

# TEHRAN TIMES

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Rio Olympics 2016: Iran's Ghasemi wins silver

15

## At least 50 dead in attack on wedding party in Turkey

At least 50 people have been killed and 94 more wounded in an explosion at a wedding ceremony in Turkey's southeastern province of Gaziantep, near the Syria border.

The blast, which occurred at around 11pm local time on Saturday in the Akdere neighborhood of Sahin Bey district, was a "terror attack", according to Ali Yerlikaya, the governor of Gaziantep.

He said ambulances were dispatched to the scene, and dead and wounded people were taken to hospitals.

Mehmet Simsek, Turkey's deputy prime minister, told NTV that the explosion appeared to have been caused by a suicide bomber.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said "Daesh is the likely perpetrator of the attack", using the Arabic name for the Islamic State in Iraq and Levant (ISIL) terrorist group.

"Our country and our nation have again only one message to those who attack us: You will not succeed!" he said.

Separately, Samil Tayyar, a member of parliament from the governing Justice and Development Party, pointed the finger at ISIL, also known as ISIS, in remarks on Twitter. →16

## Iran, Russia establish awards for Russian Islamic and Iranian studies

**CULTURE TEHRAN** — Iran and Russia have established awards to honor books on Islamic and Iranian studies published in Russian.

The first edition of the awards will be held next year and scholars will be honored in the categories of authorship, translation and correction, the secretariat of Iran Book of the Year Awards, which is one of the organizers of the awards, announced in a press release on Sunday.

Books published during 2014 and 2015 will be judged in the first edition of the awards.

The secretariat has asked scholars from around the world to send a copy or PDF version of their books to the center in Tehran as well as to the department of the Iranian studies at the Margarita Rudomino All-Russia State Library for Foreign Literature in Moscow, which is another organizer of the awards.

The deadline for applications is the end of October and the PDF version of works must be sent to bookaward@ketab.ir.

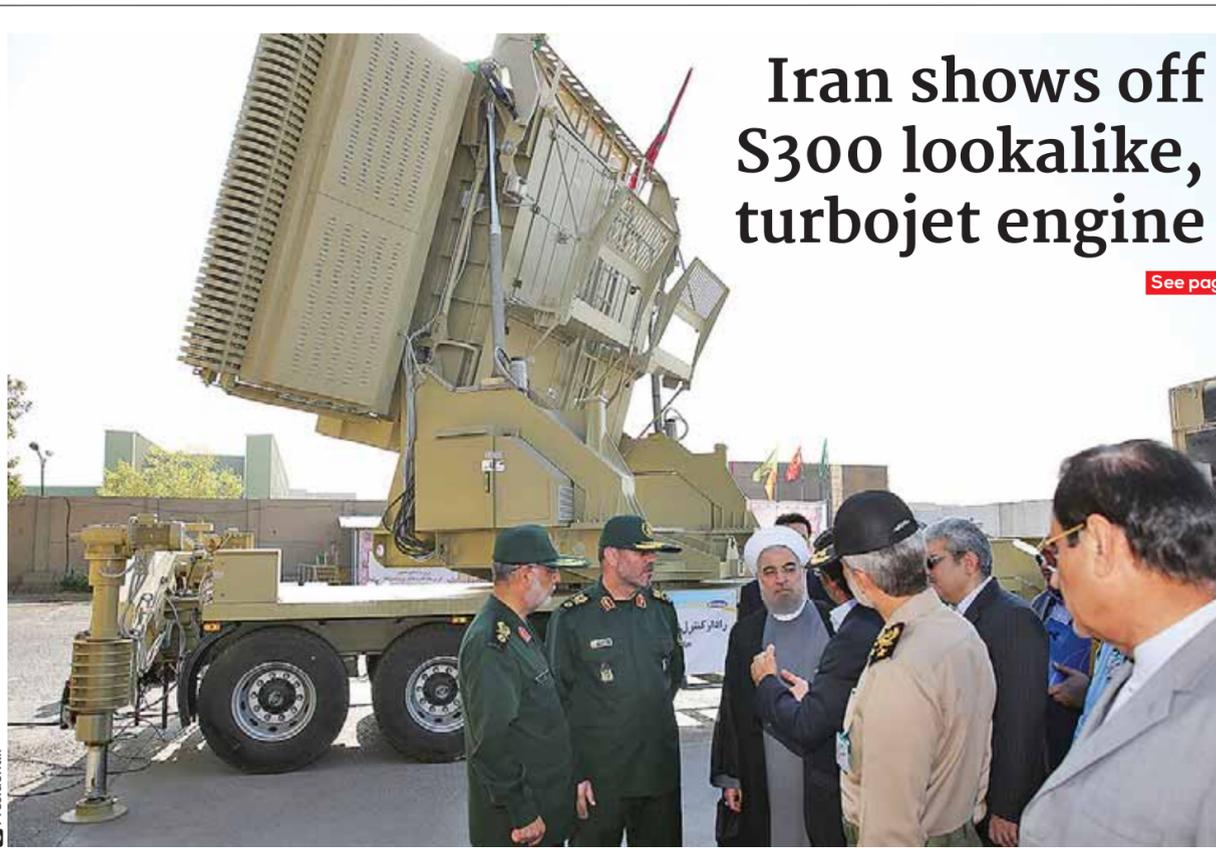
The awards will be presented in collaboration with the Russian Foundation for Islamic Studies and the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Russian Academy of Sciences.

# Leader: Hegemons are hostile to powerful Islam

**POLITICS TEHRAN** — Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei said on Sunday that the Islamic Revolution like a "massive earthquake shook the

pillars of the hegemonic system". "With the grace of 'revolutionary Islam' and 'Islamic revolution' the main goal of the bullying global powers, which is governing the region, ended in failure and the

United States has been practically grounded in the West Asia region," Ayatollah Khamenei said during a meeting with prayer leaders of local mosques from different parts of Tehran province. →2



## Iran shows off S300 lookalike, turbojet engine

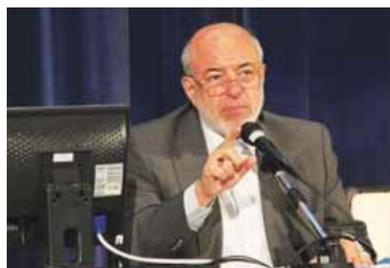
See page 2

## Iran to inaugurate energy projects worth \$2b

**ECONOMY TEHRAN** — Energy Minister Hamid Chitchian announced that 3,402 energy projects worth 68.87 trillion rials (about \$2 billion) will be inaugurated during the Government Week (August 23-29), IRNA reported.

Based on the report, the minister broke the news in a press conference in Tehran on Sunday.

The value of investment in the projects which are mainly in the fields of water, electricity, wastewater, and renewable energies



is estimated to be 13.36 trillion rials (about \$377 million).

Two dam projects in the central province of Isfahan, three new irrigation and drainage networks in the provinces of Mazandaran, Ardebil, and Lorestan, 212 rural water projects in 872 villages in 24 provinces covering a population of over 430,000 people, and also two water treatment plants and six wastewater treatment plants are among the mentioned projects.

## Terrorist blast in Turkey draws strong condemnation from Tehran

**POLITICS TEHRAN** — A terrorist blast in Turkey on Saturday drew strong condemnation from Tehran, days after the two, coupled with Russia, vowed to cooperate more closely in their fight against terrorism.

At least 50 people were killed and 73 others wounded, in a blast at a wedding ceremony late on August 20 in southeastern Turkey.

Turkey has pointed the finger of suspicion for the bombing at Daesh.

"Committing such terrorist crimes at a wedding ceremony and slaughtering defenseless civilians once again laid bare the heinous and ugly anti-human goal of the Takfiri terrorism" said Iranian

Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Qassem.

Carried on the official website of the Foreign Ministry, the statement further warned the region against threats posed by terrorist groups, calling for forging a unified regional front against the extremist current.

"The crimes of Takfiri extremists are aimed at peace and stability

of regional countries and demand serious counteraction by regional countries against the violent phenomenon."

This is the second blast in Turkey after the shakes of the abortive July putsch.

On August 17, a car bomb exploded outside a police station in the eastern city of Van, killing three people including one officer. Also

**Iranian Foreign Ministry says, "Committing such terrorist crimes at a wedding ceremony and slaughtering defenseless civilians once again laid bare the heinous and ugly anti-human goal of the Takfiri terrorism..."**

## Iran's 4-month tax income up 29% yr/yr

**ECONOMY TEHRAN** — Iran's direct tax income reached 275 trillion rials (about \$7.77 billion) in the first four months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-July 21), ISNA quoted Kamel Taqavinejad, the head of Iranian National Tax Administration (INTA), as saying on Sunday.

According to Taqavinejad, the raised amount registers a 29 percent increase, compared to the collected tax income in the same period last year.

"In the four months of the current Iranian calendar year, nearly 95 percent of predicated tax revenues in the country's budget plan has been materialized," he said.

As the official previously announced in May, the administration could collect 90 percent of its expected tax income in the past Iranian year of 1394 (which ended on March 19, 2016).

President Hassan Rouhani's economic strategy is to significantly reduce the government's dependency on oil and instead collect tax more systematically.

According to the budget bill for the current Iranian calendar year (which began on March 20, 2016) tax incomes are projected to rise by 14 percent from the last year's 880 trillion rials (about \$25.4 billion) to one quadrillion rials (about \$28.9 billion), Iran's Management and Planning Organization Director Mohammad Baqer Nobakht said in January.

As reported in late September 2015, the Iranian government could manage to earn more from tax receipts than oil revenues for the first time in almost half a century.



### PERSPECTIVE

By Harun Yahya  
political expert

## Leaving Turkey's 'dark day' behind

Turkey is now recovering from the failed coup attempt of July 15h. That dark day turned out to be a milestone which will never be forgotten in this lifetime thanks to the intense efforts of the fearless Turkish people thwarting that horrendous attempt. During that night 240 people, including 173 civilians, were killed and 2,195 were injured.

The Turkish people never left the streets even after the coup attempt failed and were on guard every night in the streets non-stop for the entire month. Then, on August 7, people from eighty-one cities attended rallies in city centers and in Istanbul alone, five million people participated, acting as a single spirit. It was the most crowded rally in Turkish history and one of the largest ever seen in recent times.

People, regardless of faith, political views, or sects, hand in hand poured into the streets as one heart. Turks, Kurds, Arabs, Circassians, Laz, Armenians were present waving Turkish flags. President Erdogan along with the leaders of the three main political parties gave messages of unity, solidarity and democracy. Millions gathered in the crowds gave a good lesson to the entire world by acting as one nation, one body and one voice against the coup attempt, terror and intervention. This complete picture shows us that the old Turkey is being replaced with a new one with a more positive, constructive, conciliatory political model, leaving behind the tense, separatist and polarized policy.

"I congratulate the Turkish nation for the defiance they showed against the coup-plotters.

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**MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS**



**Iran arrests Daesh-linked terrorists**

**POLITICS TEHRAN** — Iran's Intelligence desk Ministry announced on Sunday that several terrorists affiliated with Daesh were arrested in western Iran in a joint operation with the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC).

The remaining members of a recently dismantled Takfiri terrorist team were identified and arrested on Thursday, the ministry said in a statement on its website.

A significant amount of weapons including MK47 and U.S.-made M6 rifles, bomb making equipment, grenades as well as suicide vests were seized from the terrorists' hide-out, according to the statement.



**Jannati: Iran not to abandon Islamic resistance**

**POLITICS TEHRAN** — The U.S. should know that Iran will not abandon "the Islamic resistance", the Assembly of Experts chairman Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati said on Sunday.

Speaking in a meeting with the youth members of the Lebanese Hezbollah movement, Jannati underlined that resistance is the key to success, ICA-NA reported.

"The Islamic revolution of Iran started, continued, and succeeded with resistance," he stressed.



**159 MPs thank Defense ministry for technological progress**

**POLITICS TEHRAN** — 159 parliamentarians on Sunday wrote a letter to the defense minister, expressing gratitude for the technological progress made in Iran's defense industry.

They stressed the need for improvements in the country's military capabilities as the main apparatus to boost the country's deterrence power, IRNA reported.



**Zarif heads to Latin America for six-nation tour**

**POLITICS TEHRAN** — Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has embarked on a six-nation tour of Latin America at the head of a high-ranking politico-economic delegation.

On Sunday morning, Zarif left Tehran for Cuba as the first leg of his official visit to Latin America, leading a group comprised of 120 merchants, businessmen and financial executives from state- and private-run sectors, Press TV reported.

The foreign minister will then visit Nicaragua, Ecuador, Chile, Bolivia and Venezuela.



**Malaysian parliament speaker visits Tehran**

**POLITICS TEHRAN** — Malaysian Parliament Speaker Pandikar Amin bin Haji Mulia was due to arrive in Tehran on Sunday at the invitation of Majlis Speaker Ali Larjani.

During his 4-day visit to Iran, Haji Mulia is to meet with Larjani and other senior officials, ILNA reported.



**Reform groups launch electoral committee**

**POLITICS TEHRAN** — A number of reformist groups have launched a joint electoral committee, according to Rasul Montajabnia, deputy secretary general of the National Trust Party.

The committee will serve to coordinate policies and actions in the course of the next year's presidential elections, he said, the YJC reported on Sunday.



**Iran seeks extradition of fishermen from Kuwait**

**POLITICS TEHRAN** — The Iranian ambassador to Kuwait said on Saturday that Iran seeks extradition of 10 detained Iranian fishermen from Kuwait.

Alireza Enayati said that as soon as the Iranian fishermen were arrested, the Iranian charge d'affaires in Kuwait telephoned the Kuwaiti deputy foreign minister for consular affairs to resolve the issue, Nasim reported.

The ambassador said Iran has a good account of the circumstances of the fishermen.

He said Iran will make every effort to secure their extradition.

# Iran shows off S300 lookalike, turbojet engine

**POLITICS TEHRAN** — Iran unveiled a lookalike of the Russian surface-to-air S300 predator. The fair also featured the first homegrown turbojet engine, dubbed Owj (Zenith), which the defense minister said is equipped with a multitude of systems.

The first national turbojet engine has the capability to operate at altitudes as high as 50,000 feet; it is equipped with multiple systems with high maneuverability capabilities in various operational and environmental conditions, and can be mounted on planes with a maximum takeoff weight of 10 tons," Dehqan explained.

Iran is the eighth country acquiring the know-how, a turning point in the country's aviation industry, Dehqan noted.

"With upwards of 14,000 parts and extremely complicated technology, the Owj turbojet engine mounts to a great technological and designing breakthrough in the country's aviation industry..." the defense chief explained.

Iran has particularly developed families of short-, medium-, and long-range missiles, notably the ballistic Shahab family.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the defense minister announced Iran will soon master the know-how to produce submarine-launched supersonic cruise missile (SLCM) technology in the near future.

Learning from Iraq's war against the country in the 1980s, Iran has developed its homegrown military technology to upgrade its defense capabilities.

The breakthroughs had been impossible to achieve without the large number of companies active in the country's defense sector, according to Dehqan.

The system includes missile-launcher vehicles, a command post, and supplements for missile guidance systems, including an engagement radar.

The long-range radar, called Me'raj (Ascension), uses fuzzy-logic techniques to spot targets.

Bavar-373 benefits from missiles with the same name, which are similar to Sayyad 3 missiles, according to Tasnim.

With high operational capabilities, Sayyad 3 enjoys a solid-fuel engine and a combined guiding system which Iran test-fired in 2014.

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Iran unveils first homegrown turbojet engine

"We could increase the speed of (our) missiles and God willing, in the near future will achieve (the technology) to produce underwater supersonic cruise missile, as well."

Iran test-fires missiles of different ranges and capabilities year round during regular military drills to keep its armed forces on their toes and has developed

home-grown missile classes. In June, former defense minister Ahmad Vahidi placed Iran among the top five powers in the world with the technology to launch precision-guided missiles.

"We are among the top five countries with precision-guided missile capabilities," Vahidi said.

While some regional and international countries have taken a strict stance on Tehran's military capabilities, Tehran says it is for deterrent purposes only, working toward regional stability and security.

"We have not only preserved our stability and security, but also have assisted our friends, comrades, and regional countries which have been suffering from a difficult situation," said President Hassan Rouhani, touring the exhibition.

**The defense minister says, "With upwards of 14,000 parts and extremely complicated technology, the Owj turbojet engine mounts to a great technological and designing breakthrough in the country's aviation industry."**

## Leader: Hegemons are hostile to powerful Islam

Ayatollah Khamenei says 'revolutionary Islam' has grounded U.S. in West Asia

The Leader went on to say that the hegemons are not in animosity with "secular Islam" even if it has large numbers of followers, rather they are hostile to "powerful Islam" which shapes political and social systems.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Ayatollah Khamenei said after the 2009 presidential election, which two losing candidates claimed vote rigging, he advised one of the protest leaders that his behavior will be misused by foreigners but that losing candidate not "understand" it.

"I told one of the leaders of fitna that apparently you support the system and according to yourself are making an election protest but you should know that the management of this trend will fall into the hands of foreigners and they, by misusing your behavior, target the core of the system."

However, the Supreme Leader said, they "did not understand my words, and you noticed how they (enemies) used the election as a pretext to attack and deny the entire system."

**'Mosque is core of cultural resistance'**  
The Leader also said mosque is the "core of resistance"

especially, cultural resistance.

He called mosque a place for "consultation, resistance, planning and social and cultural interaction".

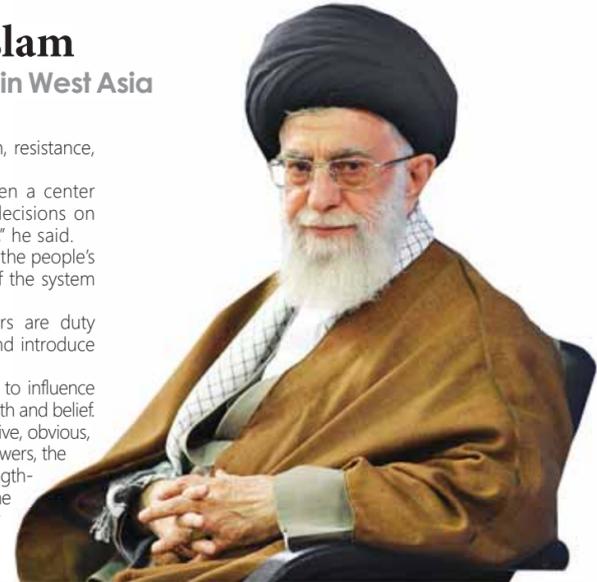
"In the history of Islam, mosque has been a center for consulting, cooperating and making decisions on important social, political and military issues," he said.

He highlighted the importance of boosting the people's "religious faith" which is the "main reliance" of the system and revolution.

Elsewhere, the Leader said prayer leaders are duty bound to uphold righteousness and justice and introduce the religious law.

He also said that the arrogant powers seek to influence the native culture and undermine the people's faith and belief.

The Leader also said, "In spite of comprehensive, obvious, covert and complicated hostilities of the cruel powers, the pure word of the Islamic Republic is being strengthened day by day and all the plots [against the country] will be foiled thanks to the people's unity and faith."



## Liberating Mosul will mark the start of Iraqi national unity, Iran says

**POLITICS TEHRAN** — As Iraq is preparing to liberate the city of Mosul from the occupation of Daesh a top ranking Iranian security official said on Sunday that once the city is liberated it will mark a turning point in the history of national unity, peace, and stability in Iraq.

So far Iraq has succeeded to free large parts of its territory, including the city of Fallujah, from the occupation of Daesh. Daesh militants seem to be losing territory so fast that they have resorted to tactics such as kidnapping civilians to form a "human shield" during hasty retreats.

"Eradicating terrorism is being completed through efforts being made by the Army, public forces and full supports of religious, political and ethnic groups," Ali Shamkhani, secretary of the Supreme National Security Council, told Iraqi Parliament Speaker Salim al-Jabouri who made a two-day tour to Iran on Saturday.

Shamkhani said the role of Iraqi leaders who represent different groups is key to restore stability in Iraq, adding defeating Daesh will lead to consolidation of national unity and solidarity in Iraq.

He also said democracy and involvement of all groups in decision-making processes based on their democratic rights will help establish peace and stability in the country.

The top security official also said that Iran will stand beside the Iraqi people and



Shamkhani meets Iraqi Parliament Speaker Salim al-Jabouri (L) in Tehran on Sunday

government. For his part, al-Jabouri praised Iran's supports for Iraq in fighting terrorism.

Al-Jabouri called Iran an "important" and "influential" country in the Middle East.

He also elaborated on the latest developments in his country and called for expansion of ties with Iran.

The Iraqi official also met separately with Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and his counterpart Ali Larjani on

Saturday.

In the meeting Zarif said Iran will stand on the side of Iraq under any circumstances and Larjani also said the Iraqi territorial integrity is key to regional stability.

