patients' airways.

"This new drug could be a game-changer for future treatment of asthma," lead author of the study Chris Brightling reportedly said. "I'm excited by how effective it's likely to be and also about its potential to reduce the need for patients to take oral steroids. Those people would be able to stop taking those drugs, which would make a huge difference to them."

## Massive promise

Charity organization Asthma UK's Director of Research and Policy Samantha Walker said in a statement, "This research shows massive promise and should be greeted with cautious optimism. The possibility of taking a pill instead of using an inhaler will be a very welcome one among the 5.4 million people in the UK with asthma."

The researchers studied 60 patients who had severe asthma despite using steroid inhalers and were regularly inspected by specialists. Of the 60 patients, 30 were given Fevipiprant for three months in addition to their regular medi-



cines. The other half were given a placebo pill instead of Fevipiprant.

Gaye Stokes, a patient who has had severe asthma for 16 years, reportedly said, "I knew straight away that I had been given the drug. I felt like a completely different person. I had more get up and go, I was less wheezy and for the first time in years, I felt really, really well." She added that once she stopped taking the pill her conditioned deteriorated.

Researchers said that this was just the first step adding that larger studies and long-term trials are required to see if the pill can be used in everyday life.

"More research is needed and we're a long way off seeing a pill for asthma being made available over the pharmacy counter, but it's an exciting development and one which, in the long term, could offer a real alternative to current treatments," Walker said.

(Source: ibtimes.com)

## Dust-sized wireless sensors to be implanted in human body

Engineers at the University of California, Berkeley have created the very first dust-sized wireless sensors that may be implanted within the body.

This is bringing technology closer to the day that technologies such as the Fit-bit will be able to monitor internal nerves, muscles and organs all in real time.

These devices do not require batteries and may also be able to stimulate nerves and muscles opening up doors for electroceuticals to treat disorders including epilepsy and stimulate the immune system or lower inflammation.

The neural dust is implanted in the muscles and peripheral nerves of rats and is unique due to its use of ultrasound.

## Radio waves

Ultrasound technology is already very thoroughly developed for the care of hospice patients and ultrasound vibrations are able to penetrate just about everywhere within the human body making them much more useful than radio waves.

Michel Maharbiz, associate professor of electrical engineering and computer sciences is one of the main two authors of the study.

He says he believes that long term prospects for neural dust are not only within nerves and the brain but much broader.

Having access to telemetry within the body has never been possible because there has been no way to put something



so tiny so deep.

But now he can take a speck of nothing and park it next to a nerve or organ, your GI tract or a muscle, and read out the data.

Sensors at this time have already been shrunk to a size of 1 millimeter cube, which is about the size of a large grain of sand.

These hold a piezoelectric crystal that converts ultrasound vibrations from outside of the body into electricity that powers a tiny, on board transistor that is in direct contact with a nerve or muscle fiber.

When there is a spike in voltage within the fiber, this alters the circuit and the vibration of the crystal, which then changes the echo detected by the ultrasound receiver.

During their experiment, UC Berkeley's team powered up passive sensors every 100 microseconds with six 540-nanosecond ultrasound pulses that gave off continual and real time readouts.

(Source: The Nation)

## Most volcanic activity on Mercury stopped about 3.5 billion years ago

As reported in the NCSU website, a new paper published at the *Geophysical Research Letters* journal suggests that most volcanic activity on Mercury -- a planet located at about thirty-three million miles from the sun -- most likely ended about 3.5 billion years ago. These findings, scientists say, could give them more insight into the geological evolution of the planet, and what happens when rocky planets contract and cool in general.

The team, with planetary geologist and NC State assistant professor, Paul Byrne, explains that there are two types of volcanic activity on rocky planets: explosive and effusive. Explosive volcanic activity is a violent event similar to the Mount Pinatubo eruption in the Philippines in 1991, and the Mount Saint Helens in 1980, and effusive volcanism refers to widespread lava flows that slowly pour out over a

landscape. Effusive, the team adds, is believed to be a key process in rocky planets' crust formation.

## Effusive volcanic deposits

Determining the ages of effusive volcanic deposits can give scientists a hold on a planet's geological history. For example, effusive volcanism is still active on Earth today, but on Mars, it stopped a few million years ago. On Venus, it ended a few hundred million years ago.

By using the data from the NASA Messenger mission, the team was able to determine when the effusive volcanic activity ended on Mercury.

We all know that scientists have no physical samples from the planet which could be used for radiometric dating, so they used photographs of Mercury's surface, and

used crater size-frequency analysis, in which the number and size of craters are placed into established mathematical models. It allowed them to calculate absolute ages for effusive volcanic deposits on Mercury.

Their analysis has shown that Mercury's major volcanic activity stopped at around 3.5 billion years ago, the earliest in the inner Solar System.

Byrne says there is a huge geological difference between our planet, Mars and Venus, and Mercury. The smallest planet in our Solar System has a much smaller mantle -- where radioactive decay produces heat -- compared to those on its neighbors. Mercury began to contract, and the crust sealed off any conduits that magma could use to reach the surface.

(Source: STGLIST)



**1→** The motive behind the attack was unclear and no group had yet claimed responsibility, but several lawyers have been targeted during a recent spate of killings in Quetta.

The latest victim, Bilal Anwar Kasi, was shot and killed while on his way to the city's main court complex, senior police official Nadeem Shah told Reuters. He was the president of Baluchistan Bar Association.

The subsequent suicide attack appeared to target his mourners, Anwar ul Haq Kakar, a spokesman for the Baluchistan government, said.

"It seems it was a pre-planned attack," he said.

Police cordoned off the hospital following the blast.

Aside from a long-running separatist insurgency, and sectarian tensions, Baluchistan also suffers from rising crime.

In January, a suicide bomber killed 15 people outside a polio eradication center in an attack claimed by both the Pakistani Taliban and Jundullah, another Islamist militant group that has pledged allegiance to Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Daesh) terrorist group in the Middle East.

