

TEHRAN TIMES

16 Pages | Price 10,000 Rials | 38th year | No.12634 | Saturday | AUGUST 27, 2016 | Shahrvir 6, 1395 | Dhi Al Qaeda 24, 1437

Actor Davud Rashidi dies at 83

16

Tehran dismisses allegations of arms shipment to Yemen

POLITICS TEHRAN — Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has dismissed the U.S. claim that Iran ships arms to Yemen, rejecting the accusations as "unfounded."

Zarif's comments came as the U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry claimed on Thursday during a visit to Saudi Arabia that Iran sends arms to Yemen.

"The U.S. has made itself an accomplice to Saudi Arabia's inhuman war crimes against the innocent Yemeni people by such comments," a statement carried on the official website of the Iranian foreign ministry quoted Zarif as having said on Friday.

"Undoubtedly, Mr. Kerry knows better than others that the Saudi government has made all efforts to secure ceasefire in Yemen failing during the past year and a half," he added.

He also said that it is the time for the U.S. government to learn from its mistakes in Iraq and Syria and stop turning a blind eye to reality.

The U.S. government's policies in the Mideast region are losing credibility due to ignoring existing realities of the region, he added.

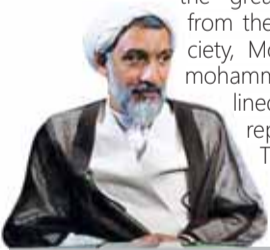
Elsewhere, Zarif said that Iran's military capability is just for defense and does not pose any threat against any country.

"It is the ideological, financial and political source of the Takfiri terrorism that is threatening the region and the world and Mr. Kerry should be well aware of the causes and the source," he said.

Enemies resorted to MKO: justice minister

POLITICS TEHRAN — The Iranian minister of justice has said the enemies of the Islamic Republic resorted to the MKO (Mojahedin Khalgh Organization) terrorist group in their fight on Iran.

This is while the MKO have received the greatest hatred from the Iranian society, Mostafa Pourmohammadi underlined, Mashreq reported on Thursday.



Tehran to host Exhibition of Iranian Cultural Productions

ART TEHRAN — The First Exhibition of Iranian Cultural Productions will be held at Tehran's Golt-o-Gu Park from October 25 to 28.

Productions in the fields of art,



multimedia, print media and entertainment will be showcased at the exhibition, which will be organized by a number of governmental and private companies, director of the exhibition Hossein Shokravi told the Persian service of MNA on Friday.

The exhibition aims to support Iranian cultural productions and encourage the private sector to invest in this field.

The organizers have invited Iranian companies to register by September 20.

Iran calls for expansion of ties with India

POLITICS TEHRAN — Supreme National Security Council Secretary Ali Shamkhani said on Friday that expansion of security, defense, and cyber cooperation between Iran and India can lay the

ground for stronger all-out relations between the two countries.

"The two countries' remarkable position in new sciences including nanotechnology, biotechnology, stem cells, and cognition are

among likely areas to build upon to expand bilateral cooperation between Tehran and New Delhi," he said during a meeting with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi.



See page 2

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi welcomes Supreme National Security Council Secretary Ali Shamkhani in New Delhi on Friday

Upcoming U.S. administration continues to back JCPOA: James Slattery

INTERVIEW
By Javad Heirannia

TEHRAN — Ever since July 2015 when Iran and six world powers of the U.S., China, Russia, England, France, and Germany, reached an agreement on Iran's nuclear program, speculations have been around about the future of the pact now that the end of the Obama administration is nearing in January.

While some have been pessimistic, others, including James Charles Slattery, former U.S. congressman, have been optimistic toward the fate of the deal.

"I believe both candidates will comply with the JCPOA assuming Iran continues to comply," Slattery, told the Tehran Times.

Iran has been complaining that the pace of removing financial and economic sanctions under the deal has been slow. Some major banks are still hesitant to do transactions with Iran, fearing punishment by the U.S. Treasury.

Some hardliners in the Congress have been trying to kill the deal. Even Donald Trump has

promised to tear apart the deal if he becomes president.

However, Slattery notes, "All western allies support the JCPOA. They know it is better than any other alternative to date. I believe our allies will act together in unity."