**'Unity can uproot terrorism in Iraq'**

In a separate meeting with al-Jabouri on Saturday, President Hassan Rouhani expressed happiness over the victories of the Iraqi army and mobilization forces against terrorists.

Rouhani also suggested that setting aside bitter rivalries and consolidating unity between the different ethnic and religious groups will undoubtedly expedite the trend of victories in uprooting terrorism in Iraq.

Rouhani also said, "As the Islamic Republic of Iran has stood beside the Iraqi government and people it will stand beside them until the end of struggle against terrorism."

Rouhani also told al-Jabouri, a Sunni Arab lawmaker, that the Iraqi parliament, as a symbol of unity and brotherhood which represents all Iraqi different ethnic and religious groups, can guarantee national unity through a unanimous strategy in the fight against terrorism.

**Rafsanjani calls religious division 'illogical'**

Ayatollah Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, chairman of the Expediency Council, said on Sunday that religious division among Muslims is "illogical".

"The Shia and Sunni Muslims have many commonalities and should not fuel historic differences," he said during a separate meeting with al-Jabouri.

Rafsanjani also said that expansion of Tehran-Baghdad relations can form the "axis" of cooperation among Islamic countries.

The Iraqi official said that international cooperation is essential to bring peace and stability to the region.

# Israel must charge or free 'administrative' detainees: UN

The UN has urged Israel to decide the fate of prisoners held under the so-called administrative detention without trial or charge amid a fresh wave of hunger strikes by Palestinians in protest against their arbitrary incarceration.

UN Coordinator for Humanitarian Aid and Development Activities in the Occupied Palestinian Territory Robert Piper made the request in a statement.

Piper said he was "deeply concerned about the deteriorating health" of Bilal Kayed, who has been refusing food for 67 days to express dissatisfaction with his administrative detention.

The 35-year-old inmate, a member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), was arrested in 2002 and spent 14 and a half years in Israeli jails.

On June 13, the day Kayed was scheduled to be freed, the Tel Aviv regime decided to extend his imprisonment term for another six months under the controversial administrative detention policy, which allows detainees to be held without trial for renewable six-month periods.

Consequently, the Palestinian man went on a hunger strike to denounce his arbitrary detention.

"This is an egregious case, in which Mr. Kayed was placed on administrative detention on the day of his scheduled release after completing a 14.5 year prison sentence," Piper said.

He further said some 100 Palestinian prisoners held in Israeli prisons have



launched hunger strikes in solidarity with Kayed.

"The number of administrative detainees is at an eight-year high. I reiterate the United Nations long-standing position that all administrative detainees -- Palestinian or Israeli -- should be charged or released without delay," the UN official added.

In another development on Saturday, the Palestinian Committee of Prisoners' Affairs said hunger striking Palestinian prisoner Jalal al-Faqeeh was taken to a

hospital in Afula in the occupied territories after a heart attack.

Faqeeh, from the West Bank village of Burin in a "bad condition," according to a statement published by the committee.

Faqeeh, along with 32 other Palestinian prisoners held at Israel's Gilboa prison, has been refusing food in support of Kayed.

More than 7,000 Palestinian prisoners are currently held in some 17 Israeli jails, many of them arbitrarily.

The occupied Palestinian lands have been the scene of heightened tensions since August 2015, when Tel Aviv imposed restrictions on the entry of Palestinian worshippers into the al-Aqsa Mosque compound in an alleged bid to change the status quo of the Muslim site.

Over 230 Palestinians, including children and women, have lost their lives at the hands of Israeli forces in what is regarded as the third Palestinian Intifada (uprising) since the beginning of last October.

(Source: Press TV)

## Afghan forces retake Khanabad district from Taliban

Afghan government officials say security forces have retaken control of a key district that fell to the Taliban in the northern province of Kunduz.

Soldiers were able to retake control of the heart of Khanabad from Taliban fighters, who had hoisted their flag in the center of the district, Mawlawi Abdullah, a provincial council member from Kunduz, said on Sunday.

The fighters seized the district, which connects Kunduz to Takhar and other northern provinces, on Saturday morning, with heavy clashes reported in several other districts.

"The Taliban attacked the district from different positions and we resisted for hours but we received no support. The district fell to the Taliban," said Hayatullah Amiri, the Khanabad district chief.

The Taliban has intensified its attacks in Kunduz and also carried out raids in other key districts in the province in the past weeks.

The fall of Khanabad came just five days after the Taliban captured a district in neighboring Baghlan province, seizing a number of government forces' vehicles and ammunition.

The fighters launched a coordinated attack on Dahana-e-Ghori on August 12, leading to heavy clashes in the area until the fighters took control of the district on August 15.

Fighting has escalated in Afghan-



istan as the Taliban campaign spreads from its traditional strongholds in the south and east of the country to once peaceful regions in the north.

The provincial capital, Kunduz city, fell to the Taliban for the first time in September last year, in one of the biggest victories for the fighters since they were toppled from power by U.S. and coalition forces in late 2001.

Fighting has also escalated in other Afghan provinces.

Fierce Taliban assaults have targeted Baghlan and Helmand, where the Taliban has encircled the provincial capital, Lashkar Gah.

The Taliban government collapsed after the U.S. invasion of 2001; since then, the group's control over parts of Afghanistan has fluctuated wildly.

NATO officially ended its combat mission in December 2014, but U.S. forces were granted greater powers in June this year to strike at the Taliban as President Barack Obama pledged a more aggressive campaign.

(Source: Al Jazeera)

## London mayor calls on Labor to ditch leader Corbyn

London's Labor mayor Sadiq Khan on Sunday urged party members to unseat boss Jeremy Corbyn in the upcoming leadership election, saying he had "failed to win the respect of the British people."

"Jeremy's personal ratings are the worst of any opposition leader on record and the Labor party is suffering badly as a result," Khan wrote in the Observer, the Sunday version of the Centre-left Guardian newspaper.

"He has lost the confidence of more than 80 percent of Labor's MPs in parliament -- and I am afraid we simply cannot afford to go on like this," he added.

Khan is backing Owen Smith in the upcoming party election, voting for which will begin on Monday when ballot papers will be sent out to Labor members.

Voting ends on September 21 with the result to be announced three days later during a special congress in Liverpool, northwest England.

Veteran leftist Corbyn, 67, stormed to the head of the party last September, securing 59.5 percent of the votes of party activists.

However, over 80 percent of the party's MPs recently backed a no-confidence vote in Corbyn, and an election was triggered when little-known MP Smith, 46, launched a leadership chal-



lenge.

Corbyn can still count on the support of the party's far-left members and most trade unions and remains favorite to be re-elected.

As he came out in support of Smith, Khan highlighted Corbyn's lackluster attempt to keep Britain in the European Union in the June 23 referendum, saying he had "totally failed" to get his message across.

"Why would things be different in a general election?" he asked.

"Jeremy has already proved that he is unable to organize an effective team and has failed to win the trust and respect of the British people."

Smith said he was "hugely honored" to have the mayor's backing.

"Sadiq ran a fantastic campaign to win power for Labor in London this year, securing a huge mandate from party members and the electorate," he said.

(Source: AFP)

## Show of European unity - Merkel, Hollande, Renzi meet to discuss gameplan

The leaders of Germany, France and Italy will meet on Monday to discuss how to keep the European project together in the second set of talks between the premiers of the euro zone's three largest economies since Britain's shock vote to leave the bloc.

Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi hosts German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Francois Hollande on an island off the coast of Naples ahead of September's EU summit called to discuss reverberations from the Brexit vote.

Officials in Brussels and Berlin fear the June 23 vote could lead to a referendum in the Netherlands - a founding member of the union - on whether to also leave the bloc.

"Monday aims to show the unity of Europe's three biggest countries, but not to create a specific club," a French diplomatic source said, noting that the aim was to prepare for the groundwork for the forthcoming Bratislava summit.

Faced with existential risks, Merkel wants to cement "a better Europe" rather than forge ahead with "more Europe". Renzi wants Italy to have a strong voice in how the bloc's future is shaped after Brexit and, according to the French diplomatic source, Hollande wants an EU-wide investment plan to be doubled.

The three leaders differ over how to boost economic growth - which slowed across the 28-nation bloc in the second quarter and stagnated in France and Italy - and cut unemployment.

France supports Renzi's push for expansionary measures and against austerity, Germany is likely to oppose

any undermining of Europe's deficit and the debt constraints that Italy and France have struggled to comply with.

Italy is eager for greater European consolidation in the wake of Brexit, but Merkel is more concerned about preserving the integrity of the eventual 27-member bloc.

For her it will be the beginning of a whirlwind week of meetings with other European governments that will see her travel to four countries and receive leaders from another eight.

"The goal must first of all be to preserve the status quo and to prevent a further disintegration of the EU-27," said one EU diplomat.

### MORE THREATS

Renzi chose to meet on the island of Ventotene because of its symbolic significance as the place where two Italian intellectuals, held there in World War Two, wrote an influential manifesto calling for European political unification.

One of the two, Altiero Spinelli, is buried on the island and the three leaders will lay a wreath on his tomb.

Lingering threats to the union that emerged long before the Brexit vote are also likely to be on the agenda, including internal and external security after extremist militant attacks and Europe's migration crisis.

Emboldened by the Brexit vote, Hungary's Prime Minister Viktor Orban has called a referendum on Oct. 2 on whether to accept any future EU migrant settlement



quotas as his government steps up its fight against the EU's migration policies.

In another symbolic choice of venue, the three leaders will hold their closing news conference on the Italian aircraft carrier, the Garibaldi, which is the flagship of the EU's "Sophia" mission in the Mediterranean.

The naval operation has a mandate to tackle migrant smugglers, help enforce an arms embargo off Libya, and train the Libyan coast guard.

The EU plans to offer incentives to African governments to help slow the flow of migrants who have poured into Europe over the past three years, but disagreements on how to handle the situation have laid bare divisions between member states.

Italy, the main entry point for Africans but rarely their planned destination, is struggling to house migrants turned back from neighboring countries including France, and has disagreed with Germany over how to finance the response.

(Source: Reuters)

## Russia could use Incirlik airbase 'if necessary': Turkish PM

Ankara wouldn't mind it if Russia used the Incirlik airbase for its anti-terror missions against ISIL terrorists in Syria, Turkey's Prime Minister Binali Yildirim hinted, but acknowledged that no such requests have been made.

"Turkey opened Incirlik airbase to fight Daesh [ISIL] terrorists. It is being used by the U.S. and Qatar. Other nations might also wish to use the airbase, which the Germans are also now using," Yildirim told reporters, as quoted by Anadolu news.

"If necessary, the Incirlik base can be used," the PM said when asked if Moscow could share the airfield as well. At the same time, he firmly denied recent media reports claiming that Moscow has been pressuring Turkey to lease Incirlik to the Russian air force, saying "this information is not correct."

Amid unsubstantiated reports that Washington might be moving its nuclear arsenal out of Turkey and into Romania, which Bucharest has already denied, Izvestia Daily fueled the rumors by reporting that Russia might soon move into the Turkish base.

Given the recent rapprochement between Moscow and Ankara, the Russian publication cited upper house member Igor Morozov as saying that "it just remains to come to an agreement with Erdogan that we get the NATO base at Incirlik as [our] primary airbase." According to the MP, Incirlik would give Moscow a strategic advantage and provide for a swifter conclusion to Russia's anti-terrorist operation in Syria.

Meanwhile, Yildirim expressed doubt that Moscow would actually need to use the Turkish airbase, pointing out that Russia's forces already have two local airbases from which to launch missions in Syria, and that being 100-150 kilometers closer to their targets would not provide any strategic advantage.

(Source: RT)

## Leaving Turkey's 'dark day' behind



They showed the people of the region that they would not allow democracy and their rights to be taken away from them through coups and the use of force," said Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif who visited Ankara recently after the coup attempt. He reiterated his support to the Turkish nation against the coup during the joint press conference he held with his counterpart Mevlut Cavusoglu in Ankara.

Another beautiful thing to remember from this visit is the sincere salutation of the foreign ministers by embracing one another and calling each other brother instead of saying their names. We hope that Iran and Turkey, the two strong Muslim castles who are able to protect their unitary structures, will always stand united against the threats to the region.

Foreign Minister Zarif's stance against the coup attempt manifested itself during the night of the coup attempt. Along with the Turkish nation, Zarif stayed up all night to follow the developments via phone conversations with his counterpart Cavusoglu several times to glean accurate information and give his moral support as a friend. Turkey will always appreciate his kind gesture during the times of hardship.

Through his visit to the Assembly building that was bombed several times by the F16 jets, Zarif also made an empathic statement, referring that 100 years ago in Iran, their Parliament building was also jeopardized by an attack.

During this visit, Zarif had meetings with President Erdogan, Prime Minister Yildirim along with his counterpart Cavusoglu. During the long meetings they held together, they alluded to many topics including the ongoing war in Syria.

Despite the fact that there are some ideas of conflict, the positive features they commonly share are enough to play the key roles to end this bloodshed. It is noteworthy to take into account Russia's role in this important task and consider an alliance of Turkey, Iran and Russia to take solid steps.

President Erdogan's visit to Putin in St Petersburg a few days before Zarif's arrival in Ankara was a historical meeting in terms of regional stability. This convergence is a major gain for Turkey. Russia will also keep on being a friend just like it was in the past.

Turkish, Iranian and Russia officials will also hold a meeting in Baku as a sign of their approval in this alliance on all sides.

The Caspian Sea region is homeland to a majority of Muslims other than the Middle East or North Africa. It is considered to be a buffer zone between the West and the East and Russia and Azerbaijan are strong allies establishing the stability in the region.

Russia has attained a deep-rooted place in the Middle East throughout the years and strives for ensuring integrity of Iraq and Syria. Since Azerbaijan is a brother country for both Turkey and Iran, being a part of an alliance between Iran and Turkey will be very much acknowledged. This union will substantiate the power to bring an end to the atmosphere of war in Syria, Iraq and Yemen at once.

Prime Minister Binali Yildirim has declared Turkey's new foreign policy to be in the direction of increasing the number of friends and diminishing hostilities. Furthermore, Cavusoglu stated that despite their differences, Turkey and Iran should fortify their alliance for permanent peace in Syria. Additionally, Zarif propounds that both countries are in consensus in preserving the territorial integrity of Syria and for the Syrian people to act on their own future. There is full agreement in terms of reaching mutual terms on differences of opinion through discourse.

Both President Rouhani who visited Turkey in April 2016 and President Erdogan have started to take solid steps in their alliance. This bloody coup attempt and the occurrences which happened in its aftermath will accelerate the necessity of a strong alliance given the political and military situation in the region. Since Iran and Turkey share social, cultural and religious affinities it will allow them to establish strong cooperation. Moreover, during Zarif's visit, both foreign ministers stated that the security and the unity of both countries were of the utmost importance and if one country is attacked, they would assume it as if it is done to their own.

What the Middle East, which is the most strategic region and the most difficult geography in the world, will be if the states and nations mutually trust and respect each other. The regional peace lies in the cooperation of powers like Russia, Iran and Turkey. No doubt, a stable alliance of these regional powers will be the guarantor of peace, social justice and democracy.

SNIPPET



**Chairman of Iran's chamber of commerce resigns**

**ECONOMY TEHRAN** — The board of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA), in a meeting on Sunday, accepted the resignation of the chairman Mohsen Jalalpour, Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported.

Based on the report, in the meeting the date for the new chairmanship election was also decided to be September 4, Jalalpour will remain at his position until the new chairman is elected.

According to IRNA, due to his health condition, Jalalpour handed in his resignation notice on July 30, but it was rejected by the executive board, however in their latest meeting considering the chairman's health condition the board has accepted the resignation request.

NEWS

**Iran puts trust in market to deliver currency boost to recovery**

Iran's central bank is signaling that it will loosen its grip on the rial in an effort to end a dual-exchange rate system seen as an obstacle deterring foreign investment needed to rebuild the economy.

Policy makers, in a decision reported earlier this month, allowed commercial lenders to buy foreign currencies using rial rates set by the market rather than those dictated by the central bank. Akbar Komijani, a deputy governor, said the regulator will be "responsible for this market and will guide it"

Authorities are "laying the foundation" for plans to unify the existing two rial-to-dollar exchange rates, said Kamal Seyedali, a former deputy governor. The move will lead to more cash entering the banking system rather than circulating through exchange houses, he said.

Luring overseas companies is central to Iran's push to revive an economy that was cut off from global commerce by international sanctions imposed over its nuclear program. Foreign direct investment rose to \$4.5 billion in the first quarter of this year, according to fDi Intelligence, a division of the Financial Times Ltd. That's still way below the government's hopes of drawing \$30 billion to \$50 billion in foreign financial resources a year.

As ever tighter sanctions pushed Iran deeper into financial isolation and weakened the rial, the gap between the two existing exchange rates widened. Iranian lenders were compelled to stick to the official rate set each morning by the central bank. Registered exchange houses, though, could buy and sell using the rate in the market, where the rial traded at 35,350 per dollar on Thursday, compared to 31,071 cited on the central bank's website.

The government has also worked to narrow the gap between the two rial rates, and has lowered inflation from a pre-Rouhani peak approaching 40 percent to single digits in July.

Yet substantial barriers to investing in Iran remain, obstacles include still-in-place U.S. curbs and the dual exchange rate.

Rouhani last month underscored the need for Iran to move toward unification. Days later, Central Bank Governor Valiollah Seif, who had announced plans to adopt a single rate within months following the January implementation of the nuclear deal, said the policy would be in place before the end of the Iranian year in March 2017.

Simplification could help "attract foreign investors," said Seyedali, who was at the central bank until January 2012 and looked after foreign-exchange affairs and is now chairman of the state-owned Export Guarantee Fund of Iran. "Bringing foreign currency inside Iran, changing it to rials using the official rate and then returning their revenue at the market rate can lead to diminished profit," he said.

For local businesses, using exchange houses "is not the most reliable medium and leads to higher costs," said Mousa Ghaninejad, an economist and adviser to Iran's chamber of commerce.

(Source: Bloomberg)

**Carmakers face profit threat as China toughens emissions rules**

Three months after announcing the biggest annual loss in the company's history for 2015 due to its diesel emissions scandal, Volkswagen in July unveiled unexpectedly high profits for the first half of this year, fuelled by sales of VW cars in China.

There, unlike Europe and the US, the VW brand has not been tarnished by the German carmaker's scandal, and Chinese demand for vehicles is strong in spite of the country's economic slowdown.

But China's tolerance for polluting vehicles — the market is dominated by cars powered by petrol engines — is now drawing to an end. A rollout of new legislation due to be completed by 2020 aims to tighten China's rules on cars' emissions and fuel economy, bringing them into line with western countries and thereby curbing the industry's contribution to global warming and air pollution.

The legislation is expected by some analysts to hit the profits of companies operating in what is the world's largest automobile market, but VW and other overseas carmakers are better placed than their domestic rivals to cope with China's shift to stricter standards, says Jane Lewis, analyst at Macquarie.

"The domestic brands are hit disproportionately as international brands face similar emission and fuel economy requirements in other markets," she adds.

Some overseas carmakers, such as Jaguar Land Rover, may struggle to meet fuel economy targets set by the Chinese government for their fleets but most international brands will reach these goals, says Ms Lewis. The worst hit will be smaller domestic carmakers, she adds.

(Source: Financial Times)

**Chinese companies to finalize talks on Iranian oilfields within weeks**

**ECONOMY TEHRAN** — Negotiations on development of Iran's North Azadegan and Yadavaran oilfields by the Chinese will be finalized in next weeks, Shana reported on Sunday, quoting Deputy Managing Director of National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) for Engineering and Development Affairs Gholam-Reza Manouchehri.

Manouchehri told Shana that the negotiations regarding the cooperation on the two Iranian oilfields were ongoing during the 16th meeting of Iran-China Joint Economic Committee in Beijing last week and a Chinese delegation will visit Tehran in upcoming weeks to finalize the talks.

Mentioning the individual visits with senior officials of China Petroleum & Chemical Corporation (SINOPEC) and China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC) during his recent visit to China, the official noted that the Chinese will continue cooperating with Iran in the projects for developing the mentioned oilfields.

North Azadegan and Yadavaran are two of the five oilfields, dubbed the West Karoun oilfields, Iran shares with Iraq at the western part of Iran's southwestern region of Karoun.



**Iran-Spain economic co-op roadmap to be drawn up soon**

**ECONOMY TEHRAN** — Iran is taking the final steps to conclude its economic cooperation roadmap with Spain, a senior official in Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) said, the TPO portal published on Sunday.

Making the remarks in a meeting held to discuss and prepare the said roadmap in Tehran, where officials from Iran-Spain Business Council and more than 50 Spanish businessmen took part, Abolfazl Koodeie said that while both countries eye ever-increasing volume of non-oil exports, "this joint meeting is being held to provide the Iranian and Spanish state-run and private sectors with the chance to confer development of bilateral economic ties and prepare a compressive economic cooperation roadmap to guarantee Iran's share in the Spanish market."