Quetta has also long been regarded as a base for the Afghan Taliban, whose leadership has regularly held meetings there in the past.

In May, Afghan Taliban Leader Mullah Akhtar Mansour was killed by a United States drone strike while travelling to Quetta from the Pakistan-Iran border.

(Source: Reuters)

## Suicide bomber kills at least 63 at Pakistan hospital



## Rouhani, Putin, and Aliyev push for regional integration

**1→** "Since the three neighboring countries, for various reasons, particularly their geostrategic situation, share a wide range of concerns, opportunities, challenges, and face some common threats in political, economic, cultural, technological, and environmental domains, interaction and cooperation between them becomes a necessity felt more than any time else," said the president.

"We believe that in our contemporary world, no single country can address challenges and use opportunities on its own, and obtaining an acceptable level of peace, welfare, and development for the people of a given country demands interaction and cooperation with all countries particularly with neighboring ones."

To materialize the goal, Iran sees "multilateral negotiations" as an effective and necessary mechanism, Rouhani highlighted.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran's foreign policy toward other countries in general and neighboring countries in particular is premised upon cooperation, synergy and finding solutions to achieve common interests, and a win-win policy."

"From the perspective of Iran, tripartite

cooperation between Iran, Azerbaijan, and Russia within a tripartite framework can not only contribute to the expansion and strengthening of capacities in all political, cultural, and economic spheres, but also it can create new opportunities to address current regional challenges via

synergy and convergence."

President Rouhani also suggested the next trilateral summit be held in Iran.

"I am honored to suggest that the next presidential-ministerial summit be held in the Islamic Republic of Iran."

In their bilateral meeting Putin and Rouhani also insisted on the need to accelerate the pace of comprehensive ties between Tehran and Moscow. The tripartite meeting between presidents of Iran, Russia, and Azerbaijan comes at a time where the Middle East region, as well-spring of energy reserves, is plagued by numerous challenges, notably terrorism and extremism.

The meeting is the first of what is hoped to be the beginning of "regional convergence," as stressed by Iranian ambassador to Baku Mohsen Pakaein.

### Rouhani's remarks in trilateral summit:

- Iran welcomes any initiative for cooperation with neighbors.
- The interaction between Iran, Azerbaijan and Russia provides new opportunities in confronting regional challenges.
- Iran's principled policy is based on cooperation to achieve common interests.
- Terrorism and extremism are a common threat which entails joint cooperation to counter them.
- The will of the Iranian and Russian leaders is to establish comprehensive relationship and cooperate to resolve regional issues.
- Interaction between Tehran, Moscow and Baku will increase capacities and lead to regional convergence.

## Seven including baby killed in Nepal helicopter crash



A helicopter crashed into a hillside in Nepal on Monday, killing all seven people on board including a baby, officials said.

The Kathmandu-bound Fish Tail Air helicopter was carrying six passengers when it lost contact with air traffic control about 30 minutes after taking off from the western district of Gorkha. Among them was a new mother seeking medical treatment in the capital. Villagers alerted authorities after they noticed thick smoke rising from a hillside 22 kilometers (14 miles) north of the capital. "There were five adults and one infant on board as well as the pilot," said Ramesh Shiwakoti of Fish Tail Air.

"There are no survivors," Shiwakoti told AFP. "Without an investigation, we cannot tell what caused the accident."

District Chief Bishnu Prasad Pokhrel said rescuers from the army and police

have reached the area. "They are trying to retrieve the bodies," Pokhrel told AFP by telephone from the crash site.

Nepal, still reeling from last year's devastating earthquake that killed nearly 9,000 people, has suffered a number of air disasters in recent years. Four people, including three staff from medical charity Doctors Without Borders (MSF/Médecins Sans Frontières), died in June 2015 when a helicopter crashed while delivering aid to quake survivors. That incident came three weeks after a UH-1Y Huey helicopter came down on a relief mission in the north of the country. Six United States Marines, two Nepali soldiers and five villagers were killed. The European Union in 2013 banned all Nepalese airlines from flying there following international alarm over Nepal's air safety record.

(Source: AFP)

## Two Indian border guards, one fighter killed in Kashmir



Clashes have broken out between Indian troops and militants in Kashmir, leaving two border guards and a fighter dead.

The Indian army confirmed on Monday that three persons were killed in a gun battle near the de facto borderline known as the Line of Control.

India often blames Pakistan for "rebel" attacks in the region, accusing Islamabad of giving arms to pro-independence fighters and sending them across the borderline to launch attacks on Indian forces.

India has an estimated 500,000 soldiers deployed in the restive territory.

Large parts of the territory, including Srinagar which is the largest city and the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, have been under a strict military curfew for the past month.

(Source: agencies)

## IKCO to Establish Production Line in Baku

**ECONOMY** A project to establish a new production line of Iran Khodro in Azerbaijan has officially started in a ceremony attended by Iran's Minister of Industry, Mine and Trade and his Azeri counterpart as well as IKCO's CEO.

The project is expected to be finished by the first half of the next year with IKCO Brand vehicles including Dena, Runna, Samand and Soren to be produced in the site.

Addressing the reporters on the sideline of the ceremony, Iran's Minister of Industry, Mine and Trade Mohammad Reza Nematzadeh said the production line would be established in Naft Chaleh.

He also noted that Iran is ready to provide the Azeri side with the required training and technical know-how to produce IKCO's products in the country.

He called for taking further advantages of available

capacities in both countries saying, "We have developed effective cooperation with each other over the past few years and now with the establishment of the new production line, our cooperation would be enhanced further."

For his part, IKCO's CEO, Hashem Yekehzare said the company attaches strategic importance to the Central Asian countries as one of its main export markets.

"Given to its long-time cooperation and bilateral political, economic and cultural ties with Iran, Azerbaijan has the capacity to sever as an export hub for IKCO's products," he said.