This is the text of the interview:

■ What is your prediction about the future of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)?

A: I believe Hillary Clinton is going to win the upcoming election. I put her chances at about 75 percent.

She will honor the deal that President Obama has negotiated. She realizes the JCPOA is not perfect. Both sides had to compromise to get a deal. She understands that Iran has complied with its obligations under the JCPOA

I believe the JCPOA will be supported by the next U.S. administration. All western allies support the JCPOA. They know it is better than any other alternative to date. I believe our allies will act together in unity.



and the U.S. must do the same.

I hope both sides comply with the terms of the JCPOA. It is mutually beneficial.

Both sides must not forget that more than 35 years of mistrust and animosity cannot be washed away

in a few months. Trust must be restored and both sides should work to this end.

All opportunities to have dialogue on cultural, religious, academic, athletic, agricultural business and political issues should be pursued. Men and women who favor a peaceful path forward in Iran must be heard.

Hardliners in the U.S., Israel and even in Iran oppose the JCPOA and find themselves on the same side. This is amazing.

I believe the JCPOA will be supported by the next administration.

■ Do you think the next U.S. president will remain committed to the JCPOA?

A: I believe both candidates will comply with the JCPOA assuming Iran continues to comply. We must be patient.

■ If it happens that the next U.S. president violates the JCPOA, will its allies support the violation?

A: All western allies support the JCPOA. They know it is better than any other alternative to date. I believe our allies will act together in unity.

Mashhad hosting iFood 2016 intl. exhibit

ECONOMY TEHRAN — The 17th International Exhibition for Food, Food Processing and Packaging (iFood 2016) opened on Thursday in Mashhad, capital of the northeastern province of Khorasan Razavi, IRNA reported.

As Ehsan Arkani, Head of Mashhad International Exhibition Company, told IRNA, 210 Iranian companies and 800 foreign ones from



14 countries are participating in the four-day exhibition which is being held at Mashhad International Exhibition Center.

"Companies from Japan, Germany, Italy, France, Russia, Poland, China, India, Kazakhstan, Afghanistan, Turkey, Czech Republic, Lithuania, and Pakistan are showcasing their products in this exposition," he said.

iFood 2016 will wrap up on Sunday.

Syria: Aid convoys enter Daraya after deal to end siege

Militants to leave southern Damascus

Aid convoys arranged by the medical charity Red Crescent have entered the besieged Syrian town of Daraya as hundreds of rebel fighters prepared to lay down their arms after ceding control of the area to the Syrian government forces.

A convoy of Red Crescent ambulances reached Daraya early on

Friday, a town located just a few kilometers from President Bashar al-Assad's Damascus palace and the government-held Mazzeh airbase.

On Thursday, Syrian state news agency SANA announced a deal had been struck for the evacuation of civilians and fighters from the town.

Sources told Al Jazeera that about 8,000 civilians and 800 rebels would be evacuated from the Damascus suburb, which before the war was home to a quarter of a million people.

The rebels, meanwhile, will then be taken to northern Idlib, held by the Army of Conquest (Jaish al-Fatah), a coalition of armed an-

ti-government groups.

The rebels who controlled Daraya belonged to two rebel groups: Aynad al-Sham (Islamic Union of the Soldiers of the Levant) and the Martyrs of Islam (Martyrs of Islam Brigade), groups allied with the Army of Conquest.

Iran to join OPEC talks to help stabilize oil market

ECONOMY TEHRAN — Iran's Oil Minister Bijan Namdar Zanganeh confirmed that he will attend the meeting of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) which is to be held in Algeria in September, Shana reported on Friday.

Addressing a press conference in Pars Special Economic Energy Zone (PSEEZ) on Friday, Zanganeh stressed that Iran will support any joint action to stabilize the oil market, addressing a press conference in Pars Special Economic Energy Zone (PSEEZ) on Friday, According to Shana.

"Iran has not caused any disturbance in the oil market. Instability in the market appeared when Iran's oil production hardly reached 2.7 million barrels and exports were less than a million barrels a day," he said.