As reported, representatives from various companies



discussed expansion of exports of Iranian goods and services to Spain as well as the obstacles on the way to reach that target in this meeting.

"TPO, under the current international conditions and regarding the available capacities in Iran, has started preparation of some economic roadmaps with different countries with a specific focus on expansion of technological, banking and finance, industrial, export insurance, energy, renewable energy, railway, and tourism ties," Koodeie said.

"Spain would be the second European country, after Austria, that the Islamic Republic concludes an economic cooperation roadmap with," he added.

Earlier on May 9, Tehran and Madrid signed an MoU on economic cooperation and put preparation of the economic cooperation roadmap on the agenda at the time.

**Over \$47.9m of state shares divested in Iran in 5 months**

**ECONOMY TEHRAN** — Iranian Privatization Organization (IPO) transferred 1.698 trillion rials (about \$47.979 million) worth of Iranian state-run companies' shares to the private sector in the first five months of the present Iranian calendar year (March 20- August 21,

2016), Tasnim News Agency reported on Sunday.

Iranian state-run companies transferred 29.662 trillion rials (about \$838.146 million) worth of their shares to the private sector in the past Iranian calendar year of 1394 (which ended on March 19), the Tasnim

News Agency reported in mid-April.

The country transferred 47.738 trillion rials (over \$1.348 billion) worth of shares of state-run companies to the private sector in the calendar year of 1393, reportedly.

The Iranian government envisioned a large privatization program in the Fifth Five-

Year National Development Plan (2010-2015), aiming to privatize about 20 percent of the state-owned firms each year.

Under the present interpretation of the Article 44 of Iran's Constitution, hundreds of state-owned companies have been privatized.

PICTURE OF THE DAY © IRNA/Ahmad Jalalian



Mobarakeh Steel Complex is the largest industrial complex in Iran and a leading producer of flat-rolled steel in the world. Being located in the central province of Isfahan, the complex was ranked the second globally in the field of producing sponge iron in 2013.

**Japan's economic problems worsens**

Japanese manufacturers' received some good news this August. The country's central bank has launched aggressive monetary policies to ease the economy. This is meant to boost the weaknesses in an economy already facing a decline in exports along with sluggish consumer expenditure.

The Reuters Tankan, which keeps track of Japan's Central Bank's quarterly Tankan, caught data that shows that exports tumbled the most (in July) since the past global financial crisis, and economic growth stalled as at April through June.

This underscores the challenge that Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has to deal with to boost growth as his structural reforms and fiscal spending (dubbed Abenomics), hasn't lived up to expectations when it comes to pulling the country's economy out of low growth and deflation.

Illustrating fragility instead of strength in consumer expenditure, the country's service sector's confidence fell for the first time in over five months. This was revealed by a poll of over 533 big and mid-sized agencies from August 1 to 16, of which more than 275 responded. (Source: Stock News USA)

NEWS IN BRIEF



**Zuckerberg sells \$95m in Facebook shares for philanthropy**

Facebook Inc. Chief Executive Officer Mark Zuckerberg has made his first big share sale to fund his family's philanthropic initiative.

The sale of more than 760,000 shares of Facebook stock, valued at about \$95 million, was made by Chan Zuckerberg Initiative Holdings and the Chan Zuckerberg Foundation, according to a regulatory filing Friday. The price of the shares ranged from \$122.85 to \$124.31.

It will be the first of many sales in Zuckerberg's plan to fund solutions for problems in health, science and education.

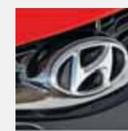


**China Selfie App Meitu aims to raise up to \$1b in HK IPO: WSJ**

Meitu, the maker of a Chinese selfie app, plans to raise as much as \$1 billion in an initial public offering (IPO) on the Hong Kong stock exchange, the Wall Street Journal reported on Sunday, citing people familiar with the situation.

Meitu anticipated that the relative lack of tech listings in Hong Kong would make its IPO, expected in the fourth quarter, more attractive, the people said, according to the report.

The company was valued at around \$3.8 billion in a private fund raising round this year.



**Hyundai and Mitsubishi recalling certain car models**

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration says Hyundai and Mitsubishi are recalling certain car models because of problems the companies say can increase the risk of crashes.

Hyundai is recalling 2013 models of the Elantra because the brake pedal stopper pad can deteriorate, a condition that could lead to the brake light staying on or the transmission shifting out of park without applying the brake pedal. More than 64,500 cars are affected by the recall.

# How the NSA snooped on encrypted Internet traffic for a decade

Exploit against Cisco's PIX line of firewalls remotely extracted crypto keys.

In a revelation that shows how the National Security Agency was able to systematically spy on many Cisco Systems customers for the better part of a decade, researchers have uncovered an attack that remotely extracts decryption keys from the company's now-decommissioned line of PIX firewalls.

The discovery is significant because the attack code, dubbed BenignCertain, worked on PIX versions Cisco released in 2002 and supported through 2009. Even after Cisco stopped providing PIX bug fixes in July 2009, the company continued offering limited service and support for the product for an additional four years. Unless PIX customers took special precautions, virtually all of them were vulnerable to attacks that surreptitiously eavesdropped on their VPN traffic. Beyond allowing attackers to snoop on encrypted VPN traffic, the key extraction also makes it possible to gain full access to a vulnerable network by posing as a remote user.

BenignCertain's capabilities were tentatively revealed in this blog post from Thursday, and they were later confirmed to work on real-world PIX installations by three separate researchers. Before the confirmation came, Ars asked Cisco to investigate the exploit. The company declined, citing this policy for so-called end-of-life products. The exploit helps explain documents leaked by NSA contractor Edward Snowden and cited in a 2014 article that appeared in Der Spiegel. The article reported that the NSA had the ability to decrypt more than 1,000 VPN connections per hour.

"It shows that the NSA had the ability to remotely extract confidential keys from Cisco VPNs for over a decade," Mustafa Al-Bassam, a security researcher at payments processing firm Secure Trading, told Ars. "This explains how they were able to decrypt thousands of VPN connections per minute as shown in documents previously published by Der Spiegel."

The revelation is also concerning because data returned by the Shodan search engine indicate more than 15,000 networks around the world still use PIX, with the Russian Federation, the US, and Australia being the top three countries affected. Last weekend's release of BenignCertain and dozens of other NSA-connected attack



tools means even relatively low-skilled hackers can now carry out the same advanced attack. Analysis of the exploit binary shows BenignCertain targeted PIX versions 5.3(9) through 6.3(4). The researchers, however, were able to make the key-extraction technique work against version 6.3(5) as well.

Cisco representatives on Friday declined to comment on the revelation, citing the previously mentioned end-of-life policy. Update: After this article went live, Cisco updated a previously written blog post to report that product security incident response team decided to investigate BenignCertain after all. The team found that Adaptive Security Appliance, its currently supported firewall is not vulnerable; PIX versions 6.x and earlier are affected; and PIX versions 7.0 and later are confirmed to be unaffected.

BenignCertain exploits a vulnerability in Cisco's implementation of the Internet Key Exchange, a protocol

that uses digital certificates to establish a secure connection between two parties. The attack sends maliciously manipulated packets to a vulnerable PIX device. The packets cause the vulnerable device to return a chunk of memory. A parser tool included in the exploit is then able to extract the VPN's pre-shared key and other configuration data out of the response. According to one of the researchers who helped confirm the exploit, it works remotely on the outside PIX interface. This means that anyone on the Internet can use it. No pre-requirements are necessary to make the exploit work. The researcher provided this packet capture to show the end result of the attack.

Interestingly, Cisco's Adaptive Security Appliance, the firewall that replaced PIX, contained a similarly critical Internet Key Exchange vulnerability that was fixed three months ago. What's more, during the time the PIX vulnerability was active, firewalls from almost a dozen other providers were similarly vulnerable. While BenignCertain worked only against PIX, it's possible that still-undiscovered exploits were developed for other products.

The key-extraction exploit could be even more powerful when combined with other attack tools in the possession of Equation Group, the elite, NSA-connected hacking team tied to it. Another tool called FalseMorel appears to extract the "enable" password that's required to gain administrative control over the PIX firewall itself. The BenignCertain tool lets attackers know if a given firewall is vulnerable to FalseMorel. BenignCertain, FalseMorel, and more than a dozen other tools were mysteriously published last weekend by a previously unknown group calling itself ShadowBrokers.

"Despite the existence of 0days, these tools seem to be overwhelmingly post-exploitation," security expert Rob Graham, CEO of Errata Security, wrote in a blog post published Thursday afternoon. "They aren't the sorts of tools you use to break into a network—but the sorts of tools you use afterwards."

Graham's comments came before the capabilities of BenignCertain were revealed. Now that they have been documented, it's clear at least some of the tools gave, and possibly still give, attackers an initial foothold into targeted networks.

(Source: Arstechnica.com)

## Twitter suspends 235,000 terrorism accounts



Twitter has suspended 235,000 accounts in the last six months for violation of its policies regarding the promotion of terrorism and violent threat.

In a blog post on Thursday, the company said that "there is no one 'magic algorithm' for identifying terrorist content on the Internet."

Daily suspensions were up 80% since the previous year, with suspensions spiking after major terrorist attacks, Twitter said, adding: "Our response time for suspending reported accounts, the amount of time these accounts are on Twitter, and the number of followers they accumulate have all decreased dramatically."

The company did not immediately reply to a request for overall figures on how many accounts are suspended for any reason.

"We have also made progress in disrupting the ability of those suspended to immediately return to the platform," the post read. "We have expanded the teams that review reports around the clock, along with their tools and language capabilities. We also collaborate with other social platforms, sharing information and best practices for identifying terrorist content." (Source: Guardian)

## Microsoft paying you to use Edge and Bing



The newly rebranded Microsoft Rewards – formerly Bing Rewards, which paid people for using Bing as their search engine will now pay you for using Edge, shopping at the Microsoft store, or using Bing.

Points can then be traded in for vouchers or credit for places such as Starbucks, Skype, Amazon and ad-free Outlook.com – remember, if you're not paying for something, you are the product.

Whether paying people really works, or whether people really want to be tracked in their computer usage down to the nth degree – or to be made aware that they already are at least – remains to be seen.

Edge is actually pretty good. Particularly if you're on a Windows 10 laptop on battery power. But it will take a gargantuan effort and lots and lots of money to get the 58% of internet users employing Chrome to switch to Edge in any meaningful number. Microsoft's new scheme is unlikely to do that. Users of Edge who sign up to Microsoft Rewards, which is currently US-only, are then awarded points simply for using the browser. Microsoft actively monitors whether you're using Edge for up to 30 hours a month. It tracks mouse movements and other signs that you're not trying to game the system, and you must also have Bing set as your default search engine. (Source: Guardian)

## YouTube star Louis Cole denies making propaganda films for North Korea



A strange controversy has been bubbling in the world of travel YouTube. A popular vlogger has been forced to deny being paid by the North Korean government to make feel-good travel videos from the DPRK.

Louis Cole is a popular vlogger who travels around the world, making daily videos. His adventures on his channel FunForLouis have netted him more than 1.8 million subscribers. His most recent trip was a 10-day stint in North Korea with an organisation which runs surfing and skateboarding lessons for local tour guides and children. Over the course of the seven videos he's released so far, he travels from Beijing to Pyongyang, visits some of the city's most famous landmarks and catches some waves.

They seem like your usual travel videos. Except this is North Korea, a country with well-catalogued reports of systematic human rights abuses against its own citizens. A UN inquiry concluded these abuses resembled those of the Nazis. Cole was criticised, first in the YouTube comments and then on Twitter, for not speaking about the realities of North Korea. Then, he was accused of carrying out propaganda for the DPRK's government, and possibly being paid for it. In a video released on Wednesday night, Cole categorically denied this. He says: "I know that makes good headlines but there's no truth in it whatsoever." (Source: Guardian)

## Windows 10 Anniversary Update breaks most webcams



The Windows 10 Anniversary Update, aka version 1607, has been found to leave many webcams inoperable. The update prevents the use of webcams in applications such as Skype and Open Broadcaster Software (OBS), along with all manner of custom CCTV programs. Extremely popular hardware, such as Logitech's C920 and C930e cameras, in conjunction even with Microsoft's own Skype, will fail to properly broadcast video.

People first noticed the issue earlier this month. But it's only within the last couple of days that the exact cause became clear via a post by Brad Sams on thurrott.com.

Microsoft has said that a fix is in development, but has not yet said when that fix will be distributed.

The Anniversary Update changes some aspects of how Windows handles cameras, and the issue appears to affect both USB webcams and network-connected IP devices. Traditionally in Windows, only one program has been permitted to access a webcam at a time. If you're using the camera in

Skype, for example, other applications such as OBS or the Windows Hello facial recognition cannot use the camera.

Windows 10 1607 includes a new component to address this. A system service called the Windows Camera Frame Server connects to the data streams from the webcams. Regular applications connect not to the camera hardware directly, but to this new frame server component. The frame server supports multiple connections from applications and shares the video data from the camera to every connected app. This puts an end to the "exclusive" use of devices, and it's arguably a change that Windows should have made long ago. Third-party software for sharing cameras between applications exists, but the operating system should support this scenario natively, as it already does for audio devices.

Microsoft explains that the design of the frame server is the issue.

(Source: Guardian)

## NEWS

### Sony's invite for its IFA event on September 1 teases many new devices

Sony has first revealed the date of its IFA press conference last month, and today it's finally started sending out invites for the September 1 event. They look exactly like the one pictured below, and reveal that Sony is pretty ambitious about this whole thing, possibly launching many different product types on that occasion.



There's a phone in the image, which means we might have to expect a new Xperia device. The one depicted here looks nothing like the oft-leaked Xperia XR, though. Then again, it wouldn't make sense for Sony to show us the new handset's back in the invite, basically spoiling its own reveal. And since there haven't recently been many rumors about another new Sony phone except the XR, we assume it's the one becoming official on September 1.

Alongside it Sony looks set to showcase the PlayStation VR once more, a pair of headphones, a Bluetooth headset, a camera of some sort, a new TV, and some other things too – even if we can't necessarily identify them all by this picture alone.

### Mysterious Sony smartphones spotted at FCC

Two mysterious Sony smartphones have been certified by the Federal Communications Commission in the US. Listed as PY7-29752M and PY7-93041M, the devices are said to be part of a new Xperia line codenamed Kugo.

Sadly that is all what is known at the moment, but we hope to hear more about the handset's design and key specification in near future.

With IFA 2016 just a couple of weeks away, and Sony's invite for the event teasing a new smartphone (along with many other devices), we might see the new Xperia line sooner than later.

### IDC: Samsung tops Indian smartphone market in Q2

Market research firm IDC has released its latest report for the Indian smartphone market, revealing that Samsung was the top vendor in second quarter of this year. The South Korean company's share of the market stood at 25.1%.

"With updated versions of J2, J5 and J7 released in Q2 2016, J-series devices continue to drive Samsung's shipments," the report said.

Micromax came in second with 12.9% share. "Slew of new launches backed by the new marketing initiatives helped Micromax gain the market share post two consecutive declines in Q2 2016. Vendor has re-gained share in \$150-\$200 segment with launch of Canvas 6 series and Yu Unicorn."

Lenovo, Intex, and Reliance Jio rounded up the top five with 7.7%, 7.1%, and 6.8% share, respectively.

Overall, the Indian smartphone market recovered with 17% growth in the quarter. "China based vendors' shipments grew 28 percent over previous quarter of which Lenovo group, Vivo, Xiaomi, OPPO and Gionee were key contributors driving the growth," the report said. "Until now, Lenovo was the only China based vendor to ship over a million units in a quarter, while this quarter saw additional three vendors joining the million shipments bandwagon. Xiaomi's Redmi Note 3 was not only the top selling model in online channel but also a star product for the vendor contributing majority of Xiaomi's total shipments in Q2 2016."

### Huawei G9 Plus unveiled with SD625 SoC, 16MP camera

Huawei has unveiled a new smartphone, dubbed Huawei G9 Plus. The device is powered by Snapdragon 625 chipset and sports a 5.5-inch full HD display. It comes in 3GB/32GB and 4GB/64GB memory configurations, and packs in a 3,340mAh battery.

In terms of camera, the handset features a 16MP rear unit with support for 4K video recording, and an 8MP front shooter. Weighing in at 160g and having a thickness of 7.3mm, it runs Android 6.0 Marshmallow with EMUI version 4.1 on top. There's also a fingerprint sensor on the back.

If you compare, the Huawei G9 Plus looks strikingly similar to the Huawei Maimang 5 that was made official by the Chinese company last month.

The phone was made official in China. As for price, the 3GB RAM variant carries a tag of RMB 2,399 (around \$360). The cost of 4GB RAM model isn't currently known. Registrations for the device have already started, with sales beginning August 25.

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COMMENT

**The coup may have failed but fear still rules Turkey**

The government crackdown is intensifying one month after the attempted uprising

By Andrew Gardner

Fear comes in many forms. A month ago, on the night of the bloody coup attempt here in Turkey, I together with millions in Istanbul and Ankara experienced gut-tightening fear as explosions shook our living rooms and gunfire crackled outside our windows. Downstairs my neighbors huddled in their bathroom, afraid for their safety and for the lives of loved ones. Outside, tanks rolled by whilst jets and helicopters filled the skies and civilians were gunned down by would-be putschists.



After it became clear that the bloody coup had failed there was huge relief, at least initially. But, like the acrid smell, fear still hung in the air. While large orchestrated rallies celebrating the defeat of the attempted coup brought an almost festive atmosphere at night, the mood on the streets during the day remained tense. Taut lips and furrowed brows had replaced the local shopkeepers' usual smiles. Many others remained at home, watching and waiting nervously, unsure what would come next. Had the risk of a coup been averted? Could there be another violent attempt to seize power?

Underpinning this fear was the memory of brutal coups in Turkey's past: of the detentions, torture and executions that followed the 1980 coup. Those who lived through it know the horror, whilst those too young to remember have heard the stories from their parents.

■ **The failed coup**

In the days after the failed coup, as the government crackdown began and the state of emergency was announced, the gnawing fear did not subside – it merely transformed. Over the month since the attempted uprising, more than 23,000 people have been detained and nearly 82,000 have been suspended or removed from their jobs. Anyone with any perceived link to the movement of U.S.-based cleric, Fethullah Gülen, accused of orchestrating the coup, has been targeted. Soldiers, police, judges, lawyers, academics, journalists, teachers, doctors and even football referees. Seemingly no one is immune.

While the government has the duty to ensure security, protect citizens, and prosecute those responsible for violent attacks on ordinary people, individuals should only be investigated and brought to justice where there is sufficient evidence against them. People must not be arbitrarily arrested, detained or punished. And that is where the government of Recep Tayyip Erdogan is failing.

The impact on individuals and their families has been huge. Those who have been suspended or fired will have difficulty finding other jobs. One new father I spoke to explained: "I think the reason for my suspension is because I am a member of a trade union," he said. "I am back at work this week but proceedings are pending. I am very scared that if I lose my job I won't get another and it won't be possible to provide for my family."

Having so many people suddenly dismissed has had significant consequence for the functioning of the state. One fifth of the judiciary has been suspended, fired, or detained. Other essential state functions, such as education, have been brought to their knees and cannot be rebuilt overnight. Members of the public are not the only ones afraid. Journalists, activists and lawyers are petrified of speaking out, lest they, too, become a target of suspicion.

Ironically, the mechanisms being used by the Erdogan government now are a legacy of Turkey's past military rulers. The state of emergency law, passed in 1983, gives the government the power to impose curfews, ban demonstrations, and close businesses, foundations and associations. It gives police the power to stop and search people without judicial authorization. Several reports suggest that the police are using these powers to look at text and social media messages on people's phones.

The law also gives the government power to rule by decree so they can pass laws unchallenged. So far two decrees have allowed habeas corpus to be suspended for up to 30 days, restricted the rights of detainees to consult with lawyers, and given state officials immunity from prosecution for carrying out duties under the decrees.

■ **A crackdown on the media**

Meanwhile, we have witnessed a crackdown on the media that is unprecedented in modern Turkish history. In the past month, 131 media outlets and publishing houses have been shut down and at least 89 arrest warrants have been issued for journalists.

The post-coup purge comes at a time when Turkey's attack on freedoms of expression, association and assembly was already gathering momentum. Government administrators had been appointed to run Gülen-linked opposition newspapers and 15 TV channels were shut down in the months before the coup. The right to freedom of peaceful assembly was already restricted and excessive force was regularly used by police to disperse protests.

In the south-east of the country, where there have been clashes between members of Kurdish separatist group the PKK and security forces, the government has overseen an onslaught on Kurdish towns and neighborhoods, which includes round-the-clock curfews and cuts to services. The military have conducted operations in residential areas resulting in hundreds of thousands being displaced and unable to return.

In the febrile post-coup atmosphere, it is likely that the situation for dissenters will further deteriorate. A blurring of the distinction between culpability for the coup and being a Gülen sympathizer has already been visible. The authorities' definition of "traitor" could be broadened further still to encompass secular, leftist or Kurdish critics.