Yekehzare went on saying producing buses is the next development target of Iran Khodro.

noted that the new production line will be established with a 14-million-dollar investment by the Azeri side, adding IKCO will play a key role in providing the site with

the required technologies.

Addressing the ceremony, Azeri Minister of Economy, Hahin Mostafayev said Iran and Azerbaijan enjoy good ties in various fields which in turn would pave the way for an effective cooperation between two sides to establish the production line.

He expressed his satisfaction with the establishment of IKCO's production line in Azerbaijan, adding the two countries can now enhance their cooperation in other fields.

It's noteworthy that the new production line which is set to be established on a 10 hectare land will produce 10 thousand vehicles per year in a single working shift.

This means at least 300 new job vacancies will be created. Meanwhile, the vehicles are expected to be put on sale in Azerbaijan and other Central Asian countries as well.

Special facilities and packages will be offered by EDBI to the Iranian companies which export their products to Russia fruitfully, he maintained.

Materialization of objectives of "resistance economy" is the main mission of EDBI, he said, adding: "Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution named the current year after "Resistance Economy, Action and Implementation", so that supporting export objectives will help boost currency yielding and market stability, the

issue of which is the main mission of the bank."

West Azarbaijan Province enjoys high capacities and potentials due to its proximity to countries including Republic of Azerbaijan, Turkey, Iraq, Russia and even Central Asia in the field of exports, the senior official of the bank opined.

In the end, he said: "Foreign exchange services are of the other salient competitive advantages of the bank which accounts for 80 percent of its resources."

## JUMP

### That limits on Iran's nuclear program will be eased after 10 years is a technical document: expert

**2→** This would still, of course, allow Iran to develop its centrifuge technology and potentially increase its uranium enrichment capacity if its nuclear energy program develops a way that requires an expansion of enrichment capacity. Currently, all future nuclear reactor deals with Russia would also have Russia providing the necessary fuel supplies, so there is very little reason to believe that Iran's uranium enrichment capacity needs to increase over the next decade or two.

### What is your assessment about the implementation of the JCPOA?

A: So far, both sides are meeting their JCPOA implementation commitments — and the people of Iran and the International community are clearly better off — and much safer — with the agreement than without it.

One year after the conclusion of negotiations on the JCPOA, Iran has significantly reduced its capacity to produce nuclear weapons grade material and the IAEA is conducting more extensive and detailed inspections to ensure compliance. Iran has verifiably dismantled that vast majority of its centrifuges, removed the core of its Arak heavy water to prevent it from being used to produce plutonium, and Iran has eliminated all but a small amount (300k) of its low-enriched uranium stockpile. New nuclear cooperation projects have been facilitated. Iran worked with the IAEA to address questions about past activities... The IAEA continues to report that Iran is in compliance with the JCPOA limits and prohibitions. International concern about Iran acquiring the capability to quickly produce enough weapons-grade material for nuclear weapons has abated.

Upon the implementation of the deal last January, the EU3+3 have lifted nuclear related sanctions against Iran and the process of Iran's reintegration into the global economy is continuing.

On July 3, President Hassan Rouhani said that the nuclear deal is having a positive influence on Iran's economy. He said some of the benefits of the agreement were "providing the economy with momentum, improving employment, attracting domestic and foreign investments, access to new technologies, and in the meantime, enhancing exports."

Surely, there are complications regarding access to international financing, insurance for oil tankers, and Iranian revenues in foreign banks that are still frozen. Some companies are not rushing to do business with Iran due to the secondary sanctions that are still in place. But some have overcome such hurdles, including U.S. aerospace giant Boeing, which announced an agreement to sell \$17.6 billion deal to sale airplanes to Iran Air, which was removed from the sanctions designation list as part of the JCPOA.

It is important for the European and American and Iranian officials to work together to help eliminate many of these barriers. But it is unrealistic to expect an immediate economic windfall from the JCPOA and the lifting of the nuclear sanctions, especially given what many international business economists see as systemic weaknesses in Iran's economy and its regulatory system.

Undoubtedly, the JCPOA faces tough technical and political challenges in the years ahead, and both sides will need to continue working aggressively to fulfill the letter and spirit of the agreement.

And in the coming years, if Iran develops a need to increase its enrichment capacity to produce fuel nuclear energy production, it will be in Iran's interest to look for ways to demonstrate its nuclear program is not for weapons purposes through steps such as ratifying the 1996 Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, seeking a region-wide ban on spent fuel reprocessing, and a region-wide prohibition on uranium enrichment beyond the 3.67% level and very strict limits on the stockpiling of low-enriched uranium.

## American Muslims weary of election rhetoric: report

Many American Muslims express frustration with the anti-Muslim rhetoric in the 2016 election cycle which has put them and their faith at the center of the United States political debate, according to a report.

Even though they make up about 1 percent of the U.S. population, Muslims have been the focus of attention for many presidential candidates this year, chief among them Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump.

Trump spent much of the past week engaged in a back-and-forth argument with the parents of a Muslim-American soldier who was killed in Iraq.

The clash began when Khizr Khan, the father of Captain Humayun Khan, delivered a scorching criticism of Trump at the Democratic National Convention over his call to ban Muslims from entering the U.S.

The call has been one of several controversial statements the billionaire businessman has made about Muslims this year, including the idea of setting up a registry for Muslims living in the U.S. and monitoring their mosques.

"I was one of many who put their lives on the line for many years for the country -- I was protecting his (Trump's) life. I don't see in his history that he took that kind of stand for his country he wants to be commander in chief of" Talib Shareef, who has retired from the United States Air Force, told CNN in an interview.

Shareef, who was recently appointed the imam of the Nation's Mosque in Washington, said the best way to counter the threat of extremism is more community engagement by Muslims. (Source: Press TV)

## EDBI Ready to Offer Customers' Currency in Free Rate

**ECONOMY** Export Development Bank of Iran (EDBI) has announced its readiness to sell and buy currency belonging to its customers in free rate.