Mentioning his presence in the gathering of OPEC members in Algeria next month the official noted that Iran is only seeking to regain the market share it lost due to the sanctions.

According to the oil ministry Iran pumped about 4 million barrels per day (bpd) before the sanctions. The country's output was set at 3.6 million bpd in July, OPEC figures show.

Members of OPEC will meet on the sidelines of the International Energy Forum (IEF) during which producers and consumers of oil gather in Algeria on September 26-28.

Mina tragedy not to sink into oblivion: MP

POLITICS TEHRAN — A senior member of the Iranian Parliament (Majlis) has stressed that the country will not appear lax on Mina Tragedy, holding Riyadh responsible for the disaster, Mehr reported on Friday.

Hinting at Saudi Arabia's animosity toward Iran, parliamentary Cultural Committee Deputy Chairman Ahmad Salek Kashani urged the country's foreign ministry to fight for the rights of the Iranian families who lost their beloved during the incident through political and legal channels.

"The tragedy is similar to an incident that took place under King Fahd, during which scores of pilgrims were killed. However, the Americans' hands were behind that incident," Salek pointed out.

He further encouraged Iran's foreign ministry as well as Hajj and Pilgrimage Organization of Iran (HPOI) to take legal actions against Saudi Arabia through taking the case to the international arbitration.

At least 460 Iranians were among thousands of pilgrims who died on September 24, 2015, in a stampede which broke out in Mina, near Mecca, during the Hajj pilgrimage.

The crush was the deadliest disaster in the history of hajj pilgrimage, once again indicating the Saudis' inability to guarantee the safety of pilgrims.

Iran has repeatedly criticized Saudi Arabia for falling short of ensuring the safety of pilgrims. As Riyadh failed to address the Islamic Republic's concerns regarding the safety of the pilgrims, Iran announced on May 29 that it won't dispatch pilgrims this year to Mecca.

Learn English

Learn English with us at
TEHRAN TIMES



→ See page 12

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS



Iran's president commiserates with Italy on deadly earthquake

POLITICS TEHRAN — Iranian President Hassan Rouhani in a message to Italy's Prime Minister Matteo Renzi offered his condolences on the loss of lives in a powerful earthquake in central Italy, assuring the Italian nation of Iran's support on these tough days.

In the message on Thursday, President Rouhani expressed Iran's deep sympathy to the Italian government and nation and bereaved families of the victims, Tasnim reported.

"I assure you that we will stand by the friend nation, Italy, in these difficult moments," the president added.



U.S. played foul on nuclear deal: Larijani

POLITICS TEHRAN — The Iranian Majlis speaker has said the United States played foul on the Iranian nuclear deal.

"The achievements of the nuclear deal were diverse... the totality of the system took a thorough decision on the nuclear deal, but America played foul," Ali Larijani told Qom TV on Friday.



Seddiqi: Political council in Yemen defeat for Saudi Arabia

POLITICS TEHRAN — Tehran interim Friday Prayers Leader, Hojjatolislam Kazem Seddiqi said on Friday that Saudi government suffered a humiliating defeat by formation of political council in Yemen.

He said the developments should be regarded as miracle made by resistance to terrorism which engulfed the region, Mehr reported.

"We are witnessing annihilation of terrorists in Syria, despite support of those backing sedition in the region."



Iran exporting radars: defense minister

POLITICS TEHRAN — Iranian Defense Minister Hossein Dehqan has said Iran is currently exporting its products to other countries.

"We are producing all classes of radars, including long-range ones, and there is no limit for us to produce radars," Dehqan stated on Friday, Fars reported.



Senior diplomat: JCPOA turning Iran into region's first power

POLITICS TEHRAN — Foreign Ministry's Director General for Political Affairs and International Security Hamid Baeedinejad underscored that the nuclear deal with the world powers has paved the way for increasing Iran's regional power.

"The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) has prepared the grounds for Iran's turning into first regional power while reaching an understanding with the world's big powers," Baeedinejad said on Thursday, IRNA reported.



U.S. says Iranian boats intercepted its vessel in Strait of Hormuz

POLITICS TEHRAN — Foreign media quoted a Pentagon official as claiming that four Iranian boats have intercepted a U.S. destroyer in the Strait of Hormuz in the Persian Gulf.