The violent coup attempt, together with the government crackdown that has followed, will leave indelible scars on Turkey for years to come. The country is gradually returning to normal – but it is a new normal. A normal where there is less oxygen for civil society and where underlying fear is a constant.

(Source: Time)

**The U.S. is promoting war crimes in Yemen**

The humanitarian disaster there is, by some measures, greater than that in Syria. Why is Obama continuing to enable the Saudi bombing campaign?

By Trevor Timm

Saudi Arabia resumed its appalling war in Yemen last week and has already killed dozens more civilians, destroyed a school full of children and leveled a hospital full of sick and injured people. The campaign of indiscriminate killing – though let's call it what it is: a war crime – has now been going on for almost a year and a half. And the United States bears a large part of the responsibility.

This U.S.-backed war is not just a case of the Obama administration sitting idly by while its close ally goes on a destructive spree of historic proportions. The government is actively selling the Saudis billions of dollars of weaponry. They're re-supplying planes engaged in the bombing runs and providing "intelligence" for the targets that Saudi Arabia is hitting.

Put simply, the U.S. is quite literally funding a humanitarian catastrophe that, by some measures, is larger than the crisis in Syria. As the New York Times editorial board wrote last week: "Experts say the coalition would be grounded if Washington withheld its support." Yet all we've heard is crickets.

■ **Stopping terrorism**

High-ranking Obama administration officials are hardly ever asked about the crisis. Cable television news has almost universally ignored it. Both the Clinton and Trump presidential campaigns have been totally silent on this issue despite their constant arguing over who would be better at "stopping terrorism". Beyond the grotesque killing of civilians, it's clear at this point that the Saudis' bombing campaign has also boosted al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula (Aqap) to a level which Reuters described as "stronger and richer" than any time in its 20-year history.

Jake Tapper commendably broke the



television news blackout about Yemen on his CNN show on Wednesday. Senator Chris Murphy of Connecticut, one of the very few elected representatives talking about the crisis, told Tapper that "it's wild to me" that the Congress isn't debating the "unauthorized" war in Yemen. The Saudis "could not do it without the United States", he said. "We have made the decision to go to war in Yemen" – against Saudi Arabia's enemies, not ours – without any debate.

"If you talk to Yemenis, they will tell you that inside Yemen this is not perceived to be a Saudi bombing campaign, this is a U.S. bombing campaign," Murphy contin-

ued. "What's happening is we are helping to radicalize the Yemeni population against the United States." This statement was also backed up by longtime Yemen reporter Iona Craig this week, who emphasized to NPR that Yemenis blame the U.S. for the carnage just as much as the Saudis.

The fact that the Obama administration has allowed the Saudis to continue committing war crimes should be a full-fledged scandal. Officials should be resigning over this and shouting from the rooftops. Instead, for months, we've heard almost nothing from the administration beyond a couple boilerplate, lukewarm expressions

**As the New York Times editorial board wrote last week: "Experts say the coalition would be grounded if Washington withheld its support."**

**Mapping Trump's security challenge**

Voters want to see fitness for office and a cautious hand with the nuclear code

By Kelly Riddell

The pollsters and pundits overwhelmingly thought the British people were going to vote to "Remain" in the European Union, much like the political establishment class is now calling the U.S. presidential race for Hillary Clinton.

They were proved wrong in Britain, and could be proved wrong again with Donald Trump.

The "state of the Clinton-Trump Race: Is it over?" The New York Times wrote on Monday, noting Mr. Trump's polling deficit has climbed to 8 points behind Mrs. Clinton, and "no modern candidate who has trailed by this much a few weeks after the conventions has gone on to win the presidency."

Yet, this is unlike any other presidential race in history. So where does Mr. Trump's hope for victory and the Brexit vote align?

First, in disaffected, "unpolled" voters. The Brexit vote had a historic turnout, with 2.8 million new voters who hadn't cast a ballot since the 1980s – or ever – overwhelmingly turning out to vote "Leave." No one anticipated these "new voters," or their behavior, in the polling models.

"Many models, like ours, were based on the assumption that turnout was likely to be similar to last year's general election and on the fact that past increases in turnout ... were relatively evenly split in terms of how the additional voters cast their ballots," wrote Matt Singh, a pollster for Bloomberg, on why the Brexit polls were wrong. "This time, however, turnout increased with an unprecedented skew ... this suggests that Brexiters won by mobilizing millions of supporters who never normally vote, whereas the 'remain' side got almost no net benefit."

■ **Current polls**

Mr. Trump is betting on these same disaffected, apolitical, voters to turnout for him – and that the current polls are underestimating them.

Mr. Trump needs to mobilize and register the 43 percent of American voters who sat out last cycle. His team has hired the data targeting firm, Cambridge Analytica, who got the Brexit message to the millions.



The pundits in Britain also overestimated undecided voters – believing they were more likely to choose the status quo than its radical alternative. That was not the case. Mr. Trump continually beats Mrs. Clinton in the polls as a change agent.

The political elite were also cocky in their position – calling leave voters "bigots," "xenophobes," and "racists," much like Mr. Trump's supporters are called today.

"Donald Trump's supporters know exactly what he stands for: hatred of immigrants, racial superiority, a sneering disregard of the basic civility that binds a society," a New York Times columnist wrote.

So it's no wonder why Mr. Trump is doing better in online polls – where voters can show anonymity – than in telephone surveys. The same proved true in Brexit.

Mrs. Clinton leads Mr. Trump by only five points in the lat-

**"Donald Trump's supporters know exactly what he stands for: hatred of immigrants, racial superiority, a sneering disregard of the basic civility that binds a society," a New York Times columnist wrote.**

est Ipsos/Reuters Poll, which is taken online, and has a three point margin of error. Last week, the poll had them within the margin of error.

"We think there's a big hidden Trump vote in this country," said Kellyanne Conway, a longtime Republican pollster and now Trump campaign manager said this month, adding Mr. Trump's internal polls project "tighter" results in battleground states.

Mr. Trump's messaging is also similar to Brexit – fighting against the political establishment and for the interests of blue-collar workers who have been hurt economically by global trade and immigration policies.

■ **Trump sinking nationally**

Even though Mr. Trump's sinking nationally in the polls, his ability to connect with what most voters are feeling, still holds.

A Bloomberg News poll released last week found that 56 percent of respondents felt Mr. Trump's message – one of "the U.S. is in a dark and dangerous place, with threats from overseas and within our borders," beat Mrs. Clinton's more positive tone by 16 percentage points.

Critics will argue the British population is overwhelmingly white compared to the more diverse American populace, therefore a comparison between the Brexit vote and Mr. Trump's shot at victory can't be compared. They are correct about the demographics, but wrong about Mr. Trump's chances. His path to victory has never been winning the Hispanic or black vote by wide margins – it's through the Rust Belt.

If he can get enough of these white, middle-class voters turned out – along with the white, educated vote – he has a shot.

The one difference between Brexit and the Mr. Trump analogy is those in Britain weren't voting for a person, but a referendum.

Mr. Trump has the added hurdle of convincing the populace he's a serious contender, a plausible commander-in-chief, who can be trusted with the nation's nuclear codes.

That's his challenge in the next 80 days. (Source: The Washington Times)

**Angela Merkel is deluded**

Angela Merkel has defended her refugee policy, insisting that there is no link between new arrivals in Germany and terrorism. We hope that she proves to be right – but experience gives German voters reason to doubt. Several recent attacks in Europe have been linked to refugees; in July a Syrian asylum-seeker blew himself up in Bavaria. That same month, Merkel admitted that refugee routes had been "used to smuggle terrorists".

If the chancellor's rhetoric is inconsistent then it may reflect the painful nuances

of post-war German identity. Many Germans wish to atone for the past by adopting a self-consciously liberal approach to immigration. But the movement of people on the scale Merkel has unleashed brings with it new social problems – and the risk of a domestic backlash. The Alternative for Germany party is now doing well in the polls, the first time since 1945 that a nationalist party has flourished.

Still, Germany's constitution is designed for stability and to avoid political change – so it is possible that even public disapproval

of Merkel's policies will not prevent her keeping her job after elections next year.

Nevertheless, her reputation is imperiled. She has encouraged hundreds of thousands to risk a potentially deadly journey across sea and land. This not only endangered the travelers but destabilized the countries they passed through.

Images of Europe's migration crisis may have influenced the Brexit vote – they certainly helped the European Right advance at the ballot box. An open-door migration policy is thus politically self-defeating.



Merkel is deluded if she imagines Germany can sustain this pace of change. (Source: Telegraph)

# Kerman University of Medical Sciences' Research and Technology Vice Chancellor Expounds on Provincial Scientific Credits: Giant Stride Taken on Scientific Development by Kermani Physician in Innovation of Cutaneous Leishmaniasis Vaccine



Kerman University of Medical Sciences



**In his 6th press briefing, Vice Chancellor of Kerman University of Medical Sciences for Research and Technology Affairs Dr. Abbas Pardakhty revealed the shining glorious name of Kerman Province in Kerman Inventions Festival, receiving production license for local nanotechnology product, organizing international seminar in this province, salient achievements of this province in Cell Therapy, etc.**

**To learn more about the details, our reporter conducted an interview with him which comes as follows:**

## ■ Shining Glorious Name of Kerman in U.S. Inventions Festival

To begin with his interview, he said: "Shining sublime name of Kerman in U.S. Inventions Festival dubbed "INPEX Merit Award" is one of salient achievements of this academic center in a way that special prize of the Festival is awarded to top researchers from across the world."

In 2016 Festival, which was held a couple of months ago, top researchers from U.S., Islamic Republic of Iran, China, Croatia, South Korea, Poland, Malaysia and Egypt managed to win "INPEX Merit Award" special award."

According to him, top researchers of approx. 135 countries participated in this prestigious seminar, he said, adding: "Of total inventions, approx. 40 top inventions were selected, seven of which were related to the Islamic Republic of Iran."

A top Iranian researcher named "Ehsan Arefi", a student of Medicine in Kerman University of Medical Sciences invented a device entitled "Isolation of Active Substances in Milk" and managed to win special prize of the festival, he maintained.

The said device can be turned into an industrial project with spending a negligible sum of money, so that special high-quality powdered milk can be produced in the country, the vice chancellor opined.

## ■ Registering New Bacterial Gene by One of University Lecturers

Elsewhere in his remarks, he pointed to the registration of new bacterial gene by Dr. Kalantar one of veteran professors at Kerman University of Medical Sciences and said: "It is a very great honor for this provincial university which has managed to upgrade its scientific achievements from 2nd generation universities to 3rd generation universities."

## ■ Confirming Production License for Local Nanotechnology Product

He also pointed to the production of first local nanotechnology product and said: "A number of 58 types of nanotechnology product are produced in the country, 10 of which have human application and are extracted from root of licorice plant."

There is a substance named "Glycyrrhizin" in root of licorice plant which makes skin "clear and transparent but it penetrates to skin hardly, he maintained. Since penetration of the substance is weak in skin, veteran lecturers at Kerman School of Pharmacy have turned this product into nano-

structure with the aim of increasing its penetration degree to skin."

Given the above issue, the Ministry of Health and Medical Education has issued the production license of this product, he said, adding: "Negotiations are underway between the university authorities and the Health Ministry officials in order to mass production of this product."

## ■ Kerman Hosts in Organizing ASCC in Next Year

At the other part of his interview, the Research and Technology Vice Chancellor of Kerman University of Medical Sciences said: "Asian Society of Cosmetic Chemists (ASCC) is a biennial seminar which will be held in Kerman University of Medical Sciences and for the first time in Iran on May 2017."

This prestigious seminar was held in Australia in 2015 and it will be held in Hong Kong and Taiwan in 2019 and 2021 respectively, he observed.

Iran is ranked 2nd in world in terms of cosmetics product, he said, adding: "According to statistics, approx. \$3.5 billion cosmetics and sanitary products are imported into the country. It is a



matter of regret to say that most of these products are smuggled into the country which are substandard and low quality."

Moreover, Kerman University of Medical Sciences will host organizing First Nationwide Seminar on "Addictive and High-Risk Behaviors among Children and Young Adults".

The said seminar will be held by Psychiatry Department of Kerman University of Medical Sciences and in cooperation with Iranian Psychiatric Association, he said, adding: "To date, various articles have been sent to the Secretariat of the seminar."

Dr. Pardakhty also revealed the organizing an international seminar in the last month of current Iranian calendar year (to end March 19, 2017) in Kerman University of Medical Sciences and said: "This prestigious seminar will be held by Iranian Controlled Release Society on Feb. 21-23, 2017."

For the first time, a new chapter will be opened in the field of cosmetics and related drugs in the country, he said, adding: "Guests from world countries including France, Japan, Canada, Germany, United States of America and Italy will take part in this prestigious seminar."

The world is home to 14 Chemistry-Cosmetics Associations in a way that all these associations will participate in this international seminar, he stated.

## ■ Innovation of Cutaneous Leishmaniasis Vaccine by One of University Lecturers

Producing "Cutaneous Leishmaniasis Vaccine" is one of the other cases that have been taken into serious consideration, he said, adding: "Dr. Daneshvar one of top university professors in Kerman University of Medical Sciences innovated the vaccine. Presently, this vaccine is at clinical-training stage in a way that this study is underway in several provinces of country."

This vaccine produced positive results and it is hoped that Cutaneous Leishmaniasis Vaccine will be produced with high efficacy and efficiency in the next year, he observed.

Production of three human vaccines is underway, he said, adding: "Presently, production of 10 animal vaccine is under investigation and for this purpose, talks have recently been conducted with foreign partners for transferring relevant technology. However, investor of this project has expressed its readiness to invest in this project, costing \$400 billion rials."

With the assessment made in this regard, Dr. Iraj Sharifi was introduced as op university lecturer in Kerman University of Medical Sciences, he said, adding: "It should be noted that Dr. Sharifi is senior advisor to World Health Organization (WHO)."

He pointed to Dr. Mas'oud Parirokh veteran professor in Dentistry University and said: "He is expert physician in Endodontics as well."

## ■ Iran Health Book, Reference Database for Medical Courses

Dr. Pardakhty also pointed to a book entitled

(MoU) has recently been concluded between the university and Fund to Support Researchers in order to support 20 Ph.D. and post-Ph.D. theses, costing six billion rials."

## ■ Goods News on Economy of Health

He pointed to the recent trip of the deputy minister of health and head of Food and Drug Organization (FDO) to Kerman Province and said: "In this five-day trip, project entitled "Economy of Health" was approved by the FDO Chief Dr. Dinavand in Kerman Governor Generalship."

The deputy chancellor also referred to the annual export of 100,000 to 150,000 lit. of plasma to overseas for being turned into drug, he said, adding: "Private sector has invested approx. 12,000 billion rials for commissioning Blood Plasma Refining Center."

Commissioning plasma refining center in Kerman Province is a prestige for this province in line with materializing objectives of resistance economy, he maintained.

Insulin Production Project is the other projects which will be launched in Kerman Province by the private sector, he said, and put the cost spent by the private sector for construction of this project at 750 billion rials.

Of the other salient achievements gained by Kerman University of Medical Sciences, he pointed to the cell therapy and said: "After injecting cell therapy in cartilage and knee lesion, cell therapy has recently been injected in bladder for urinary incontinence which is a good method and other 30 patients will be treated with the new method."

Elsewhere in his remarks, he pointed to launching Reptile Center tasked with raising laboratory animals, he pointed to approving license for commissioning Laboratory Animals Raising Center in Kerman and said: "With the coordination made in this regard, Rodent Center will be commissioned in Kerman University of Medical Sciences in the very near future."

Moreover, Laboratory Animals Network has been launched in this province which is of paramount importance, so that working on transgenic animals has been put into operation.

Turning to commissioning Kerman Innovation Center, he said: "This Center is run under the strict supervision of President Deputy for Scientific and Technological Affairs."

Another seminar entitled "A Brief Review on Systematic and Meta-Analysis" will be held in Kerman University of Medical Sciences, he said, adding: "Dr. Behnam Sadeghirad and Dr. Hagh-Doost have been introduced as key speakers in this seminar."

In the end, Deputy Chancellor of Kerman University of Medical Sciences for Research and Technology Affairs Dr. Pardakhty: "Giant scientific strides will be taken at the university in current year in line with realizing objectives of resistance economy."



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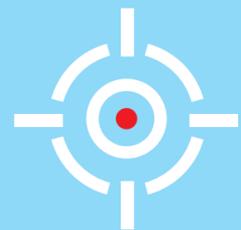
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# Calcium supplements linked to higher risk of dementia in some women

For older women with certain health conditions, taking calcium supplements may be linked with an increased risk of dementia, according to a new study.

Researchers found that women who had previously had a stroke and who regularly took calcium supplements at the start of the study were seven times more likely to develop dementia over the five-year period than women who had had a stroke but who did not take those supplements.

Additionally, the researchers found that women who had signs of a disorder that affects blood flow in the brain and who regularly took calcium supplements were twice as likely to develop dementia over five years as women who had signs of this disorder but did not take those supplements.

However, while the study shows a link between taking calcium supplements and a higher risk of dementia in some women, it does not prove that taking calcium supplements causes dementia, said study co-author Dr. Silke Kern, a neuroscience researcher at the University of Gothenburg in Sweden. More research is needed before any recommendations for women regarding the potential risks of taking calcium supplements can be made, Kern said. [7 Things That May Raise Your Risk of Stroke]

## Medical history

In the study, the researchers looked at the medical history of 700 women between ages 70 and 92 who did not have



dementia at the start of the study. The researchers asked the women if they were regularly taking calcium supplements and tested their memory and thinking skills. The scientists also scanned the brains of 447 of the participants.

The researchers found that 54 women

had had a stroke before the study started, and 98 women were taking calcium supplements at the start of the study.

Among the women who had their brains scanned at the start of the study, 71 percent had lesions on their brains' white matter, which is a marker for cerebrovas-

**When the researchers looked at the relationship between taking calcium supplements at the start of the study and the women's risk of developing dementia during the study period, it turned out that this risk was higher, but only for the women who had signs of cerebrovascular disease at the start of the study or who had previously had a stroke.**

cular disease — a group of disorders that affect blood flow in the brain. Such lesions are common in older adults, with one review study estimating that anywhere from 50 percent to 98 percent of elderly adults may have them.

The researchers then followed all the women for five years, and found that 59 women developed dementia, and 54 women had strokes during this time period, according to the findings, published today (Aug. 17) in the journal *Neurology*.

## Calcium supplements

When the researchers looked at the relationship between taking calcium supplements at the start of the study and the women's risk of developing dementia during the study period, it turned out that this risk was higher, but only for the women who had signs of cerebrovascular disease at the start of the study or who had previously had a stroke.

(Cerebrovascular disease is sometimes defined to also include stroke. But in this study, the researchers did not include stroke in their definition of cerebrovascular disease, and only included other types of cerebrovascular diseases.)

For example, six of 15 women who had previously had a stroke and took calcium supplements developed dementia during the study period. In comparison, a smaller proportion — 12 out of 93 women who had previously had a stroke but did not take supplements — developed dementia during the same time period.

(Source: *Live Science*)

## More evidence that 'healthy obesity' may be a myth

The term "healthy obesity" has gained traction over the past 15 years, but scientists have recently questioned its very existence.

A study published on August 18 in *Cell Reports* provides further evidence against the notion of a healthy obese state, revealing that white fat tissue samples from obese individuals classified as either metabolically healthy or unhealthy actually show nearly identical, abnormal changes in gene expression in response to insulin stimulation.

The "findings suggest that vigorous health interventions may be necessary for all obese individuals, even those previously considered to be metabolically healthy," says first author Mikael Rydén of the Karolinska Institutet. "Since obesity is the major driver altering gene expression in fat tissue, we should continue to focus on preventing obesity."

Obesity has reached epidemic proportions globally, affecting approximately 600 million people worldwide and significantly increasing the risk of heart disease, stroke, cancer, and type 2 diabetes. Since the 1940s, evidence supporting the link between obesity and metabolic and cardiovascular diseases has been steadily growing.

## Obesity increases

But in the 1970s and 80s, experts began to question the extent to which obesity increases the risk for these



disorders. Subsequent studies in the late 90s and early 2000s showed that some obese individuals display a relatively healthy metabolic and cardiovascular profile.

Recent estimates suggest that up to 30% of obese individuals are metabolically healthy and therefore may need less vigorous interventions to prevent obesity-related complications.

A hallmark of metabolically healthy obesity is high sensitivity to the hormone insulin, which promotes the uptake of blood glucose into cells to be used for energy.

However, there are currently no accepted criteria for identifying metabolically healthy obesity, and whether or

not such a thing exists is now up for debate.

To address this controversy, Rydén, Carsten Daub, and Peter Arner of the Karolinska Institutet assessed responses to insulin in 15 healthy, never-obese participants and 50 obese subjects enrolled in a clinical study of gastric bypass surgery.