Chief Executive of Export Development Bank of Iran (EDBI) Dr. Ali Salehabadi announced the above statement in Urmia, W. Azarbaijan Province and said: "All branches of EDBI are determined to offer its customers' currency in free rate."

Turning to Russia's market priority for

offering banking services by the bank, he said: "Export of products to Russia in this timeline is the best opportunity for Iranian exporters."

Expanding and promoting economic exchanges with Russia is one of priorities followed up strictly in the country, he said, adding: "Since Russia is home to rich currency reserves, export of products to Russia can bring about positive results especially in Urmia, W. Azarbaijan Province."



FOOD FOR THOUGHT



"Fly free, my daughter. Be what I could never be and leave the cage forever." Nalini Singh, Archangel's Enigma

NEWS

Pakistan police say British woman's suspected 'honor killing' was murder

LAHORE, Pakistan (Reuters) — A British woman whose husband alleges she was killed for marrying him against her parents' wishes was murdered, Pakistani police said on August 3.

The case attracted attention because it came just days after the high-profile "honor killing" of outspoken social media star Qandeel Baloch, whose brother confessed to the crime and has been arrested.



Samia Shahid, 28, a beautician from Bradford who had gone to visit her family in Pakistan, died last month in the village of Pandori in northern Punjab, the political power base of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.

Police spokeswoman Nabeela Ghazanfar said a forensic report on Shahid's death had been released to a three-member investigative committee led by Deputy Inspector General Police Abubakar Khuda Bakhsh.

"The report says that she neither committed suicide, nor did she die a natural death," Ghazanfar told Reuters. "She died of asphyxia after her breathing was choked, which leads to the possibility she was murdered. Now the team will carry out investigations along the lines that this is a murder."

Shahid's relatives said she had died of a heart attack, but her husband, Kazim Mukhtar, told Reuters last week that he believed she had been poisoned and then strangled.

No arrests have been made so far, but Shahid's father and a cousin have been questioned by police. Police are also searching for her divorced first husband, Choudhry Shakeel, who is missing.

Mukhtar, her second husband, told media last week that the couple had received death threats from her family in the past. He also said her family was angered that Shahid converted from the majority Sunni to the minority Shia sect of Islam after the couple married.

Some 500 women are killed each year in Pakistan by relatives who feel their family has been shamed by a daughter or sister fraternizing with men, eloping or otherwise infringing conservative demands on women.

Last month's murder of Qandeel Baloch, who had divided opinion in the deeply conservative Muslim society by regularly posting risqué photos on social media, led the government to announce that it would pass long-delayed legislation outlawing honor killing within weeks.

RECIPE OF THE WEEK

Fresh peach dessert

"We look forward to peach season every year just so we can have this dessert. Make sure to use sweet, ripe peaches. You could also substitute other fruits such as raspberries or strawberries, but I think fresh peaches are the best."

Ingredients:



- 16 whole graham crackers, crushed
- 3/4 cup butter, melted
- 1/2 cup white sugar
- 4 1/2 cups miniature marshmallows
- 1/4 cup milk
- 1 pint heavy cream
- 1/3 cup white sugar
- 6 large fresh peaches - peeled, pitted and sliced

Directions:

Combine the graham cracker crumbs, melted butter, and 1/2 cup sugar in a mixing bowl. Mix until evenly moistened, reserve 1/4 cup of the mixture for the topping. Press the remaining mixture into the bottom of a 9x13-inch baking dish.

Heat marshmallows and milk in a large saucepan over low heat and stir until the marshmallows are completely melted. Remove from heat and cool.

Whip cream in a large bowl until soft peaks form. Beat in 1/3 cup sugar until the cream forms stiff peaks. Fold the whipped cream into the cooled marshmallow mixture.

Spread 1/2 the cream mixture over the crust, arrange the peaches on top of the cream, then spread the remaining cream mixture over the peaches. Sprinkle the reserved crumb mixture over the cream. Refrigerate until serving.

National plan for empowering breadwinner women being drafted: VP

WOMEN TEHRAN — A desk comprehensive plan aimed at empowering breadwinner women is being drafted and negotiations are underway for providing finance for the plan, the vice president for family and women affairs said on Monday.

"We have developed an efficient model for empowering breadwinner women and we are planning to extend it to the whole country," ISNA quoted Shahindokht Molaverdi as saying.

Reports from different provinces with similar conditions and their successful experiences are collected and the results will be utilized in the national level, she noted.

Last year the plan was implemented tentatively in Shahr-e Rey, Tehran province, according to ISNA.



How Muslim-American women are proving Donald Trump wrong

He said they aren't "allowed" to speak.

Muslim women want Donald Trump to hear them. On Monday, the hashtag #CanYouHearUsNow went viral on Twitter in response to the Republican nominee's insinuation that Muslim women are not "allowed" to speak.

Trump made a series of belittling remarks on Sunday to ABC News' George Stephanopoulos about Khizr and Ghazala Khan, Muslim-American parents of a soldier killed by a suicide bomber in Iraq. Khizr delivered an address at the Democratic National Convention on Thursday evening while standing next to his wife, who Trump alleged did not speak because she didn't have her husband's permission.

Ghazala Khan refuted Trump's comments with a powerful Washington Post op-ed, writing that she chose not to speak at the convention because she was overwhelmed by



emotion. "Walking onto the convention stage, with a huge

picture of my son behind me, I could hardly control myself. What mother could? Donald Trump has children whom he loves. Does he really need to wonder why I did not speak?"

According to Politico, the Muslim Public Affairs Council and other American Muslim groups are behind the hashtag, which members of the community have turned into a rallying cry to speak up about what it means to be a Muslim woman in the U.S.

Among those participating are researcher Dalia Mogahed, whose TED talk about Islam has received 1.7 million views, and renowned activist and media commentator Linda Sarsour, who tweeted that she is tired of others trying to define Muslim women. "We define us. We tell our own stories," she wrote.