According to Russia Today, the Iranian boats closely approached the American destroyer, USS Nitze, at a high speed in the vicinity of the Strait of Hormuz in the Persian Gulf waters.

An un-named U.S. official claimed that the Iranian boats had come within 300 yards of the USS Nitze. The U.S. official described the proximity of the Iranian boats to the U.S. destroyer as "harassing" and "dangerous."



Principlists firm to coalition for city councils

POLITICS TEHRAN — A prominent principalist has said principlists are firm to form a coalition for city and village councils elections.

"All principlists agree that we should work in agreement to form a powerful city council without conflict and side issues," Assadollah Badamchian, member of the Islamic Coalition Party said, ILNA reported on Friday.

Iran thwarts 1500 of its nationals planning to join Daesh: official

POLITICS TEHRAN — Iran has thwarted the plans of upwards of 1,500 of its nationals allegedly intending to join the Daesh militant group, once again underscoring the threats posed by terrorist groups in the region.

The news comes two weeks after Tehran announced its security forces had dismantled a Daesh-affiliated cell in Kermanshah province, including commander of Daesh brigade in Mosul Abu Aeshe Kurdi.

"We spotted and thwarted more than 1,500 young people who intended to join Daesh," said Iranian Intelligence Minister Mahmoud Alavi on Friday.

He did not give further details. Earlier in August, Iranian Army Ground Force Commander Ahmad Pourdastan revealed that Daesh had had recruits from Iran, including a number of people from Qasr-e Shirin, and Naft Shahr, western regions.

The country, which borders Iraq to its



Iranian Intelligence Minister Mahmoud Alavi

west, has been a safe haven in a region torn apart by terrorism and extremism.

This is while even some European countries, including France, have been experiencing difficult times over the past months, where hundreds of European citizens lost their lives in terrorist attacks.

In June, Iran announced it had thwarted several planned bombings in Tehran and other cities, in what it called a major plot by Sunni Muslim militants against the country.

On August 24 in a live TV program, Alavi viewed the country's unique security as a function of a widespread net of security eyes, where all Iranians play the role of a security agent against suspicious cases in the form of national neighborhood watch.

"160 million eyes are watching the security of the country and until now, the clues and information we have received from the people have proven effective," he was quoted as having said.

Shamkhani says Tehran open to talks with 'irrational' Saudis

POLITICS TEHRAN — Supreme National Security Council Secretary Ali Shamkhani has said Tehran is ready to open talks with Riyadh though Saudis have been behaving "irrationally" all along.

Relationship between Iran and Saudi Arabia has been strained for the past years over a number of issues, particularly over Syria where the two back opposing sides in the now five-year conflict.

"We shut the door of dialogue with no country except the occupying regime of Israel. Even with the U.S., we held talks...," said Shamkhani in an interview with Russia Today.

Their long-troubled relationship deteriorated when Saudi Arabia executed a top Saudi Shiite cleric in January, apparently incensed by Iran's deal with the West over its nuclear program.

In retaliation, after an Iranian mob attacked Saudi's diplomatic posts in Tehran and Mashhad, Riyadh cut diplomatic ties with Tehran.

Ever since then there has been no direct or indirect diplomatic contacts, albeit international mediation.

"Many came to us for mediation to trigger talks with Saudis. Some countries in good terms with Saudi Arabia, including regional, Islamic, and non-Islamic states, felt they could intervene to kick-start negotiations between Iran and Saudi Arabia. But, Saudis disagreed with the mediatory initiatives by the countries," explained Shamkhani.

What has made Tehran's overtures fall on deaf ears, is what Shamkhani characterized as "irrational performance of Saudis."

"Currently, there are no negotiations between Saudis and us. We only trade opposing remarks. We see Saudis acting irrationally. They have started a media hype against us and keep accusing us."

This is while a political conduit between the two Middle East powerhouses, even one of limited scope, could work toward easing tensions in Syria, Iraq, and Bahrain, all Islamic countries torn apart by conflicts.