The researchers took biopsies of abdominal white fat tissue before and at the end of a two-hour period of intravenous infusion of insulin and glucose.

## Glucose uptake

Based on the glucose uptake rate, the researchers classified 21 obese subjects as insulin sensitive and 29 as insulin resistant.

Surprisingly, mRNA sequencing of white fat tissue samples revealed a clear distinction between never-obese participants and both groups of obese individuals. White fat tissue from insulin-sensitive and insulin-resistant obese individuals showed nearly identical patterns of gene expression in response to insulin stimulation.

These abnormal gene expression patterns were not influenced by cardiovascular or metabolic risk factors such as waist-to-hip ratio, heart rate, or blood pressure. The findings show that obesity rather than other common risk factors is likely the primary factor determining metabolic health.

(Source: *EurekAlert*)

## Calories burned in yoga: class by class

Gasp! Bikram is not the be all, end all of fat-melting, slipping in puddles of expended calories in yoga class? Of course, active yoga styles such as Ashtanga, Vinyasa Flow and Power Yoga burn more calories than passive styles such as Restorative or Hatha yoga, but let's really see how each form stacks up.

Caloric expenditure in yoga is said to be anywhere from approximately 100 to 450 calories per hour, depending on the person, and the practice. According to HealthStatus.com, one hour of the following varieties of yoga performed by a 150-pound person will reap the following rewards:

Hatha Yoga: 189 calories. Hatha yoga is an umbrella term for what Westerners consider yoga. In truth, Hatha yoga is the actual physical practice of yoga postures,

plain and simple. This is the basic, run-of-the-mill yoga class you may find at your gym or local studio if not noted otherwise. While part of the class may contain constant movement, a lot of it is also holding balance poses. Hatha classes are perfect for those who want to dip their toes in the yoga pool and get a great, relaxing flexibility workout.

Ashtanga Yoga (or Power Yoga): 351 calories. Ashtanga yoga is often referred to as Power Yoga because of its dynamic system that combines breathing and movement into a series of postures. It is both cardiovascular and meditative, and relies on the strength of your own muscles to perform the movements. Unlike many styles of yoga where the classes are choreographed differently, in Ashtanga Yoga classes, the postures performed

are always the same and are done in a specific order. Ashtanga yoga is meant to purify the body by cultivating an "internal heat," which burns off toxins. It also builds strength, flexibility and reduces stress.

Bikram or Hot Yoga: 477 calories. Hot yoga, which is preformed in a room heated to around 105 degrees and usually lasts around 90 minutes, is probably the most misunderstood form of yoga. "When the body is working hard to cool itself, as in a hot yoga class, heart rate does increase, but that does not necessarily mean there is a higher physical demand on the working muscles," explains Lawson. "We might expect to lose anywhere from 1 to 3 pounds of water weight in a hot yoga class, but that is likely to be replaced when we rehydrate."

Bikram yoga involves a sequence of

26 postures and two breathing exercises performed in the same order, no matter where you take your class. Hot yoga can involve any type of postures but is still performed in a heated classroom. You will sweat profusely, thereby ridding the body of toxins and the intense heat enhances flexibility in your muscles.

Vinyasa Yoga (Flow Yoga): 594 calories. Vinyasa yoga, often referred to as Flow because of the smooth way the poses run together, tops the list of calorie burners because of the constant movement. If you choose a Flow class, expect lots of burning muscles, not just stretching. Many love Vinyasa because of its diversity. There is no single sequence that teachers follow, so every class will be different, but intense.

(Source: *fitbottomedgirls.com*)

## Animal study hints at Zika damage potential in adult brains

Zika virus can infect developing nerve cells in adults, but it's unclear what the clinical impact might be, according to a mouse experiment that suggests that the unique damage from the disease may not be limited to developing fetuses.

In other research developments, new findings today revealed a role for certain placental cells in fetal Zika infections, and a report from Brazil yesterday highlighted the transmission risk from platelet transfusion.

Zika illness is thought to be mild for most adults, and only about 20% of those infected show symptoms. Guillain-Barre

syndrome (GBS) is a known complication of Zika and other viral infections, though reports are rare. Over the past several months, clinicians have reported other possibly related complications in teens and adults, including meningitis and myelitis.

Researchers based at Rockefeller University and La Jolla Institute of Allergy and Immunology published results from their experiments with Zika virus in mice today in *Cell Stem Cell*. Though mice resist Zika infection, scientists have developed a genetically modified type that is susceptible to help them study the impact of the virus.

## Zika in newborns

They focused on neural stem cells, which studies have already shown to be vulnerable to Zika virus in newborns and a likely factor in the damage that leads to microcephaly. Neural stem cells are found in limited parts of adult brains, and in mice are found in two areas: the subventricular part of the anterior forebrain and the subgranular part of the hippocampus.

Three days after the researchers injected the virus into the mice's bloodstreams, they harvested the brains and used antibodies to identify presence of

Zika virus. They found viral particles surrounding the neural stem cells, with evidence of cell death and a drop in replication.

Sujan Shresta, Ph.D., study coauthor and an infectious disease researcher at La Jolla Institute of Allergy and Immunology, said in a press release from Cell Press, the journal's publisher, that adult neurogenesis is involved with learning and memory. "We don't know what this would mean in terms of human diseases, or if cognitive behaviors of an individual could be impacted after infection," she said.

(Source: *CIDRAP*)

## NEWS

### 'Le Petite Prince Plan' comes to rescue children with anxiety in Iran

**MEDICAL TEHRAN** — A screening program, titled "Le Petite Prince Plan", for children with anxiety, is underway as per an agreement between Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences and the State Welfare Organization, an official with the organization said on Saturday.

Under the document, the two entities will collaborate in training, research, and treatment areas in connection with child and adolescent psychology, IRNA quoted Majid Rezazadeh as saying.



The program, targeting children from birth to age 8, has a variety of training courses for parents.

The scheme is mostly geared towards fathers whose roles in their children's psychological wellbeing and mental health have been neglected, Rezazadeh noted.

The plan is at a preliminary stage with details yet to be worked out.

So far, Rezazadeh explained, 45,000 preschool children have been screened, out of whom 30 percent were diagnosed at risk.

Out of the diagnosed, 15 percent turned out to show anxiety disorder, reversible via proper therapy. Left untreated, such children can be potentially a violent adult, a drug addict, and or a divorcee.

Asymptomatic in children, anxiety leaves the parents with no clues of their children condition, making it difficult to differentiate from hyperactivity.

Children with anxiety, whose problems mainly go away with proper training, should see a child and adolescent psychiatrist for proper treatment.

In cases, it may include drug therapy.

### Improper care of contact lenses can cause serious eye infections

Nearly 1 in 5 contact lens-related eye infections reported to a federal database involved a patient who experienced eye damage, according to a report published in Centers for Disease Control and Prevention or CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR).

The infections, submitted to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) Medical Device Report Database, included patients who had a scarred cornea, needed a corneal transplant, or otherwise suffered a reduction in vision. These contact lens-related eye infections can lead to long-lasting eye damage but are often preventable.

"Contact lenses are a safe and effective form of vision correction when worn and cared for as recommended," said Michael Beach, Ph.D., director of CDC's Healthy Water Program. "However, improper wear and care of contact lenses can cause eye infections that sometimes lead to serious, long-term damage."

## Contact lens

Contact lens manufacturers, eye care providers, and patients can report adverse events related to contact lens use to the FDA, which regulates contact lenses as medical devices. The report reviewed 1,075 contact lens-related infections reported to FDA between 2005 and 2015.

More than 10 percent of the reports indicated that the patient went to an emergency department or urgent care clinic for immediate care. Whether eye infections are minor or lead to long-lasting damage, they can be painful and disrupt daily life. For instance, the reports describe patients' daily visits to an eye doctor or hourly administration of eye drops to treat the infection.

(Source: *CDC*)

### E-cigs have fewer carcinogens than cigarettes

Smokers who switch to electronic cigarettes get the same levels of nicotine, but lower levels of toxins and cancer-causing chemicals, new research shows.

"This study suggests that smokers who completely switch to e-cigarettes and stop smoking tobacco cigarettes may significantly reduce their exposure to many cancer-causing chemicals," said lead author Maciej Goniewicz, an assistant professor of oncology at Roswell Park Cancer Institute in Buffalo, N.Y.

The researchers recruited 20 daily-smoking adults who had smoked for an average of 12 years. For two weeks, they used e-cigarettes instead of tobacco cigarettes. During that time, their urine was analyzed for levels of nicotine and 17 "biomarkers" of toxins and carcinogens.

Significant declines in 12 of the 17 biomarkers were noted during those two weeks. The declines were similar to those seen when people quit smoking, the researchers said. However, nicotine levels remained the same during the study period.

The research was published online Aug. 17 in the journal *Nicotine & Tobacco Research*.

"Our findings suggest that e-cigarette use may effectively reduce exposure to toxic and carcinogenic substances among smokers who completely switch to these products," study co-author Neal Benowitz, professor of medicine at the University of California, San Francisco, said in a Roswell institute news release.

"Future research will help determine whether e-cigarettes reduce the risk of disease among dual users -- those who both smoke and vape -- and those who use electronic cigarettes for a long time," he added.

(Source: *WebMed*)

# Post-sanction Iran seeks to jolt economic ties with Latin America

## ARTICLE

By: Marjan Sheikhi

Iran's Foreign Minister Mohamad Javad Zarif kicked off his first Latin American tour to six countries on Aug. 21, aimed at jolting Iran's neglected economic ties with Cuba, Nicaragua, Ecuador, Chile, Bolivia and Venezuela.

Following the imposition of various trade and economic sanctions against Iran in a bid to force the country to abandon its peaceful nuclear program,

the Islamic Republic began to seek for new trade markets in order to bypass the economic deadlocks imposed by the West and keep its ample commercial capacities alive.

Iran was grappled with the toughest case of unjust sanctions during the office of Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and the US hostility toward the country was at its highest peak. At the time where the European Union and a number of major Asian countries refused to have economic cooperation with Iran under excessive pressure from the United States, it was perhaps inevitable for Iran to turn

its eyes toward Latin American countries which had wearied of the American imperialistic attitude.

In late November 2009, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad became the first Iranian president to have made a state visit to Brazil since the mid-1960s. The visit gained special momentousness at the time the Western side of the world had been 'hell-bent' on undermining every effort by the Iranian government in establishing political and economic ties with those other countries that had the chance and freedom of choice to not board the Anti-Iranian sanction train

with the US administration at the helm. During Ahmadinejad's visit, dubbed by US Secretary of State as 'quite disturbing', Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva publicly defended Iran's right to develop nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. Ahmadinejad's Latin American tour then took him to Bolivia, Venezuela, Cuba, Nicaragua, and Ecuador where the two sides conferred on all potential venues of cooperation.

The visits however came under criticism, not just from the US which felt threatened and frustrated by Iran's continued attempts at maintaining political and economic links with other countries despite the West's best efforts in isolating it, but also from a number of political analysts inside the country who believed that investing in Latin American countries, due to the long distance, would not be 'economical' for Iran and that the country is in a sense spreading itself too thin. In foreign policy, too, they believed that Iran's top priority should be with promoting relations with neighboring countries such as Saudi Arabia and Turkey, instead of attempting to extend relations as far away as to Venezuela or Brazil with minimal impact on the country's core foreign policy issues.

Once President Hassan Rouhani took office in 2013, Iran's relations with Latin America seemed to dwindle, or at least go back several rows behind the forefront of the country's foreign policy priorities (most notably, the closing of National Iranian Oil Company's offices in Bolivia and Venezuela in 2014). It was the time where Iran was finally making tangible progress on its nuclear negotiations with the six world powers, and the United States had become directly involved in certain aspects of Iran's foreign policy. With the negotiations finally leading to a positive conclusion and the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)



signed on 14 July 2015 and coming into effect on January 16, 2016, Iran was now looking at a wider horizon of opportunities which the lift of sanctions offered.

While Iran has maintained its good political relationship with many countries in Latin America, economy-wise, the country has not fared so well. According to Deputy Foreign Minister Majid Takht-Ravanchi, "there exist many areas for cooperation and joint ventures, but until now we have not been able to benefit completely from these capacities."

Now accompanied by a 60-person delegation consisting of business executives from the private sector, Foreign Minister Zarif will make his first trip to Latin America, specially aimed at bolstering economic ties. Zarif's trip began in Cuba on August 21, then will proceed to Nicaragua, Ecuador, Chile and Bolivia, and finally ending in Venezuela. The trip, as stressed by Takht-Ravanchi, has the potential to begin a new chapter in relations between Iran and Latin America, as various contracts in the fields of oil, energy, maritime, and transport are expected to be signed during the visits.

According to Bahram Ghasemi, Foreign Ministry Spokesman, Zarif's trip to

Latin America shows the government's attempts at facilitating a trade boom between Iranian economic agents with those in other countries and is consistent with the objectives of 'resistance economy' which includes among other tenets 'targeted promotion of exportable goods and services...as well as the promotion of foreign investment for export purposes' and increasing 'regional and international economic collaboration' as issued in a decree on Feb. 19 by Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

Considering the fact that Latin America encompasses 30 countries with a total of 600 million populations, Iran's improved relations with this part of the world with its shared anti-US and anti-imperialist ideology will for certain open up many doors for meeting economic interests of both sides.

According to International Monetary Fund, trade between Iran and Latin America tripled between 2007 and 2008, rising to \$2.9 billion, and up to \$4 billion in 2013. Figures estimated Iran and Venezuela's bilateral trade at \$19 million in fiscal year 2013.

### Quality Assessment Announcement for Construction, Shipment and Delivery of Port & Marine Machineries & Equipment For Shahid Beheshti Port (Chabahar)

"Second Announcement"

This is hereby to announce that TANA Energy Co. as MC of phase 1 SHAHID BEHESHTI Port, (CHABAHAR)-IRAN on behalf of Arya Banader Iranian Company intends to proceed with Construction, Shipment and Delivery of "Trailing Hopper Suction Dredger 4000 M<sup>3</sup>" based on the quality assessment procedure and through a public international tender.

Consequently, in order to carry out the quality assessment, all local and foreigner eligible manufacturer companies are invited to refer to the Project/Commercial department of TANA Energy Co., at below mentioned address while presenting an introduction letter and the original bank receipt of 500,000 Iranian Rials paid to account No. 2908100107360571 of TANA Energy Co., by Bank Pasargad Iran, to receive a CD containing the Quality Assessment Forms and Tender Documents latest by 04.09.2016.

Place and deadline for submitting the documents and completed quality assessment forms:

Project/Commercial Dept. at 2nd floor of TANA Energy building and to last working hour on 18.09.2016.

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# Soil bacteria used to generate electricity

Considering how technology is becoming smaller and smaller, and weighing up the need for devices to be adequately powered, researchers at the U.S. Office of Naval Research have been considering how bacteria can be used as conductors of electricity for small-scale electronic devices.

The genetically modified bacteria have been used to create electrical wires. The conducting wires are on the nano-scale, being a thousand times thinner than human hair.

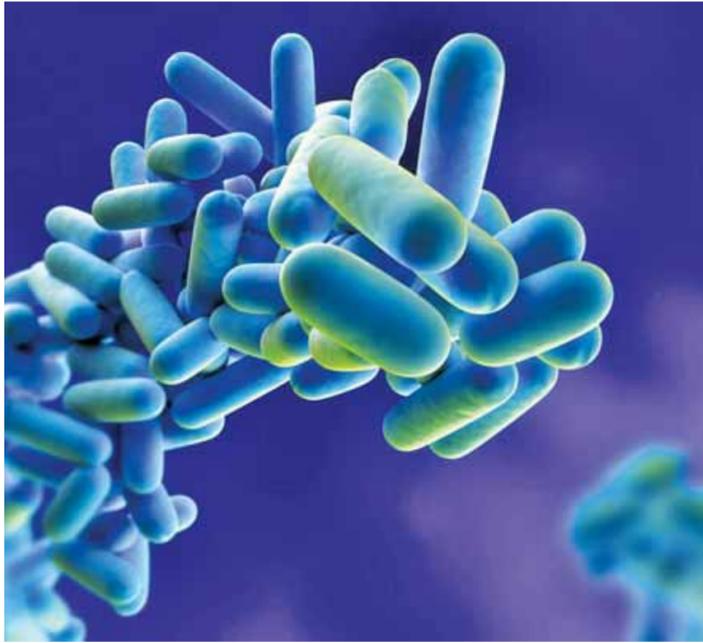
Not only are the bacteria efficient, they provide a relatively 'green' source of power. This is because the bacterial nanowires can be linked up to solar energy or other renewables, such as plant waste.

In addition, the material of construction is biological and non-toxic (no chemicals are required to produce the nanoelectric components.)

The microorganisms used are species of *Geobacter*. The organism naturally produces nanowires, which take the form of hair-like appendages that protrude from the bacterial cell. In the soil the organism uses the wires to connect with iron oxide and draws on the mineral to support growth.

## Level of electricity

The level of electricity produce in nature is insufficient to power a device. However, through altering the bacterial genetic make-up, which involves replacing amino acids, electrical conductivity can be boost-



**The genetically modified bacteria have been used to create electrical wires. The conducting wires are on the nano-scale, being a thousand times thinner than human hair.**

ed. Through using tryptophan-infused nanowires the electricity produced increased 2000-fold.

By packing thousands of bacterial nanowires together, sufficient power can be produced to run a small electronic device.

A potential example is the integration of the nanowires with silicon chips.

Commenting on the research, Dr. Linda Chrisey, who works at the Naval Research center, said the research "could lead to the development of new electronic materials to meet the increasing demand for smaller, more powerful computing devices."

The scientist further added: Being able to produce extremely thin wires with sustainable materials has enormous potential application as components of electronic devices such as sensors, transistors and capacitors.

The findings have yet to be published in a peer reviewed journal. Digital Journal has covered similar research. In June 2016 we profiled studies performed at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, Holy Cross, and Brookhaven National Laboratory.

Here scientists were using X-ray diffraction to determine the structure of the bacterial hairs. This revealed the hairs to have metallic-like conductivity, which can be utilized for bio-batteries.

(Source: Digital Journal)

## Self-driving? You're gonna need a bigger data plan

Smart technologies promise to connect us to our environment in new and exciting ways, but this increased connection comes at a cost. As more devices go online and transmit mass amounts of data to the cloud, the cloud itself needs to be capable of quickly receiving, analyzing, and returning that data.

During his keynote at the Intel Developer Forum, Intel CEO Brian Krzanich stated: "The average person today generates about 6-to-700 megabits a day. By 2020, the estimate is 1.5 gigabytes a day for the average person." He continued, the "average autonomous vehicle, by 2020, will produce 4,000 gigabytes per day."

That is a lot of data. In fact, it comes out to roughly 1 Gbps when you look at all the various sensors and cameras that a fully-functional autonomous vehicle requires. Long-range radar, lidar, cameras, short and medium-range radar, and ultrasonic sensors enable the vehicle to have a full, 360-degree view of its surroundings.

To put it another way, an estimated four petabytes of

data is going to be generated by each autonomous car on the road every year. That type of data would take today's average wireless user over 167,000 years to top.

## Intel's solution

Intel's solution to this massive data problem is to give the vehicles themselves the ability to take this data, process it, and convert it into actionable information locally. But this is only part of the solution.

There will still need to be some form of communication with the cloud in order for an autonomous vehicle to make sound decisions about where it is going and what the best possible path is to get there.

Traffic analysis, mapping, weather updates, finding business addresses, and more are still areas where having a constant connection to the cloud is necessary. Not only that, but the companies that create these autonomous vehicles will need access to some of that data in order to improve on their systems and troubleshoot issues. This data is valuable, and companies will be hard-pressed to let it

disappear.

5G, which is currently in research and development phase among top communications companies, is expected to be made available as early as 2018 during the Winter Olympics, but this is early speculation as there isn't even a standard yet for the next-generation wireless technology. Even if this demonstration is successful, there are years of rollout required before 5G connections are available in most areas.

For telecom companies, there is very little benefit to this rapid expansion of their networks. While you can charge an arm and a leg for a smartphone's data plan, can you do the same for that user's car?

Monetization drives businesses to build, and while the White House is doing its part by providing funding incentives for 5G research and development, the long-term costs involved with building and maintaining these new, more powerful networks will ultimately fall on these companies and their customers.

(Source: ReadWrite)

## Tech companies are going to war against robocalls

More than 30 major technology companies are joining the U.S. government to crack down on automated, prerecorded telephone calls that regulators have labeled a "scourge."

AT&T Inc, Google parent Alphabet Inc, Apple Inc, Verizon Communications Inc and Comcast Corp are among the members of the "Robocall Strike Force," which will work with the U.S. Federal Communications Commission. The group was holding its first meeting with the FCC on Friday.

The strike force will report to the commission by Oct. 19 on "concrete plans to accelerate the development and adoption of new tools and solutions," said AT&T Chief Executive Officer Randall Stephenson, who is chairing the group.