(Source: fortune.com)

Ukip's Lisa Duffy wants to ban Muslim veil in public venues

A Ukip leadership candidate is calling for a ban on Muslim women wearing a veil in public buildings, shopping centers and on buses and trains.

Lisa Duffy will also demand the closure of Islamic faith schools until the problem of Islamist terrorism is dealt with, as well as a "complete and comprehensive ban" on sharia courts in the UK.

In a speech in London, Duffy will say her proposals are designed to foster integration, arguing: "Muslims who were born in this country ... are as British as I am and I simply want them to feel as British as I do."

But a rival in the race to succeed Nigel Farage will warn Ukip against focusing its efforts on issues such as Islam, warning it risks being seen as "small-minded" if it chases "the bigot vote".

Launching his own leadership campaign in Manchester, the Ukip MEP Bill Etheridge will say: "I am proposing that as a party we focus on our policies, cementing libertarianism into our DNA."

"That means not focusing on issues like Islam - I'm not chasing the bigot vote."

Duffy - who is backed by Suzanne Evans, the former Ukip spokeswoman - will say she wants to create a "path of opportunity" for young Muslim women who were told by men what they should wear, what leisure activities they should pursue and who they should marry.

"Why should I, as a white, Christian woman, effectively enjoy greater civil and human rights and freedoms than others?" the Huntingdonshire district councillor will ask. "My ambition is that everyone, from every community, should be able to enjoy the same rights and have the same independent control over their lives and their bodies as I do."

She will describe the veil as "a symbol of aggressive separatism that can only foster extremism" and will claim that it is often "forced on women by men who view them as their property".

While stopping short of a complete ban

on the veil, Duffy said that under her leadership, Ukip would advocate a "show your face in public" policy.

"On our public transport networks, in public buildings, banks, stores and shopping precincts - all those places where teenagers are told to take their hoodies down and where motorcyclists are expected to remove their helmets - it is only reasonable to expect everyone to show their faces," she will say.

"Again, it is about making sure there is one law for all, rather than making an exception for a community because we are frightened of causing offence. There is no offence to be taken if all are treated equally."

Duffy will say the rule should apply "just as much to the retinues accompanying Middle Eastern princes to London as it will to Muslim women living in Britain" and that it should not be regarded as Islamophobic for someone to politely request a woman to remove a veil in public.

"I have a positive vision for British Islam

where girls can grow up with equal rights to men and be given the rights of self-determination the rest of us take for granted," she is expected to say.

Meanwhile, Etheridge will position himself as the "unity candidate" in a contest taking place amid increasingly vitriolic disputes between supporters of Farage and backers of the party's only MP, Douglas Carswell.

At his campaign launch, the Dudley borough councillor is expected to say: "I do not want the party to scurry to the center and abandon the values we as a party are supposed to promote, like a small state, low taxes and individual liberties. It is our difference which is our strength."

Duffy and Etheridge are among a field of six candidates on the ballot paper in a race from which early favorites such as Evans and Steven Woolfe have been excluded. The winner will be announced at Ukip's annual conference in Bournemouth on 15 September.

(Source: theguardian)

IN FOCUS @ AFP



Paralympics gold winner sportswoman Zahra Nemati was Iran's flag bearer in the opening ceremony of Rio Olympic Games on August 6th, 2016.

Pope sets up commission to study women deacons



Pope Francis set up a commission recently to study the role of female deacons in the Catholic Church.

The panel of seven men and six women will focus on the history of women who held the position in the early years of the church, the Vatican said in a statement, according to AFP. The pope made the decision after "intense prayer and mature reflection," the statement said.

In May, Francis said he would like to form such a commission after he was asked at an event with Catholic sisters at the Vatican why women are barred from being deacons — ministers ranked below priests.

Some academics believe women deacons ministered only to other women in the early Catholic Church, while others think they played a similar role to male deacons.

The church eventually ended the practice.

Francis said last month he was surprised at reports that he was paving the way for women to become deacons and possibly priests.

"The first to be surprised by this news was me," he told reporters in a briefing aboard a plane following his visit to Armenia, according to the Catholic News Agency. "They said: 'The church opens the door to deaconesses.' Really? I am a bit angry because this is not telling the truth of things," he added.

He also said he did not see women becoming priests, AFP reported.

The Vatican did not set a date for the commission's work to start or a deadline for it to be completed, AFP said. (Source: USA Today)



# Iran optimistic despite defeat against Argentina

**SPORTS** Iran volleyball team suffered straight-set defeat against Argentina in its opening match of the 2016 Olympics in Rio on Monday.

The Argentine squad defeated Iran 3-0 (25-23, 26-24 and 25-18) in a Pool B match held at the indoor Ginasio Gilberto Cardoso arena in the northern Maracana neighborhood of Rio.

Argentina's Facundo Conte dominated for Argentina with 21 points. Seyed Mohammad Mousavi was Iran's top scorer with 10.

Iran's Argentinian head coach Raul Lozano believes his homeland team had a better performance.

"Argentina is my country and I would like to congratulate them for this win. This is the first time I faced my country at Olympics. We lost the game due to tactical errors and it was nothing to do with the player's mentality. We'll now focusing on the player's recovery as we're going to face Poland in the next step on Tuesday," Iran's

Iranian players hope that they could make up this defeat in next games to keep their hope of qualifying alive.

"We could have had a better start but they were better than us. I hope we could make up in the next game," Iran captain Saeed Marouf said.

Iran's setter Mehdi Mahdavi believes that any team could suffer a defeat and Iran is not an exception.

"Argentina was better than us in services and receives. We're not at the end of the road as we've got four more games to play and we can get enough points to qualify for the next round," Mahdavi said.

"No one could have imagined Italy beat France 3-0 or Canada's win against USA. Any team could suffer a defeat and we're not exceptions but I'm sure we will win the next games," he added.

Iran's volleyball team defender Adel Gholami stated that the team is here for a big purpose and will not give up after a defeat.