The group hopes to put in place Caller ID verification standards that would help block calls from spoofed phone numbers

and to consider a "Do Not Originate" list that would block spoofers from impersonating specific phone numbers from governments, banks or others.

FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler in July urged major companies to take new action to block robocalls, which often come from telemarketers or scam artists.

"This scourge must stop," Wheeler said on Friday, calling robocalls the No. 1 complaint from consumers.

Wheeler has said robocalls continue "due in large part to industry inaction."

The "bad guys are beating the good guys with technology," Wheeler said.

## The breadth and complexity

Stephenson emphasized the "breadth and complexity" of the robocall problem.

"This is going to require more than individual company initiatives and one-off blocking apps," Stephenson said. "Robocall-



ers are a formidable adversary, notoriously hard to stop."

(Source: Time)

## Can't stand the heat? Study reveals how we work out if we're too hot

With temperatures soaring across the UK, our ability to detect and avoid places that are too warm is vital for regulating our body temperature. However, until now, little was known about the molecular mechanisms responsible for detecting warmth in the sensory neurons of our skin.

A new King's College London study, published in *Nature*, reveals that a gene called TRPM2 initiates a 'warm' signal in mice that drives them to seek cooler environments. When this gene is removed, the mice are unable to distinguish between cool and warm temperatures.

Some 'TRP' (Transient Receptor Potential) proteins were already known to be activated by painful levels of heat. These proteins can conduct positively charged ions across the cell membrane, and so can change the internal voltage of a nerve cell.

This change in voltage in turn triggers nerve activity, and so signals the painful sensation of heat, such as from touching a hot kettle. However, previous research had not revealed ion channels which may be activated by milder levels of non-painful warmth.



Dr. Chun-Hsiang Tan and Professor Peter McNaughton from King's College London identified an ion channel called TRPM2, which had not previously been linked to the sensation of warmth.

Having isolated this novel sensory channel, they removed the TRPM2 gene in a group of mice and compared their behavior to normal mice when walking across warmed surfaces at 33°C or 38°C.

The researchers found that normal mice preferred a cooler temperature of 33°C and

avoided the warmer temperature of 38°C, while the mice in which the TRPM2 gene had been deleted were unable to distinguish between the two.

## non-painful warmth

Dr. Chun-Hsiang Tan, a postdoctoral worker at King's College London, said: The removal of TRPM2 in these mice eliminated their ability to detect non-painful warmth, yet the capacity to detect painful levels of heat using other known receptors was unaffected. This reveals how we are able to

detect environments that are too warm at a sensory level.

Professor Peter McNaughton, also of King's College London, said: The temperatures we examined are certainly comparable to those you might find on a London bus or tube carriage in the height of summer.

At 38°C a busy tube carriage would be quite suffocating, so sensory neurons in our skin allow us to detect that the environment is too warm and drive us to take action - whether that be removing an article of clothing or alighting the tube and seeking a cooler environment.

Professor McNaughton added: We have shown that TRPM2 is important for the conscious detection of warmth, but does it also play a role in the unconscious regulation of body temperature?

In future studies it would be interesting to explore whether TRPM2 also plays an unconscious role in controlling our body temperature, by regulating sweating and the constriction of blood vessels in the skin.

(Source: EurekAlert)

## NEWS

### 'Interscatter' tech uses reflected signals to link smart contact lenses to the internet

Contact lenses and brain implants that can transmit data may sound like science-fiction gizmos but researchers at the University of Washington are turning them into science fact, thanks to a technological trick they call interscatter communication.

The technology relies on super-low-power devices that can reflect wireless transmissions such as Bluetooth signals, transforming them into data-carrying Wi-Fi signals in the process.

Such devices require mere millionths of a watt to work, and can be shrunk down to the size of a computer chip. The technique is described in a paper to be presented this week at the Association for Computing Machinery's SIGCOMM 2016 conference in Brazil.

"Wireless connectivity for implanted devices can transform how we manage chronic diseases," Vikram Iyer, a UW electrical engineering doctoral student, said today in a news release. "For example, a contact lens could monitor a diabetic's blood sugar level in tears and send notifications to the phone when the blood sugar level goes down."

The technology could also be used to create credit cards and ID cards that exchange data wirelessly, or wearable electronics that can link up with a Wi-Fi network.

"Providing the ability for these everyday objects like credit cards - in addition to implanted devices - to communicate with mobile devices can unleash the power of ubiquitous connectivity," said Shyam Gollakota, an assistant professor of computer science and engineering at UW.

The key to interscatter technology is that the devices don't have to generate the power required to send out their own signals. Instead, they merely reflect the signals from an outside wireless source - for example, smartphones, smartwatches, computers or other electronic devices that generate Bluetooth, Wi-Fi or ZigBee radio signals.

(Source: GeekWire)

### Spider silk: Mother Nature's bio-superlens

Scientists at the UK's Bangor and Oxford universities have achieved a world first: using spider-silk as a superlens to increase the microscope's potential.

Extending the limit of classical microscope's resolution has been the 'El Dorado' or 'Holy Grail' of microscopy for over a century. Physical laws of light make it impossible to view objects smaller than 200 nm - the smallest size of bacteria, using a normal microscope alone. However, superlenses which enable us to see beyond the current magnification have been the goal since the turn of the millennium. Hot on the heels of a paper revealing that a team at Bangor University's School of Electronic Engineering has used a nanobead-derived superlens to break the perceived resolution barrier, the same team has achieved another world first.

## Occurring material

Now the team, led by Dr. Zengbo Wang and in collaboration with Professor Fritz Vollrath's silk group at Oxford University's Department of Zoology, has used a naturally occurring material - dragline silk of the golden web spider, as an additional superlens, applied to the surface of the material to be viewed, to provide an additional 2-3 times magnification.

This is the first time that a naturally occurring biological material has been used as a superlens.

Dr. Zengbo Wang said:

"We have proved that the resolution barrier of microscope can be broken using a superlens, but production of manufactured superlenses involves some complex engineering processes which are not widely accessible to other researchers. This is why we have been interested in looking for a naturally occurring superlens provided by 'Mother Nature', which may exist around us, so that everyone can access superlenses."

"It is very exciting to find yet another cutting edge and totally novel use for a spider silk, which we have been studying for over two decades in my laboratory."

Professor Fritz Vollrath adds:

"It is very exciting to find yet another cutting edge and totally novel use for a spider silk, which we have been studying for over two decades in my laboratory."

(Source: EurekAlert)

### As July's record heat builds through August, Arctic ice keeps melting

When scientists tallied the temperature readings from around the world last month, this is what they discovered:

July 2016 was the warmest month we have observed in our period of record that dates back to 1880," says Jake Crouch, a climate scientist at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

And July wasn't a freak occurrence, he notes. The past 10 years have seen numerous high temperature records.

The temperature record for July is an average for the planet, Crouch explains. Some places were a bit cooler than normal - Siberia, for example. But other places were incredibly hot.

A "temperature in Kuwait on July 22 reached 126.5 degrees Fahrenheit according to an observation taken by the United States Air Force," Crouch says.

## Average temperature

July's average temperature was only a tiny bit higher than the previous record, but a big jump from what was typical in the 20th century. And the U.S. has sizzled, by and large, along with the rest of the world.

"We can see that almost the entire contiguous U.S. was warmer than average for 2016 so far," Crouch says, "with a lot of that warmth situated over the northern tier and the West."

Scientists at NOAA and NASA agree that climate change is only part of the reason for the extra heat. Much of the world also experienced an El Niño this year - an occasional weather pattern that starts in the Pacific and spreads warm air over large parts of the world.

NEWS IN BRIEF



Free horticulture training courses in Tehran

**ENVIRONMENT** TEHRAN — Free horticulture training courses are available for the citizens of district 7 of Tehran, an official with the municipality has said.

Training and consulting courses pertaining to gardening, cultivating, pruning, propagating and maintaining vegetables, herbs, indoor plants, flowers, fruit-bearing trees, etc. are of the subjects of these summer courses, Mohammad-Ali Sha'bani said, ISNA news agency reported on Saturday.

As the houses are getting smaller and lack an outdoor area the courses are aiming at encouraging the citizens to keep plants and promoting the idea of developing green areas to everywhere, Sha'bani suggested.

Those who keep on attending all the classes regularly would be given a piece of land for farming, he highlighted.

All the classes are held in attendance of experts in the field of agriculture and all the products would be organic, he added.



Tehran's 1st nature school to open by end of summer

**ENVIRONMENT** TEHRAN — The first nature school in Tehran will be set up by the end of summer at the Azadi Sport Complex, an official with the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs said.

According to an order made by the Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs Mahmoud Goudarzi and a license issued by the Department of Environment a space is allocated to the nature school at Azadi Sport Complex, Reza Shaji told ISNA news agency on Saturday.

The school is getting off the ground and will be inaugurated by the end of summer, he added.

The nature school is not intervening with the normal school operating under Education Ministry's supervision, Shaji said, adding, the nature school is a place for the children to spend their free time and enjoy the (environmental) activities there with their parents.



Going bananas! Strange banana tree grows in north of England

In a cold climate such as the U.K., it is difficult to grow banana trees and bear banana fruits. However, this banana tree in Greater Manchester defies this notion.

But take a look at this strange banana tree, where tiny green-yellow bananas appear in Stockport, Greater Manchester.

Gardener Kate Burke said all she did was to wrap the plants in as many as 14 duvets to prevent damage from winter, Mail Online reported.

"I have had a banana tree for ten years but never expected one to grow this far north," Burke said.

Burke is fond of exotic plants that she has three types of palm tree as well as tropical flowers and cacti. However, these banana fruits are, so far, the greatest achievement she is most proud of in his 23 years of gardening.

So, how did it taste?

"Although they are turning yellow I tried one and I must admit it was disgusting, like eating cardboard," Burke said. "You can't do much with them other than enjoy looking at them."

(Source: Mirror)



India air pollution death rate to outpace China: researcher

The increase in people dying in India from air pollution will outpace the rate of such deaths in China, as India drags its heels over environmental rules while opening more coal mines, the head of a U.S. research group said on Thursday.

"India's situation is getting worse at a much faster speed than China," Dan Greenbaum, president of Boston-based Health Effects Institute (HEI), told Reuters in Beijing.

"It is definitely the case because India has not taken as much action on air pollution."

HEI and a group of Chinese and Indian universities recently said that over half of world's air pollution-related deaths were in China and India. In China, coal-fired plants have been the worst source of pollution. But India has lagged behind in implementing stringent environment policies for coal emission.

(Source: Reuters)



Every action has a reaction. We have one planet; one chance.

# Inter-basin transfer last solution to water shortage: environment official

**ENVIRONMENT** TEHRAN — Inter-basin transfer must be the last resort to solve water shortage, the deputy for marine environment of the Department of Environment (DoE) said on Sunday.

Inter-basin transfer didn't prove to be effective in other countries either and DoE must be approved of this scheme otherwise it is impossible to implement it, Parvin Farshchi told a press conference, IRNA news agency reported.

It is true that the country is facing water shortage that is caused by mismanagement over the past two or three decades, but it is mandatory to try all other alternatives such as recycling and reforming irrigation patterns before jumping to such a hasty decision without putting much thought into it, Farshchi warned.

"After going over all other viable options and in case we make sure that we are left with no other choices other than inter-basin transfer we can discuss it with ensuring its environmental compliance," she noted.

"We haven't reached any convincing conclusion about transferring water from Caspian Sea to the Semnan Province and studies to prove its effectiveness are still



ongoing," she added.

Although in some rare cases such as transferring water from Sea of Oman to Hormozgan Province it is not problematic but depending on the ecological properties of an area such as Caspian Sea and Persian Gulf it is not recommended, she explained.

Farshchi went on to say that sea level change and Hircanian forests are of the impediments to water transfer from Cas-

pian Sea and as the sea is an enclosed inland body of water depleting it may threaten its future as well.

"Studies to decide the effectiveness of transferring water from Persian Gulf are still ongoing and we need more time to decide whether it is possible or not," she added.

Inter-basin transfer or trans-basin diversion are terms used to describe man-made conveyance schemes which move

water from one river basin where it is available, to another basin where water is less available or could be utilized better for human development. The purpose of such designed schemes can be to alleviate water shortages in the receiving basin, to generate electricity, or both.

**Environmental annex to sixth development plan**

Elsewhere in her remarks, Farshchi commented on the sixth five-year development plan (2016-2021) since some have criticized it as not being environment oriented enough stated that an environmental annex will be added to the document to ensure its eco-friendly application.

**Iran seeking compensation for environmental damages**

Farshchi also expressed hope that Iran would finally succeed in receiving compensation for the environmental losses inflicted upon Iran on international level particularly on the seas by forming a working group.

The working group would meet for the first time next week, she said, adding, "If we want to obtain compensation we need to monitor the situation closely and well document it."

## Polar bears in serious danger of going extinct

By Farnaz Heidari

Polar bears evolved from a brown bear (*Ursus arctos*) ancestor 4-6 million years ago and they have undergone some very dramatic changes.

The obvious changes are color (polar bear fur is colorless and thus appears white), the claws are much more curved, sharper and shorter and evolved for the capture of prey, the feet are furred, the skull is narrower and longer (likely an adaptation to hunting ringed seals that use breathing holes, and to pre-warm air), the molars are more carnivorous than brown bears, and importantly, polar bears remain active through the winter whereas brown bears hibernate – the only exception is pregnant female polar bears that den over winter to give birth and rear cubs.

From a behavioral perspective, polar bears use much larger areas – brown bears use an area up to ca. 1000 sq. km while polar bears can use 10 to 50 times larger areas.

The very high energy diet of polar bears allows this difference in space use. The high energy diet of polar bears allows them to grow much larger than Arctic brown bears (2-3 times larger). Polar bears have fewer cubs usually 1-2 while brown bears have 2-3 – polar bears only have 4 functional mammae reflecting their smaller litters while brown bears have 6 mammae (in mammals, there is an approximate "rule" that the female has 2 times the number of mammae as the "normal" litter size).

The Tehran Times had an interview with Professor Dr. Andrew E. Derocher from Department of Biological Sciences in the University of Alberta who also wrote the book "Polar Bears, A complete guide to their biology and behavior".

Below is the text of the interview:

**Why some of zoo polar bears are not as white as wild polar bears?**

A: Polar bears can appear yellowish if dirty or have oils in their fur that oxidize. The whitest bears are those on the sea ice that are in and out of salt water. In the wild, the bears roll a lot on the ice and snow when they feed and are able to stay meticulously clean.

**Does the scientific name of polar bears (*Ursus maritimus*) refer to their ability of swimming?**

A: Polar bears are very capable swimmers but while they should be considered as "marine mammals" but they are not like seals, whales, or sea otters that can spend all or most of their time in the water. Polar bears prefer to be on the surface of the ice. Mothers with small cubs in the spring (e.g., < 30 kg) will walk great



distances to avoid taking cubs into the water as they risk hypothermia and death if they are forced to swim in cold water.

**How will Arctic warming and other threats affect them?**

A: The best way to view changes in sea ice is simply as a habitat loss issue. Sea ice is disappearing quickly and depending on the month you consider, the loss rates vary considerably but can reach about 1% per year. Of greatest concern is loss in the spring and autumn/winter and these rates have been slower. With 19 populations of polar bears, the changes are going to show up somewhat differently and at different times. The main changes we see are loss in body condition (fat stores) as bears are forced off the sea ice earlier.

This results in lower reproductive rates and lower survival (usually of the youngest and oldest bears in a population). Ultimately, such changes result in population decline. We have seen declines clearly linked to sea ice loss in 2 populations (Western Hudson Bay and Southern Beaufort Sea) but we suspect such effects are ongoing in another 3-4 populations. Some populations, however, will do fine for some years to come.

When it comes to "other human activities" we are very concerned about the effects of pollution. Polar bears are at the top of the marine food chain and thus bioaccumulate pollutants. Most of the pollution is transported to the Arctic from more developed parts of the world. Industrial chemicals and pesticides occur at dangerous levels (e.g., PCBs, PBDE, PFOS, DDT, DDE, heavy metals like mercury). Some are increasing and some are decreasing but they affect hormone regulation, growth, behavior, survival, immune system and other systems – evidence varies on each of these "effects". Hormone and immune system effects are very clear.

IN FOCUS IRIB/ Ahmad Balasi



The night sky of the Badab-e Sort, Mazandaran province, is pretty stunning and captivating. Badab-e Sort is a natural site which comprises a range of stepped travertine terrace formations that has been created over thousands of years as flowing water from two mineral hot springs cooled and deposited carbonate minerals on the mountainside.



➔ A major city lying just 60km north of the Syrian border, Gaziantep has become a hub for Syrians fleeing the civil war in their country.

But as well as refugees and opposition activists, there have long been fears it is home to a significant presence of ISIL sympathizers.

#### Strong Kurdish presence

Sahin Bey district is said to have a large number of Kurdish residents and reports indicate the wedding too had a strong Kurdish presence, fuelling speculation of ISIL involvement.

The pro-Kurdish Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) said its members had been present at the wedding, which was also attended by many women and children.

Metin Gurcan, a former Turkish military officer and columnist, told Al Jazeera the attack deliberately targeted HDP sympathizers attending a purely civilian occasion.

"This is the first of its kind in Turkey. And we know very well from the Afghanistan experience to what extent attacks on weddings can disrupt order in a society," he said.

"I think ISIL is trying to exacerbate already tense ethnic and sectarian cleavages in the southeast of Turkey."

Southeastern Turkey has been hit by several deadly blasts over the past year, linked either to ISIL or the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), an armed group outlawed in Turkey.

Three suspected ISIL suicide bombers

## At least 50 dead in attack on wedding party in Turkey



killed 44 people at Istanbul's main airport, Ataturk, in July, the deadliest in a string of attacks in Turkey this year.

Almost 40 people were killed in a suicide bomb attack in Ankara in March that was claimed by a Kurdish separatist

group.

Violence flared up in the largely Kurdish southeast in the past week, with bomb attacks leaving 10 people dead in separate attacks, mostly police and soldiers, in an escalation that officials blamed on the PKK.

#### Failed coup fallout

A group of Turkish soldiers last month attempted to overthrow the government, commandeering tanks, helicopters and warplanes in an attempted coup that killed 240 people.

The government has accused followers of Fethullah Gulen, a U.S.-based exiled Turkish religious leader, of being behind the plot, a charge rejected by them.

Hakan Yavuz, a professor in the department of political science at the University of Utah, says Turkey is more vulnerable now because of the purge in security forces after July's developments.

"The coup attempt destroyed the military institutions," he told Al Jazeera.

"There is also a rapprochement between Russia, Iran and Turkey over their Syria policies. Ankara is much more moderate now in allowing Syrian President Bashar al-Assad to stay in government, at least during the transition period.

"ISIL poses a greater threat to Turkey as a result of this shift in the country's foreign policy."

(Source: Al Jazeera)

## Kerry heading to Africa for talks on counterterrorism

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry will be in Africa on Monday for talks in Kenya and Nigeria on countering terrorism before visiting Saudi Arabia to discuss the conflict in Yemen.

Kerry first meets with Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta on regional issues including the upheaval in neighboring South Sudan and security in Somalia, where homegrown, al-Qaeda-linked extremist group al-Shabab continues to launch deadly attacks in the capital.

On his last visit to the region in May 2015, Kerry became the first secretary of state to set foot in Somalia two decades after dead U.S. soldiers were dragged through the streets of its capital, Mogadishu. It was a symbolic visit to show support for the Horn of Africa nation's fledgling government.

Somalia faces key parliamentary elections next month and a presidential election in October. The country has been trying to rebuild after establishing its first functioning central government since 1991.

Kerry on Tuesday and Wednesday then visits the cities of Sokoto and Abuja in Nigeria, Africa's most populous nation of about 160 million people and one of its largest economies.

He will meet with President Muhammadu Buhari on the oil-rich country's worsening economy and its efforts to fight corruption. Kerry also will meet with leaders from the country's largely Muslim north, where extremist



group Boko Haram was formed several years ago and continues to carry out attacks.

Boko Haram appears to be snarled in a power struggle after a new leader was announced by the ISIL terrorist group earlier this month and the longtime leader protested.

In a statement Friday, Human Rights Watch urged Kerry to again urge Kenya's president not to close the world's largest refugee camp, Dadaab, without stabil-

ity in neighboring Somalia. Kenyatta has said Kenya will close Dadaab camp this year after a quarter-century, putting more than 300,000 Somali refugees in limbo.

The rights group also urged Kerry to press Kenya for more reforms to police forces that have been accused of widespread abuses, and to press Nigeria to make "meaningful reforms" to a military that also has been accused of massive rights violations, including killings.

Kerry then heads to Saudi Arabia on Wednesday and Thursday for discussions on the conflict in neighboring Yemen. The talks will include Saudi leaders, counterparts from Britain and in the regional Persian Gulf Cooperation Council and the UN special envoy for Yemen.