"We made every effort to reach the Olympics and we're here to reach a big goal so we won't give up after a defeat. Argentina were better than us and they didn't allow us to play our game," Gholami said.

Mohammad Mousavi who is currently one of the best blockers in the world stated that the team couldn't meet the expectations.

"We couldn't meet the expectations and they were better in spikes and receives. Olympics is far different from the

other tournaments but we will try hard to win the other games," Mousavi said.

Iran has been scheduled to play Poland early Wednesday.

The volleyball tournaments at the Rio 2016 Rio Olympic Games started on August 6, and will finish on August 21.

The Iranian volleyball team has been pitted against Argentina, Cuba, Egypt, Poland and Russia in Pool B.

Brazil, Canada, France, Italy, Mexico and the United States were drawn in Pool A.

## Seeing people happy is priceless: Siamand Rahman



**SPORTS** Iran's Paralympic and world champion Siamand Rahman says that to see people happy is priceless for him.

The powerlifter remains on course to reach his ultimate goal of 300kg. Rahman is expected to attempt the feat at the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games.

He won the gold medal in the 2012 Olympic Games in London, lifting 280kg in the men's over 100kg.

"I am working hard for more than a

year to set a historical record in Rio. I am fit at the moment and I work hard at training ahead of Rio 2016 Paralympic Games. Seeing people happy is priceless," Rahman told Paralympic.ir.

"It's a great honor for me to represent my country in the games," the +107kg powerlifter added.

"Expectations are high at the moment and I am under a lot of pressure since everyone expects me to win a gold medal in Paralympics," Rahman concluded.

## Iran's boxer Rouzbahani apologizes to fans for not winning medal



**SPORTS** Iranian boxer Ehsan Rouzbahani apologized the fans after being knocked of the 2016 Rio Olympic Games.

In the men's light heavyweight (81kg) class, in a closely fought contest, the sole Iranian boxer lost to Netherland's Peter Mullenberg.

Mullenberg's next opponent will be Teymur Mammadov, the Azeri flagbearer who had a 17cm height advantage.

"I don't understand what happened. I

believe that the referees' decisions went against me," Rouzbahani told the reporters after the match.

"I did my best in the match against my rival. I apologized to the Iranians because I failed to advance to the next stages," he added.

The boxing tournaments at the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro are scheduled to take place from 6 to 21 August 2016 at the Pavilion 6 of Riocentro.

## Frank de Boer set to take over at Inter Milan as Roberto Mancini leaves

Frank de Boer is set to be named the new coach of Inter Milan after Roberto Mancini's departure was confirmed on Monday.

Mancini's future has been the subject of speculation throughout the summer, with reports of a rift with the new Chinese owners. President Erick Thohir had tried to dispel these rumours several times, branding Mancini their "star player" during a recent tour of the United States.

However, a 6-1 defeat to Tottenham Hotspur in the Nerazzurri's most recent friendly, following a 4-1 loss to Bayern Munich, appears to have been the final straw.

A statement released on the club's official website read: "Internazionale Milano confirms that it has parted company with head coach Roberto Mancini by mutual agreement.

"Inter would like to place on record its thanks to Roberto for the work carried out with the team since joining in November 2014.

"Last season the Club led Serie A until the Christmas break, ending the season in fourth place and qualifying for



the UEFA Europa League.

"We thank Roberto for the work and commitment he has shown the Club over the past 20 months."

De Boer is reported to have arrived in Milan already and Voetbal International says an official announcement will be made in the next 24 hours.

Mancini only had a year left to run on his contract and had been growing increasingly frustrated by the lack of investment in his squad this summer. After Ever Banega arrived on a free transfer from Sevilla, only Antonio Candreva has been added.

According to La Gazzetta dello Sport, Inter directors first made contact with De Boer two weeks ago, while Mancini and the squad were in the United States. Mediaset television claims Mancini will receive payoff of €2.5 million.

La Gazzetta dello Sport also reported that only last week Inter's new owners had made Mancini an offer of a new three-year contract, which the 51-year-old turned down as it did not guarantee him a bigger say on transfers.

De Boer has never coached outside of the Netherlands, and did not play in Serie A either. He left Ajax in May after missing out on the Dutch title for the second successive season to PSV Eindhoven, having won the title in each of his first four seasons at the helm.

(Source: ESPN)



## More records fall as Phelps collects 19th gold

Michael Phelps picked up his 19th gold medal on a second night of world records in the Olympic pool, with Katie Ledecky cruising to women's 400 meters freestyle victory and Britain's Adam Peaty running away with the men's 100 breaststroke.

Sweden's Sarah Sjostrom extended Saturday's record spree in winning the 100 meters butterfly, and Peaty and Ledecky followed suit in the next two finals before the U.S. men's team, with Phelps swimming second, took the 4x100 freestyle relay.

Six swimming world records have now fallen in two days of competition, and the United States moved level with Australia on two gold medals each.

Phelps, the most decorated Olympian of all time, now has 19 golds, two silvers and two bronzes. For his relay team mates Caeleb Dressel and Ryan Held, it was their first Olympic medal.

London Olympics 100 freestyle champion Nathan Adrian swam the final leg for the Americans, touching first ahead of France and Australia.

"On the block I thought my heart was going to explode, I was so hyped, so excited," said Phelps, competing in his fifth Olympics.

Ledecky, the rising U.S. swimming sensation, shaved 1.91 seconds off her own world record on the way to the 400m gold, the first stage of a rare treble she hopes to complete along with the 200m and 800m.

"It's pure happiness," the 19-year-old told reporters. "I wanted the first 200 to hurt as little as possible and I really felt like I could build into it and really explode that last 50," she added after leading the race from start to finish.

"WHERE IS EVERYBODY?" Britain's Peaty set his second world record in consecutive days, and seemed surprised by the margin of his victory - 1.56 seconds - over defending champion Cameron van der Burgh of South Africa. "I touched the wall and looked around and thought 'where is everybody?' Peaty told reporters.