A Saudi-led coalition has been fighting revolutionaries in Yemen, and rights groups and UN agencies say more than 9,000 people have been killed since Saudi-led airstrikes began in March 2015. Aid group Doctors Without Borders on Thursday announced it is withdrawing from northern Yemen after "indiscriminate bombings." It has seen four of its sponsored facilities attacked in Yemen this year.

The conflict has also pushed the Arab world's poorest nation to the brink of famine.

(Source: AP)

## Persia Khodro offers quality after-sales services at any time and place

**ECONOMY** Persia Khodro, as the BMW sales and after-sales service provider in Iran, is a well-known name for every Iranian who enjoys BMW sheer driving pleasure. All BMW owners are welcome to benefit from the professional services in Persia Khodro after-sales service centers.

Having said that, Persia Khodro managed to win the prestigious statue for observing Consumer Rights in the past year (ended March 19, 2016) in line with gaining customers' satisfaction. Undoubtedly, obtaining the highest rank in the field of offering high-quality services to its customers is a very difficult task which requires

compiling various preplanned activities.

Moreover offering quality sales and aftersales services to BMW customers, Persia Khodro intends to offer a complimentary package to BMW owners for the whole 365 days of a year.

This complimentary package includes various services, trying to backup all requirements of its customers in relevant field. As the other advantage of the Persia Khodro's "365" campaign, BMW customers will take advantage of very high quality aftersales services with BMW genuine parts supported by reliable warranty.

Moreover of the aforementioned services, Persia

Khodro's Central Service Center offers free engine oil tune-up services to its customers on Fridays.

Benefitted from professional, competent and the most experienced technicians, the company's luxury products are supported with a 2-month warranty of services (or 3,000 km performance). Moreover company's luxury cars are sold with a 5-year (or 150,000 km performance) warranty as well as a 2-year commentary service package dubbed "BMW Service Inclusive Plus".

It is worth mentioning the Persia Khodro focuses on gaining highest customer satisfaction as the main goal of the corporation.

## BMI Wins 1st Rank on Assets' Volume Compatible with Islamic Sharia

**ECONOMY** Bank Melli Iran (BMI) managed to win top rank in terms of assets transacted according to the rules and regulations of Islamic Sharia as compared to other Islamic banks.

According to latest ranking of BANK-ER Magazine, total value of assets transacted in banks based on Islamic Sharia stood at \$1,273 billion, \$946 billion of which belonged to the banks with completely Islamic Sharia.

Given the above issue, Islamic banks have received \$12.5 billion worth of interest with the average asset efficiency of 1.1 percent at large.

With the evaluation made in this regard, Islamic Republic of Iran stood at first rank in terms of volume of assets transacted according to Islamic Sharia, followed by countries like Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, United Arab Emirates (UAE)

and Kuwait.

It should be noted that eight banks of the country were ranked at the top of table among 20 finance and credit institutions in a way that BMI stood at the top of the table.

From among 50 Islamic finance and credit association, 12 banks from Iran got the lion's share of volume of assets according to the Islamic Sharia, followed by nine banks from Malaysia, 12 banks from Saudi Arabia, five banks from UAE, four banks from Qatar, three banks from Bahrain and two banks from Kuwait.

Of total 360 Islamic Financial institutions based in 40 world countries, 249 of which offer completely Islamic banking services while 111 of commercial banks with Islamic booths offer banking services according to the Islamic Sharia, the report ended.

## EDBI Forges Sound & Fair Cooperation with SUNIR Co.

**ECONOMY** Export Development Bank of Iran (EDBI) forged good and fair cooperation with Iran Power & Water Equipment & Service Export Company (SUNIR) in construction of development projects.

Deputy Managing Director of SUNIR Company announced the above statement and said: "EDBI financed €83 million of total €107,900,000 envisioned for the construction of third power transmission line from Armenia to the Islamic Republic of Iran."

Given the above issue, giant stride was taken by SUNIR Company to enhance its level of cooperation with the bank, he maintained. According to him, construction operation of the said project is underway with approx. 20% physical progress in a way that Armenian side has established fair cooperation with the company in related field.

Construction of this power transmission line is considered as a part of energy hub between Iran and Russia, he observed.

SUNIR Company's manager for power transmission line Arash Madhaj put the contract value for the construction of third line for transmitting electricity between Iran and Armenia at €107,900,000, construction operation of which is underway by SUNIR Company in Armenia.

Construction of this line will increase electricity exchange between Iran and Armenia from 300MW to 1,000 MW which will be connected to Iran from countries including Russia, Georgia and Armenia.

It should be noted that SUNIR Company holds 18 projects in countries including Pakistan, Afghanistan, Armenia, Iraq, Kurdistan of Iraq, Syria, Ethiopia and Sri Lanka, valued at over \$860 million.

## AIC Cyclist Tours Round Europe Bearing "MS" Patients' High Capability Message

**ECONOMY** On the occasion of 57th Establishment Anniversary of Asia Insurance Company (AIC), Ali Azimi employee of the company along with his wife will tour round the Europe with bicycle with the aim of conveying message of high capability of patients suffering from Multiple

Sclerosis (MS).

In his 40-day trip, Azimi along with his wife will pass through European countries including Germany, the Netherlands, Denmark, Norway and Sweden with the conveying message of high potential and ability of MS patients to Europeans.

Given the above issue, sports and cultural tour of veteran cyclist of the company started on Tuesday July 26, the report added.

With the planning made in this regard, the tour will end on Monday Sept. 5 after pedaling the route as long as 1600 km.

## NEWS

### Chinese ships, planes hold war games in Sea of Japan

Chinese planes and ships held war games in the Sea of Japan last week, the military said, during which Beijing displayed its latest-generation frigate at a time of bitter territorial disputes with Asian neighbors.

The Defense Ministry said in a statement on its website that the long-range exercises staged Friday pitted a red army against a blue one in a simulated bomber attack on a naval task force.

It quoted the commander of an unidentified flight wing under the East Sea Fleet, Zhang Wenzhong, as saying the planes found, identified and struck their targets in a "radically short time."

The statement made no mention of what sort of conflict the exercise was intended as a response to, prospective foes or why the Sea of Japan was chosen as the location of the drills. However, China has grown increasingly assertive over its claim to a chain of uninhabited islands controlled by Japan, recently dispatching more than a dozen coast guard vessels as Chinese fishing vessels swarmed the surrounding waters.

The ministry said the main ships involved in the exercise were the Jingzhou, a latest-generation type 054A class stealth frigate of which China is planning to deploy more than two dozen, and the type 052C destroyer Xi'an.

The ministry said aircraft were guided to their targets with the aid of early warning planes.

Other types of aircraft involved weren't identified, although China has been touting the capabilities of its latest-generation long-range H-6K strategic bomber equipped with the DH-20 land-attack cruise missile, giving it the ability to hit targets as far away as Australia. Only Russia and the U.S. are currently able to launch cruise missiles from the air.

Along with its island dispute with Japan, China is involved in an intense rivalry with the U.S. over military dominance in the region. Tensions in the South China Sea have also risen after China refused to accept an international arbitration panel's ruling invalidating its claim to virtually the entire strategic water body.

China plans joint naval exercises with Russia in the South China Sea next month, a move criticized by the head of the U.S. Pacific fleet as increasing instability in the region.

(Source: AP)

### Iraq hangs 36 men over 2014 Camp Speicher massacre

Iraq has hanged 36 men convicted over the 2014 massacre of hundreds of military recruits, government officials say.

They had been found guilty of involvement in the "Speicher" massacre, named after a base near Tikrit where up to 1,700 recruits were kidnapped before being executed in a massacre claimed by the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) terrorist group.

"The executions of 36 convicted over the Speicher crime were carried out this morning in Nasiriyah prison," a spokesman for the governor's office in Dhiqar, the province of which Nasiriyah is the capital, told AFP.

"The governor of Dhiqar, Yahya al-Nasseri, and Justice Minister Haidar al-Zamili were present to oversee the executions," Abdelhassan Dawood said.

"They were transferred to Nasiriyah last week after the president approved the executions."

Dawood was referring to the necessary green light from Iraqi President Fuad Masum.

Following the death of more than 300 people in the worst ever single bomb attack to strike Baghdad last month, Haider al-Abadi, Iraqi prime minister, had said he wanted to expedite the execution of inmates sentenced to death in terrorism cases.

Nasseri confirmed to AFP news agency that the executions were carried out by hanging.

His spokesman said that about 400 of the Speicher massacre victims were from Dhiqar, which is predominantly Shia and located in Iraq's south.

(Source: Al Jazeera)

### Post-sanction Iran seeks to jolt economic ties with Latin America

➔ The country invested \$1.1 billion in Bolivia's gas facilities during Ahmadinejad' administration, which helped greatly with the Latin American country's diplomatic ties with Iran as Bolivian President Evo Morales lifted visa restrictions and declared in 2008 that the country's only embassy in the Middle East would move from Cairo to Tehran. Iran's exports of technical and engineering services to the region had previously helped tremendously with all-out expansion of economic relations and reducing the impact of US sanctions against Iran, therefore it is imperative for the country to follow up on the same path now that the nuclear case has been settled and there are more opportunities for investment and exports.

Meanwhile, Chile has reopened its embassy in Tehran, 35 years after its closure, and it is likely that Zarif's visit to that country and his meetings with senior officials of Chile would further expand bilateral ties and improve diplomatic relations to the level of ambassadors.

As maintained by Bahram Ghasemi, Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs strategically supports a balanced outlook towards all countries and geographic areas, and strengthening relations with neighboring and Islamic countries as well as comprehensive development of relations with Latin American and African states have always been a priority of the Islamic Republic's foreign policy.

Zarif's six-nation tour, thus, in the light of post-sanction opportunities, is expected to usher in significant improvements for economic, industrial and technical cooperation with Latin America in the fields of pharmacy, dam building, housing, dairy industry, as well as oil and gas.

NEWS

**Farah does the double, U.S. clean up**

Briton Mo Farah joined the ranks of the all-time distance greats on Saturday by becoming just the second man to retain both Olympic track long distance titles after adding a brilliant 5,000m gold to his 10,000 at the Rio Games.

On a sparkling final night of athletics, Matthew Centrowitz won a shock 1,500m gold for the United States, their first in the event since 1908.

The nation also won both 4x400m relays to stretch their winning margin in the track and field medal count.



Caster Semenya cruised to victory in the women's 800m, Germany's Thomas Roeherl won the javelin and 37-year-old high jumper Ruth Beitia won Spain's first Olympic gold in women's athletics.

The Rio athletics program closes with the men's marathon on Sunday.

With Usain Bolt finally moving aside after his triple-triple heroics had dominated the first nine days of action, Farah took center stage for his double-double to emulate Finland's Lasse Viren (1972 and 1976).

Having also done the double twice at the world championships, Farah proved he is up there with the best endurance performers of all time.

He never looked like being beaten on Saturday, winning gold with a consummate display of control and finishing power. "To do it again is incredible," said Farah. "I have that drive, it's just me."

"I can't quite believe it. I wished for just one medal as a junior. It has been a long journey but if you dream of something, have ambitions and are willing to work hard then you can get your dreams."

Centrowitz might have been dreaming of a minor medal but found himself in the box seat with a brilliant tactical run in the 1,500 and had too much finishing speed for defending champion Taoufik Makhloufi of Algeria.

"Doing my victory lap, I literally kept screaming to everyone I know, 'Are you kidding me?'" Centrowitz said.

There was no shock in the women's 800m where Semenya delivered gold, the first Olympic athletics title for a South African woman in 64 years, having looked unbeatable all year and having to deal with the pressure of questions over her gender.

"The coaches told me to just focus on running, nothing else," said Semenya, who is reported to produce excess testosterone that many feel gives her an unfair advantage.

"Sport is meant to unite people. I think that's what we need to keep doing."

In the women's 4x400m relay, the United States collected their sixth straight gold in a streak going back to Atlanta 1996, with Allyson Felix bumping her career gold medal tally up to six.

In the final event of the night, perhaps fittingly given the sport's recent travails, former doper LaShawn Merritt ran a blistering anchor leg to return the men's 4x400m title to the United States.

After being shocked by the Bahamas four years ago, they turned the tables to record their 17th victory in the event.

That took their athletics gold medal tally to 13, with Jamaica second on six and Kenya on five.

(Source: Reuters)

**Ryan Lochte Apologises To Brazil For 'Exaggerated' Robbery Story**

The gold medal-winning swimmer says he is "110%" sorry and blames his immature behaviour for sparking the controversy.

Scandal-hit swimmer Ryan Lochte has admitted he "over-exaggerated" his story about being robbed in Rio, as he made a grovelling apology to Olympics host Brazil.

In an interview with the country's largest broadcaster, the US gold-winner said he was "110%" sorry and blamed his immaturity for causing "all this ruckus".

But - speaking to TV Globo - Lochte insisted he "wasn't lying to a certain extent" and claimed he had been a victim of extortion because he was forced by armed guards to hand over money.

In a separate interview with NBC, Lochte also apologised to his swimming teammates, Jimmy Feigen, 26, Jack Conger, 21, and Gunnar Bentz, 20, who police stopped from leaving Brazil over the incident.

They would not have been in "this mess" if it had not been for his "immature behaviour", he admitted.

Lochte, 32, had initially claimed they had been pulled over by gunmen posing as police who then robbed them.

However, the group faced an angry backlash after police accused Lochte of fabricating the story to cover up vandalising a petrol station toilet.

His account was also contradicted by Bentz, who said Lochte had played a key role in the altercation, pulling down a metal advertisement and arguing with armed security guards.

Bentz said they had been confronted after they urinated behind some bushes near the petrol station.

In his interview with Brazilian television, Lochte said: "I over-exaggerated the story. Brazil doesn't deserve that."

He added: "To the gas station owner, to the Brazilian police, to the people of Rio and to the people of Brazil and everyone who came together to put on these wonderful Games, I want to say that I am truly, 110% - I am sorry."

"It won't happen again. I have learned from it. And I'm sorry that my immaturity caused all this ruckus."

Lochte came away with a single relay gold from Rio but was one of the stars of London 2012, winning two golds, two silvers and a bronze.

(Source: SkyNews)

**Neymar hands Brazil precious soccer gold medal**

Neymar shed tears of joy after delivering Brazil's first men's soccer gold medal with the winning penalty in a 5-4 shoot-out triumph over Germany after a thrilling final ended in a draw following extra-time on Saturday.

Brazil had lost the Olympic final three times - in 1984, 1988 and 2012 - but they finally got the gold they craved on a dramatic night at the Maracana stadium in which they outplayed the Germans but were saved three times by the woodwork.

Neymar had put the hosts ahead with a superb free kick after 27 minutes but Germany captain Maximilian Meyer equalized just before the hour to take the game into the extra period at 1-1.

There were no more goals so the match went to penalties with Nils Petersen missing Germany's fifth spot kick leaving Neymar, who appeared to injure himself late in the game, to limp up and coolly score from the spot to send the capacity crowd wild.

The victory gave Brazil a measure of revenge for their humiliating 7-1 defeat by eventual World Cup winners Germany in the semi-finals on home soil in 2014 - a game the frustrated Neymar had to watch from the sidelines due to injury.

"Yesterday we were criticized," the 24-year-old Barcelona forward said in reference to Brazil's poor start to the Olympic tournament in which the home side drew 0-0 with South Africa and Iraq. "We have replied with good football."

Brazil coach Rogerio Micale added: "We had players who were extremely dedicated, professional and with great technical skill. I'll leave here with the sensation of having done my duty."

The win means a unified Germany are now the only World Cup winners never to have won the Olympic gold medal and the loss robbed them of a chance to complete the male and female double after their women's team beat Sweden 2-1 on Friday.

**Passionate Crowd**

With a passionate crowd behind them, Brazil took the game to their opponents and dominated possession and



territory.

However, they struggled to make chances and it was the Germans who almost opened the scoring after 10 minutes when Julian Brandt smacked the bar with a lovely curling shot from outside the box.

Brazil kept pushing forward and just before the half-hour mark they got the goal that their play deserved.

Neymar was brought down almost 25 meters from goal and, although the angle was tight, he curled a spectacular strike into the net off the underside of Timo Horn's bar.

The goal shook Germany into action and they pushed forward more and hit the bar twice more before the half was out.

Brazil still looked the hungrier side but it was Germany who got the next goal with an hour gone. Jeremy Toljan

sent in a low cross from the right and captain Maximilian Meyer swept home a lovely finish from about 10 meters.

Gabriel Jesus almost put Brazil ahead when he touched a Renato Augusto cross wide after 64 minutes and Felipe Anderson should have given the hosts the lead 13 minutes later but he was caught in possession with only the keeper to beat.

Anderson then almost scored 16 minutes into extra time but Horn got down superbly to block his shot as he raced in on goal.

With the sides still level after extra time, the stage was set for Neymar to step up and strike the winning spot kick to send the whole of Brazil into raptures as the country finally captured the Olympic title they had so desperately craved. (Source: Reuters)

**USA grab men's bronze with fantastic comeback**



Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, August 21, 2016 - The United States made a sensational comeback from a 0-2 deficit to claim the bronze medal of the men's volleyball tournament at Rio 2016 with a 3-2 (23-25, 21-25, 25-19, 25-19, 15-13) victory over Russia on Sunday morning at Maracanazinho.

It was the fifth men's volleyball medal, second bronze to go with three gold medals, for the USA side in the Olympic Games. Reigning champions Russia, the most decorated team in history, were left out of the podium for the first time since Atlanta 1996.

Matt Anderson and Reid Priddy, who came off the bench late the first set to replace Aaron Russell, were the top scorers for the winners with 21 and 18 points, respectively. Taylor Sander, Maxwell Holt and David Lee also finished with double figures for the winners with 17, 13 and 11, respectively.

Kostyantyn Bakun, Egor Kliuka and Artem Volvich finished with 14 points each for Russia. Alexander Volkov and Sergey Tetyukhin had 10 and 9, respectively, in the loss.

Tetyukhin carried Russia to an 11-8 advantage in the first set with spike and ace around a kill by Kliuka. One big block by Grankin against Sander extended the gap to 15-10. USA kept climbing back and narrowed the distance to just one point 24-23 after a monster ace by Holt. In next play, Tetyukhin drove Russia home with a laser shot.

Russia erased a three-point deficit

with a streak capped by the third block of Volvich in the match to tie the score at 9-all. Both teams were showing superb blocking to keep the score leveled. Russia took the lead 15-13 but USA bounced back to tie at 17-all. Spikes by Bakun and Kliuka around another block by Volvich gave Russia a 20-17 advantage. The third set finished 25-21 despite a late effort from Sander.

USA got a two-point lead at 12-10 in the third set following spike by Lee and a fault by Tetyukhin. Holt and Priddy parlayed good offensive efforts widening the margin to 18-14. The Americans closed the actions 25-19 after Anderson and Christenson combined spike and ace.

Anderson and Priddy were responsible for the 9-6 USA advantage in the fourth set with excellent efforts at the net and from the service line. Priddy continued hammering spikes to provide a five-point cushion at 17-12. USA forced a tie-breaker with Lee closing the set 25-19 with a big kill down the middle.

Russia took the lead 5-3 with consecutive attacks y Volkov and Bakun but USA tied at 6-all via opponent errors. Teams traded sides with Russia leading 8-7 when Christenson crashed his serve into the net. Priddy gave USA a 10-9 lead and Lee blocked Tetyukhin for a two-point margin. Anderson landed an ace for a 13-10 score. USA held off a Russian reaction to claim the set 15-13 with a spike by Anderson.

(Source: FIVB)

**Brazil says foreign tourism met half-million forecast for games**



At least 500,000 foreign visitors arrived in Brazil to attend the Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, the government said on Friday, citing recent immigration figures that met a forecast made well before the games.

According to data compiled by federal police at immigration points and released to Reuters by the tourism ministry, a total of 572,961 foreigners entered Brazil between July 1 and August 15.

Although the Olympics began on August 5, the data goes back further to account for the arrival of many of the athletes, staff and other foreigners ahead of the games and related events.

Based on a separate survey compiled on behalf of the tourism ministry, which showed that about 84 per cent of those arriving in recent weeks were coming primarily for the Olympics, Brazil's government says it believes the forecast for half a million was met and possibly surpassed.

"The forecasts were right and could possibly end up being short of the total number," a tourism ministry spokesman said.

Despite many empty seats in Olympic venues throughout the games, which end on Sunday, foreign visitors have been out en masse across Rio de Janeiro - at competitions, on beaches, in restaurants, and at tourist sites.

Some Brazilians sought to blame the empty seats on foreigners rattled by bad publicity ahead of the event,

from the scare over the Zika virus to concerns over crime and violence.

But the immigration figures suggest that demand from foreigners was robust.

Of about 6.1 million tickets available for the games, organisers say 70 per cent were reserved for locals. About 87 per cent of all tickets available were sold, but about a tenth of those purchased have been no-shows.