The last British man to win an Olympic swimming gold was Adrian Moorhouse in the same event in 1988, six years before Peaty was born. On a big night for the British team, Jazz Carlin won a silver medal behind Ledecky.

In the butterfly, Sjostrom became the first Swedish woman to win an Olympic gold medal, with Canada's 16-year-old Penny Oleksiak taking silver. American Dana Vollmer, the 2012 champion, clinched bronze.

"The feeling is totally crazy. I didn't realize it was a world record," Sjostrom said.

"I knew I was the big favorite. I was under pressure, so I tried to focus on no disasters. Before the start I said to myself: 'It's just a pool. It's nothing. I know what to do.'"

In a reminder of the doping controversies that dogged the build-up to the Olympics, there were loud boos for Russian breaststroker Yulia Efimova and the men's relay team.

Efimova, who has served two doping suspensions, succeeded in an appeal last week against being banned from Rio.

She was one of a number of Russians who argued successfully that excluding them from the Olympics would be punishing them again for the same offense.

She qualified second for Monday's 100 breaststroke final, 0.02 seconds behind Lilly King of the United States.

(Source: Reuters)

## Uli Hoeness announces intention to return as Bayern Munich president

Uli Hoeness will run in Bayern Munich's presidency elections in November, the club has announced.

Hoeness, 64, was previously Bayern president between 2009 and 2014 but left the role in March 2014 when he was convicted of evading millions of euros in tax through an undeclared Swiss bank account.

He was released from prison in February 2016 after serving half of his three-and-a-half-year sentence for tax evasion, but said in March he needed some time to clear his head before making a decision about his future.

Scheduled elections for the club president and committee will be held at Bayern's next Annual General Meeting among members who are present and eligible to vote.

Amicable talks have been held with current president Karl Hopfner who has decided he will not stand against Hoeness for the presidency or as part of the committee.

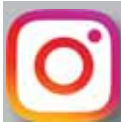
He has been backed by Franz Beckenbauer and Philipp Lahm, popular figures within the club, to reclaim the role.

Former Bayern coach and president Beckenbauer told Bild in July: "FC Bayern need Uli Hoeness, and Uli Hoeness needs FC Bayern.

"Even in such a well-run and successful club you should not do without Uli Hoeness' experience. He's always there with a lot of blood, sweat and tears. I would be delighted about his return."

And club captain Lahm backed Hoeness to return to his old roles at Bayern, adding: "Uli is incredibly important for the club," he said. "Without him Bayern wouldn't be where they are now."

(Source: Soccer.net)



INSTAGRAM



@wayner Rooney Great start to the season ??



@juventus Different look but nothing new about the result. ?? #FirstNeverFollows #FinoAllaFine



@fcbayern Ice, Ice, Baby! ?? The sun is shining over Säbener Street. #FCBayern #MiaSanMia





**Poem of the day**  
Who are we, O Thou soul of our souls,  
that we should remain in being beside thee?  
Rumi

**Prayer Times**

Noon:13:10 Evening: 20:20 Dawn: 4:46 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:19 (tomorrow)

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## NEWS IN BRIEF



**"Standing in the Dust" to raise funds for MS sufferers**

**TEHRAN** — "Standing in the Dust", Mohammad-Hossein Mahdavian's biopic about Iranian war hero Ahmad Motevasselian, will go on screen at Tehran's Mellat Cineplex on August 14 to raise funds for people suffering from Multiple Sclerosis (MS).

Winner of the Crystal Simorgh for best film at the 34th Fajr Film Festival this year, "Standing in the Dust" tells the life story of Motevasselian, an IRGC commander who was kidnapped by the Zionist regime in 1982 in Lebanon.

The box office revenues will be donated to the Iran MS Society.



**Gypsy Kings guitarist to perform in Tehran**

**TEHRAN** — Paul Reyes, the veteran guitarist of the Gypsy Kings, is scheduled to give concerts in Tehran's Vahdat Hall on August 13 and 14.

Nine other Spanish folk musicians will accompany him during the concerts.

The Exir Novin Advertising Agency and Persia Film from Iran are the organizers of the event.



**"Hippolytus" to return to stage**

**TEHRAN** — The Iranian theater troupe Prometheus led by director Farzad Amini plans to restage Euripides' "Hippolytus" at Tehran's Hafez Hall on August 11.

"Hippolytus" is an Ancient Greek tragedy based on the myth of Hippolytus whose stepmother Phaedra falls in love with him.

Earlier in June, the group performed the play at the theater for several weeks.

Bahram Abbasizadeh, Elnaz Esmailzadegan, Mohammadreza Farzam and Sanaz Purdashti are the main members of the cast for the play, which will be on stage until September 8.

## NEWS

### Setareye Qotbi to give concerts in Tehran

**TEHRAN** — Setareye Qotbi (Polaris), an all-female Iranian pop band, is scheduled to give concerts at Tehran's Niavaran Cultural Center on August 11 and 12.



The band led by pianist/harpist Bahar Ilchi has built up a repertoire of 21 songs composed in Persian, English, French, Turkish and Hindi for the concerts.

Mahshid Molai, Rania Malek, Nilufar Zebarjad, Parisa Pirzadeh, Behnush Bakhtiari and Negin Tehrani are among the instrumentalists of the band.

Only females are allowed to attend the performances.

### Robert De Niro to open Sarajevo Film Festival

**SARAJEVO (Reuters)** — The Sarajevo Film Festival will honor two-time Oscar-winning U.S. actor and producer Robert De Niro with a lifetime achievement award for his contribution to film on its opening night on Friday.

"We are honored to have Robert De Niro as the first recipient of the Honorary Heart of Sarajevo - Lifetime Achievement Award," director Mirsad Purivatra said in a statement on Monday.

De Niro will present Martin Scorsese's digitally restored movie "Taxi Driver" in which he starred, in honor of its 40th anniversary, the statement said.