Some seats have remained empty because a plan by local officials to distribute free tickets to schoolchildren and charities did not in itself guarantee their attendance, especially in a city where transportation is costly and inefficient for many working-class residents.

"It's not really clear why there are no-shows, but from a sales perspective the demand has been alright," said Phil Wilkinson, a spokesman for Rio 2016, as the organising committee is known.

The recent immigration figures represent a 38 per cent increase over foreign entries in Brazil for the same period a year ago.

The tourism ministry official says a direct comparison of the two figures is misleading, however, because the jump in arrivals is offset, as it was when Brazil hosted the 2014 World Cup, by would-be visitors who steer clear - including many business travellers and more leisurely-minded tourists who are put off by big events.

(Source: Reuters)

**Kenya's Eliud Kipchoge wins men's marathon**

Eliud Kipchoge won the Olympic marathon with a searing last nine miles, and Galen Rupp capped a spectacular Games for American distance running with a bronze medal. Feyisa Lileasa was second. American Jared Ward ran a PR for sixth place, while Meb Keflezighi was 33rd in 2:16:46 with apparent stomach problems.

?Results??:

- 1. 2:08:44 Eliud Kipchoge (Kenya)
- 2. 2:09:54 Feyisa Lileasa (Ethiopia)

- 3. 2:10:05 Galen Rupp (USA)
- 4. 2:11:04 Ghirmay Ghebreslassie (Eritrea)
- 5. 2:11:15 Alphonse Felix Simbu (Tanzania)
- 6. 2:11:30 Jared Ward (USA)
- 33. 2:16:46 Meb Keflezighi (USA)

Kipchoge and Rupp are both converted track runners. Kipchoge took bronze and silver in the 2004 and 2008 Olympic 5Ks, while Rupp took silver in the 2012 Olympic 10K and fifth in the 10K in Rio. Kipchoge appeared to say after the race that

he believed that Rupp would eventually break the marathon world record. He said it once, and then NBC's Lewis Johnson asked him for clarification, and he said it again.

Rupp, meanwhile, said after the race that he was the track equivalent of Happy Gilmore--a hockey player who refused to admit that he was actually a golfer--because he wants to be a track runner, but the marathon is his best event.

(Source: flotrack)

# Rio Olympics 2016: Iran's Ghasemi wins silver

Rio de Janeiro – Iranian freestyle wrestler Komeil Ghasemi claimed a silver medal in the men's -125kg freestyle final.

He lost to Turkey's Taha Akgul 3-1 in the Rio Olympics final match.

Akgul, 25, beat his 28-year-old Iranian opponent to add to his world titles from 2014 and 2015.

Geno Petriashvili of Georgia and Belarus' Ibrahim Saidov bagged the bronze medals in the weight category. Iranian weightlifters Kianoush Rostami (85kg), Sohrab Moradi (94kg) and freestyle wrestler Hassan Yazdani (74kg) have already won three gold medals.

In Greco-Roman wrestling, Saeid Abdevali and Ghasem Rezaei have claimed two bronze medals in the 75kg and 98kg.

Kimia Alizadeh has won a bronze medal in the women's -57kg taekwondo.

Freestyler Hassan Rahimi also snatched a bronze medal in the 57kg.



## Iran's Afshin Ghotbi sacked by Thai champions Buriram after three months

After only three months in the job, former Iran head coach Afshin Ghotbi has been sacked by Premier League of Thailand champions Buriram United.

Ghotbi was shown the door on Saturday night, despite guiding Buriram to a 2-1 victory at Army United FC.

The win took the Thunder Castle to third on the table -- the top three in Thailand have a chance at playing in the AFC Champions League -- but the club are 19 points behind leaders, Muang Thong United.

Ghotbi was only appointed in May, taking over from Alexandre Gama. He had a successful period in charge in July as Buriram won four game straight.

But they lost their way in recent games, being held to draws against



lower opposition in their previous two matches before Saturday night's win.

The 52-year-old Iranian American brought a glittering Asian resume to Thailand, having worked alongside Guus Hiddink at South Korea last decade. He had three successful years in charge of J.League giants Shimizu S-Pulse and also managed Iranian glamour club, Persepolis.

Sources told ESPN FC that Ghotbi was sacked for failing to meet targets set by Buriram's club owner Newin Chitchob.

Buriram, who are in the final of the Thai League Cup, are next in league action on Sep. 10 when they host fourth placed Bangkok Glass.

(Source: ESPN)

## Russia's Isinbayeva earns IOC spot despite opposition

Double Olympic pole vault champion Yelena Isinbayeva, a fierce critic of a Russian track and field ban at the Rio Olympics, was elected an International Olympic Committee member on Sunday but a third of the votes were against her.

The Russian, still the reigning world record holder, was excluded from the Games along with over 100 of her team mates following revelations of a systematic, state-backed doping programme in Russian sport.

Isinbayeva received 45 votes in favour and 23 against with two IOC members abstaining as she was confirmed a member of the Olympic body after three days after earning a spot on the IOC's athletes' commission.

With tears in her eyes, she greeted IOC President Thomas Bach following her election. She will now serve an eight-year term on the body as a member of the commission which represents athletes' interests.

Isinbayeva, who announced her retirement as an athlete this week, had repeat-



edly criticised the international athletics federation (IAAF), saying she would never forgive it for banning Russians from the Games.

"It is a violation of human rights. I will not be quiet, I will take steps," she had said in July. "I will go to the human rights court. I will prove to the IAAF and World Anti-Doping Agency that they made the wrong decision." (Source: Reuters)

## Adebayor and Flamini set to sign for Caykur Rizespor

Turkish club Caykur Rizespor are on the verge of completing a double swoop for ex-Arsenal duo Mathieu Flamini and Emmanuel Adebayor.

The pair will join one-time Liverpool goalkeeper Charles Itandje in Rize on free transfers after their respective contracts at Arsenal and Crystal Palace were not renewed at the end of the 2015-16 season.

Adebayor has a proven track record at the highest level, scoring 46 league goals for Arsenal in a three-year stay at Emirates Stadium before spells with Manchester City, Real Madrid and Tottenham, while former AC Milan midfielder Flamini made 242 appearances across two spells with the Gunners.

"We reached an agreement in principle with both players," Caykur Rizespor coach Hikmet Karaman told Anadolu Agency.

"They'll come to Rize within a few days and the last step of negotiations are going to be done." (Source: Goal)



"This is down to everyone devotedly working to finish the deals, so I have to thank the board of directors and our president."

Caykur Rizespor played their opening game of the Turkish Super Lig season on Saturday, when a late equaliser from Emrah Bassan ensured a 1-1 draw with Konyaspor.

(Source: Goal)

## Liverpool not for sale despite Chinese interest - source

The American owners of Liverpool, one of the most famous teams in English soccer, are not planning to sell, a senior source at the club said on Sunday, after reports that a Chinese-backed consortium wanted to buy a sizeable stake.

There were no active discussions involving Fenway Sports Group, the Boston-based owners, and the English Premier League club had received no bid, added the source who declined to be named because of the sensitivity of the subject.

The source restated the club's position that its owners would listen to any expressions of interest from potential investors in Liverpool but move forward only with the right partner.

Chinese companies are increasingly interested in buying up stakes in European soccer clubs not only as good investments but also a way to help President Xi Jinping's bid to raise the profile of the sport in China.

Chinese groups announced deals this month to buy Italy's AC Milan, English Premier League West Bromwich Albion and second-tier French side Auxerre.

Liverpool have won the English league title 18 times but the last of those triumphs was in 1990 before the Premier League was set up. Clubs such



as Chelsea and Manchester City, bankrolled by wealthy owners from Russia and the Gulf, have overtaken them in recent years.

The Financial Times reported that Liverpool's owners had hired an investment bank to advise on the possible sale of a sizeable stake to a partnership between Everbright, a Chinese state-owned financial conglomerate, and PCP Capital Partners, run by financier Amanda Staveley.

(Source: Reuters)

## NEWS

### Murray beats Raonic, to play Cilic in Cincinnati final

Sizzling hot Andy Murray roared into his seventh successive final with a commanding victory over Canadian Milos Raonic at the Western & Southern Open in Cincinnati on Saturday.

Olympic champion Murray, who beat Raonic in the Wimbledon final, notched his career-best 22nd consecutive win by blunting the fourth-seeded Canadian's intimidating service game in a 6-3 6-3 semi-final victory.

Top seed Murray, gearing up for the U.S. Open in nine days, the last grand slam of the year, will face 2014 U.S. Open champion Marin Cilic of Croatia in the final.



Cilic overcame Grigor Dimitrov of Bulgaria 4-6 6-3 7-5, coming back twice from a break down in the third set in a match that ended past 1:30 AM ET (0530 GMT) following a two-hour rain delay after play was stopped in the second game.

Murray has won 11 of 13 matches against 12th seed Cilic. Heavy rain also fell just before the scheduled start of the Murray-Raonic semi-final and then four points into it there was a delay for several minutes due to some heavy misting.

Raonic seemed off rhythm from the start, double-faulting twice as the Scot registered a break in the opening game.

"He served a couple of doubles that first game and I managed to get the break, and then had the momentum from there," said Murray, who registered his fifth win against Raonic this season.

Two-times Cincinnati winner Murray, playing with energy and excellence from sideline to sideline, broke Raonic again in the ninth game to close out the first set.

The second set went on serve until the eighth game, when Raonic committed another double fault, elected not to volley a lob that fell well within the baseline and netted a forehand on break point, one of his 31 unforced errors.

Murray had a touch of trouble closing out the match as he mis-hit a couple of shots and a light drizzle held up play again for a few minutes before the Briton executed a splendid drop volley to end it on his third match point.

(Source: Reuters)

## Claudio Bravo heading to Man City as Barcelona confirm deal in principle

Barcelona sporting director Robert Fernandez has confirmed a deal is in place with Manchester City for the transfer of Claudio Bravo.

During the week it emerged the Premier League club were closing in on a €25 million move for the Chilean goalkeeper, whom Pep Guardiola wants to replace Joe Hart.

Despite those reports, Bravo started Saturday's La Liga opener against Real Betis, but it looks set to prove to be his last game for the Catalan club.

"We have the beginning of an agreement in principle with Manchester City for Claudio Bravo," Robert revealed to TV3 after Barca's 6-2 win.

"We need to sign a goalkeeper. We are waiting events this week. When Claudio leaves, we hope to have a new goalkeeper."

Diego Alves had appeared to be close to making a switch to Camp Nou when Valencia sporting director Jesus Garcia Pitarch confirmed the goalkeeper could leave the club.

However, those reports have now cooled and Catalan newspaper Sport says Ajax stopper Jasper Cillessen will join for €14 million.

Cillessen was left out of the Dutch side's squad for Saturday's Eredivisie game against Willem II.

Luis Enrique was asked for his favourite memories of Bravo's two years at the club during his post-Betis news conference.

However, the Barca boss, who will hope to have the injured Marc-Andre ter Stegen back for next week's trip to Athletic Bilbao, was reluctant to comment on the situation.

"I will answer that when the facts change," he said. "I think that the club will speak about this subject and I will speak about it when the facts change, that's if they do." (Source: Soccer.net)

## Iran to participate at Continental Beach Soccer Tournament

Iran will take part at the 2016 Continental Beach Soccer Tournament.

The three-day tournament has been scheduled to take place in Ordos, China.

Host China, Iran, Bahrain, Japan, Vietnam, Oman, Thailand and Lebanon will participate in the event.

Iran will kick off the tournament with a match against Bahrain on August 23.

The Iranian team will partake in the competition as part of its preparation for the 2017 FIFA Beach Soccer World Cup qualification.

(Source: Tasnim)



### Poem of the day

The rose has flushed red, the bud has burst,  
And drunk with joy is the nightingale.

Hafez

### Prayer Times

Noon:13:07 Evening: 20:04 Dawn: 5:00 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:30 (tomorrow)

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## NEWS

### Iranian films lineup for Italian festival

**T I A R T TEHRAN** — A lineup of Iranian movies will be screened in various sections of the 19th Religion Today Film Festival, which will be held in Trento, Italy from October 7 to 17.

Among the films are "Lanturi" directed by Reza Dormishian, "The Descendants" by Yaser Talebi and "The Long Farewell" by Farzad Motamen.



The lineup also includes short films "Checkmate" by Mehdi Ravash, "Gas Pipe" by Hossein Darabi, "The Bridge" by Reza Jamali and "The Cemetery Men" by Ali Mardomi.

"Dolls Don't Know" by Nava Rezvani, "Men Are More Equal" by Reza Gholami and "Snowy Roofs" by Hayedeh Moradi will go on screen in the documentary section of the festival.

The Religion Today Film Festival will include over 50 films from 26 countries all over the world.

# Tehran to host AIBD meeting

**T I A R T TEHRAN** — The Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) will be hosting the 42nd edition of the Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) General Conference in Tehran from August 25 to 27.

The 15th AIBD General Conference and Associated Meetings will also be held on the margins of the event, Abbas Naseri-Taheri, an advisor to the IRIB director, said in a press release on Sunday.

"About 60 foreign guests coming from 17 countries are expected to attend the conference. A number of meetings have been arranged for the participating guests and the AIBD Awards Winners of 2016 will also be announced at the inauguration ceremony," he added.

"The conference will be a good chance for IRIB to introduce its potentials to the member countries. They will also visit different departments and sections, and will closely look at the technical abilities of the organization," he added.

The AIBD General Conference (GC) and its Associated Meetings is the annual official gathering of the Institute.

Member Countries, affiliates and partners will have an opportunity to review a number of activities and projects that AIBD has implemented over the past year and also to look into future projects.



A poster for the 42nd Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) General Conference

### German troupe to perform shadow puppetry for children in Tehran

**T I A R T TEHRAN** — "A King's Journey", a shadow puppetry performance by the German theater troupe Handgemenge, will go on stage in the Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults (IIDCYA) on August 23 and 24.

German director Peter Muller and his colleague puppeteer Marie Feldt will perform the play for the children, while they will be attending two workshops, which have been arranged for the teachers of the institute on August 25 and 26.

"A King's Journey" is an adventurous journey around half the world with more than 60 shadow figures.

"The story is set in a special country, a country where all the citizens wear watering cans and umbrellas. On weekdays, also on weekends, all the time, in fact. It seems to be the law. The

country also has a king who is quite remarkable. He had never left his castle before, and when one day the tower falls apart, the king tumbles down through the earth to the other side!

"Ms. Care, the women who look after him, also falls. Having arrived on the other side of the earth, both of them want to go home. This means traveling halfway around the world! But for someone like our king this is not easy at all," reads part of the synopsis of the play.

The troupe has so far performed the play in many countries including France, Spain, Italy, Denmark, Austria and Serbia.

The National Center of ASSITEJ (the International Association of Theatre for Children and Young People) in Iran in collaboration with the German Embassy in Tehran have organized the program.

### German musicians to hold workshops in Tehran

**T I A R T TEHRAN** — German musicians Markus Detterbeck and Jan Schumacher, who is the 2nd vice-president of the European Choral Association, are scheduled to hold workshops in Tehran next week.

The workshops, which will be organized by Iran's Rudaki Foundation in collaboration with the Embassy of Germany and the Goethe-Institut, will take place at the Rudaki Foundation from August 27 to 30, some Persian media have announced.

Participants in the workshops will also give performances in groups and alone. The performances will be judged by Detterbeck and Schumacher as well as by votes from the audiences.

First place winner will receive a gold medal, and accommodations to attend a free workshop course by Detterbeck and to perform a joint concert in



This combination photo shows German musicians Markus Detterbeck (L) and Jan Schumacher. Bensheim, Germany.

The second and third place musicians will receive silver and bronze medals.

The organizers will also provide an opportunity for all the winners to take part in EUROPA CANTAT, a prestigious festival that is organized every year by the European Choral Association in Tallinn in Estonia, and the Harmonie Festival in Limburg-Lindenholzhäuser, Germany in 2017.

## NEWS IN BRIEF



### New Persian version of "Harry Potter and the Cursed Child" hits Iranian bookstores

**C U L T U R E TEHRAN** — A new Persian translation by Zahra Ramezani of the eighth installment in J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter series, "Harry Potter and the Cursed Child", was released in Tehran on Saturday.

This version was released by Iran Farhang Publications while another Persian translation of the book by Vida Eslamieh was released by Tandis Publications in Tehran last Thursday.

"Harry Potter and the Cursed Child" is about the life of Harry Potter nineteen years later in the post-Voldemort wizarding world.



### Norwegian festival to screen Iranian docs

**A R T TEHRAN** — The acclaimed Iranian documentaries "Starless Dreams" and "Sonita" will go on screen at the Bergen International Film Festival (BIFF), which will be held in the Norwegian city from September 20 to 28.

Directed by Mehrdad Oskui, "Starless Dreams" is the winner of the Amnesty International Film Prize at the 2016 Berlin Film Festival and the True Vision Award at the 2016 True/False Film Festival in the U.S. city of Columbia, Missouri.

"Sonita" by Rokhsareh Qaem-Maqami has received the Grand Jury Prize at the Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah and the Audience Award at the International Documentary Film Festival Amsterdam.

### PICTURE OF THE DAY Honaronline/Saeid Rabiei



A boy and his father visit an exhibition by a group of artists at Tehran's Shirin Gallery on August 20, 2016. The exhibition titled "Identity" will run until August 31 at the gallery located at No. 5, 13th St., Karim Khan Zand Ave.

## NEWS

### Canada celebrates, mourns as rockers Tragically Hip say good-bye

**OTTAWA (Reuters)** — The Tragically Hip, the Canadian rock band beloved for songs about local culture, small towns and hockey, wrapped up an emotional tour with a hometown concert on Saturday, giving fans a chance to bid farewell to lead singer Gord Downie, who has been diagnosed with terminal brain cancer.

Known in Canada as simply "The Hip", the band is on what is expected to be its final tour with Downie, 52, who announced his illness in May.

Downie is considered one of Canada's greatest songwriters, and news of his illness prompted an outpouring of shock and support. Towns across the country declared Tragically Hip days.

"Farewell to Canada's greatest rock band," The Toronto Star newspaper said in a headline on Friday.

The band's last hometown show in Kingston, Ontario, has been billed as a national celebration. It was broadcast live, with bars and outdoor venues across the country hosting public viewings.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, who has said Downie had "been writing Canada's soundtrack for more than 30 years," was at the show.

Trudeau told the Canadian Broadcasting Corp at the event he became a fan of the band in university and called it "an inevitable and essential part of what we are and who we are as a country."

### Turkish, Iranian ashigs perform in Tehran

**T I A R T TEHRAN** — The Niavaran Cultural Center played host to a joint performance of ashiglar music by Iranian and Turkish musicians on Saturday.

A unique style of traditional music, Ashiglar is mainly played in Iran's Azarbaijan and the Azerbaijan Republic. Ashiq, also spelled ashik and ashug, is a mystic troubadour or traveling bard, who blends together instrumental and vocal music, dance, poetry and storytelling in his performances.

Ashiks Mahmut Karatas and Gultekin

Bulut from Turkey, as well as Emran Heydari and Mahbub Khalili from Iran made it a truly memorable night for the participants, the center announced in a press release published on Sunday.

Turgay Safak, the managing director of the Yunus Emre Institute in Tehran, made a brief speech at the ceremony and called the festival a good program, which helps develop cultural relations between Iran and Turkey.

Managing Director of Niavaran Cultural Center Abbas Sajjadi, also said that the cultural relations between Iran and Turkey has helped people of the

two countries have good relations over history.

"Ashiglar music is widespread in the country and Iranian ashigs narrate love and epic stories," he added.

In addition, President of ECO Cultural Institute (ECI) Iftikhar Husain Arif said that the music of ashiglar is a traditional art in the region and displays the joint commonalities of the Turkish-speaking people in the region.

The one-night program was arranged by the Yunus Emre Institute in collaboration with the ECO Cultural Institute (ECI).



Turkish ashiks Mahmut Karatas (L) and Gultekin Bulut perform at Tehran's Niavaran Cultural Center on August 20, 2016. (Honaronline/Hassan Motahhari)

### Prize-winning author Joyce Carol Thomas dead at 78

**STANFORD, Calif. (AP)** — Joyce Carol Thomas, a prize-winning children's author and champion of multiculturalism, has died. She was 78.

Thomas died Aug. 13 at Stanford University Medical Center in California of cirrhosis of the liver stemming from a bad blood transfusion decades ago, according to her sister, Flora Krasnovsky.

Thomas was best known for her debut book, "Marked by Fire", an autobiographical novel set in her native Oklahoma that won the 1983 National Book Award and the American Book Award, which highlights diversity in literature. Other works included "Bright Shadow", "Broomwheat Tea" and "The Blacker the Berry".

Thomas was also a three-time nominee for the Coretta Scott King award for outstanding children's books by an African-American.

The author was a board member of the American Book Award's sponsor, the Before Columbus Foundation.