British film director Stephen Frears, who will be awarded for extraordinary contribution to the art of film, will present his latest film "Florence Foster Jenkins".

The Sarajevo Film Festival, founded as an act of defiance towards the end of the 1992-95 siege during the Bosnian war, will show 222 films from 61 countries to an audience of about 100,000.

Its main award is the Heart of Sarajevo. An international jury will be chaired by Palestinian filmmaker Elia Suleiman.

# Locarno festival commemorates Abbas Kiarostami, Michael Cimino

**TEHRAN** — The 69th Locarno Film Festival, which is currently underway in the Swiss city, is scheduled to pay tribute to the recently deceased filmmakers Abbas Kiarostami and Michael Cimino.

"I dedicate this year's festival to Abbas Kiarostami and Michael Cimino," Carlo Chatrian, the artistic director of the festival, said in the schedule of the event.

"Not just in gratitude for the emotions they gave to us, but also because both filmmakers are representative of the kind of cinema for which Locarno is home away from home," he added.

Kiarostami's "The Traveler" and "Where Is the Friend's Home?" have been selected to be screened at the festival. In addition to be shown is "Filming in Cuba with Abbas Kiarostami", a series of shots developed from a workshop that Kiarostami held earlier this year in Cuba.

Kiarostami, whose 1997 film "Taste of Cherry" was awarded the Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival, achieved global recognition for his homeland cinema after the victory of the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

Suffering from a severe gastrointestinal disease, Kiarostami passed away in Paris earlier in June at the age of 76. He had travelled to France for further treatment.

The 4th Locarno Filmmakers Academy is also currently organizing some workshops on the sidelines of the festival. Iranian filmmaker Ali Asgari and several other young film talents from around the world have been selected to attend the workshops.

Participants will receive specialized trainings from



A scene from Abbas Kiarostami's acclaimed film "Where Is the Friend's Home?"

world-class cinema icons such as Roger Corman, Gaspar Noé, Albert Serra, Douglas Gordon, Jonas Mekas, Howard Shore, Alejandro Jodorowsky and Ken

Loach. The Locarno Film Festival opened on August 3 and will run until August 13.

## Leader's comment on "Tintin and Sinbad" unveiled

**CULTURE TEHRAN** — The inscription of a comment by Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei about "Tintin and Sinbad", a book on the cultural invasion of the West, was unveiled during a ceremony on Monday some 22 years after was written.

"I have always tried to explain this story, but unfortunately, not many have believed it. Now this is good; witness this book, the narrator of the story has seen the events himself with his own eyes and has published the story of Tintin and Sinbad," the leader wrote.

"Now it has become easier for me. I only need to give a copy of this book to all the children," he added.

Published by Qadyani Publications, "Tintin and Sinbad" was written by Mohammad Mirkiani in 1991 for young adults. The book has been republished eleven times since then.

In this book by an Iranian author, Tintin and his friends appear and experience a new adventure in the East, where they intend to find Oriental tales to dominate, but Sinbad with his oriental-themed legends fight against the invaders.

The unveiling ceremony took place at the Islamic Revolution Publications, which is affiliated with the Institute for Preserving and Publishing Works by Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei.

A number of cultural figures attended the unveiling ceremony.



This combination photo shows the inscription of a comment by Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei about "Tintin and Sinbad" and the cover of the book.

### PICTURE OF THE DAY Honaronline/Gatha Ziatabari



A man visits an exhibition of drawings and sculptures by Fazel Mosallanejad, Mohammad Alizadeh and Mahmud Haqvervilu at Tehran's O Gallery on August 6, 2016. The exhibit runs until August 16 at the gallery located at 44 Khosro Alley, off Ostad Nejatollahi St.

## Dramatic volcano-themed light show opens Festival on Edinburgh's Castle Rock

**LONDON (Reuters)** — The volcanic rock on which Edinburgh Castle perches became the screen for a 3-D digital light show on Sunday night, turning the western facade into a kaleidoscope of its past for the opening ceremony of the 2016 Edinburgh Festival, the world's biggest annual arts event.

The 350-million-year geology of the craggy Scottish capital was the

inspiration for the show, bathing the rock in cascades of light to the delight of the 27,000-strong crowd watching live.

The animation focused on the idea of "deep time", a geological concept pioneered by James Hutton in Scotland in the 18th century, which helps to explain the earth's formation.

The show was created using

architectural mapping technology and took almost 15 km of cable and 42 projectors to pull off. Set to an electronic soundtrack by Glasgow rock band Mogwai, it was billed by the organizers as "one of the largest and most unusual pieces of projection undertaken anywhere in the world".

Over three weeks in August, the Edinburgh International Festival

takes place simultaneously with The Fringe, hosting more than 3,000 shows, and the Edinburgh Military Tattoo, which this year celebrates Queen Elizabeth's 90th birthday.

During the festival, street parades and performance art and music, children's theater and other events take place throughout the city, whose population doubles to around one million people for the duration.

## Woody Allen's Amazon series gets fall debut date, title

**BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)** — Woody Allen's first small-screen series will debut on Amazon this fall.

The streaming service announced the Sept. 30 debut date as well as the title for Allen's project: "Crisis in Six Scenes". The comedy, set during the upheaval of the 1960s, focuses on a suburban family dealing with the chaos brought by a visitor. The cast includes Allen, Miley Cyrus and Elaine May.

It's one of several new comedies to be released this fall, Amazon said Sunday, beginning with comedian Tig Notaro's "One Mississippi", inspired by events in her life and debuting Sept. 9. It will be followed on Sept. 16 by playwright Phoebe Waller-Bridge's "Fleabag", about modern life in London and starring and written by her.

Also announced Sunday were the return dates for "Transparent", the comedy which will begin its third season on Sept. 23; "Red Oaks", the 1980s-set country club sitcom back for its sophomore season Nov. 11, and "Mozart in the Jungle", the series set in the world of classical music, starting its third season Dec. 9.