"Capacities of the Islamic world should be directed at resolving the principal problems the Islamic world is wrestling with, but these capacities are partially being



employed to form Takfiri groups, which breed bloody divisions and escalate tensions," Shamkhani maintained.

Against the complicated background, the prospect of an immediate reconciliation is too distant. However, there are possible points of departure for a less strained relationship, as referred to by the Iranian official, where Saudi Arabia can take the first steps.

"Saudi Arabia's embassies across the world are propagandizing against us (Iran). They are making attempts to insecure the Iranian borders and have allied with anti-Revolutionary and terrorists. Saudis didn't apologize for the Mina tragedy."

With all these challenges, it remains to be seen how Riyadh will react to Tehran's reconciliatory initiative now that Russia, Iran, and Turkey have formed a troika to fight terrorism and extremism.

Shamkhani says, "Many came to us for mediation to trigger talks with Saudis. Some countries in good terms with Saudi Arabia, including regional, Islamic, and non-Islamic states, felt they could intervene to kick-start negotiations between Iran and Saudi Arabia. But, Saudis disagreed with the mediatory initiatives by the countries."

Fighting terrorism in Syria requires coordination with Damascus: Tehran

POLITICS TEHRAN — Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Qassemi said on Thursday that coordination with Syrian government is required in order to fight terrorism in the country.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran has announced many times that fighting terrorist groups in Syria's soil should be coordinated with the country's central government and based on a respect for sovereignty

and territorial integrity [of Syria] as a basic principle of the international law," he said.

He added, "We have always stressed that fighting terrorism is an international responsibility and it is necessary for regional countries to counter this evil phenomenon in joint collaboration."

Qassemi's comments came in response to Turkey's action in deploying military forces and tanks to the northern Syrian border city of Jarablus.



According to Reuters, Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan and senior govern-

ment officials have made clear that the aim of the "Operation Euphrates Shield" is as much about stopping the Kurdish YPG militia seizing territory and filling the void left by Islamic State as it is about eliminating the ultra-hardline Islamist group itself.

A Turkish security source said the army shelled the People's Protection Units (YPG) in south of Jarablus. Turkey's state-run Anadolu agency described the action as warning shots.

Iran calls for expansion of ties with India

The Indian prime minister further called for expansion of cooperation in countering terrorism along with expanding ties in areas of politics and economy.

The Indian prime minister visited Iran in May during which 12 agreements in areas of economy, business, transportation, culture, science and development of ports were signed.

The trip was the first visit by an Indian prime minister to Iran over the past 15 years.

The trip by Modi after the implementation of the nuclear deal which removed sanctions against Iran was highly significant.



Indian Prime Minister Modi (R) welcomes Shamkhani in New Delhi

Tehran eyes enhanced politico-economic ties with Chile: Zarif

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has said the Islamic Republic is keen to strengthen politico-economic relations with Chile.

"Simultaneous with the expansion of political relations, we are also interested in bolstering economic ties with Chile," Zarif said in a meeting with Chilean President Michelle Bachelet in Santiago on Friday.

He added that a large economic delegation is accompanying him to discuss ways to improve economic cooperation with the South American country.

The Chilean president, for her part, expressed her country's willingness to develop relations with Iran.

She added that Tehran and Santiago can exchange extensive experience they have in different sectors.

During his stay in Santiago, the top Iranian diplomat held separate talks with



Chilean President Michelle Bachelet (L) meets Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif

Chilean Foreign Minister Heraldo Munoz, president of Chamber of Deputies Osvaldo Andrade and a number of senators.

Zarif kicked off his six-nation Latin



American tour on Monday at the head of a high-ranking politico-economic delegation comprising 120 businessmen and financial executives from government

and private sectors. The tour started off in Cuba where he met with Cuban counterpart Bruno Rodriguez and the country's President Raul Castro.

The Iranian foreign minister also paid visits to Nicaragua and Ecuador. He wrapped up his trip to Chile and arrived in Bolivia on Friday and will also visit Venezuela on the final leg of his tour.

Among the Latin American countries, Iran has developed more advanced ties with Venezuela. In June, Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro said the Islamic Republic had agreed to a \$500 million credit line for his country to finance joint investments there.

Iran is involved in a series of joint ventures worth several billion dollars in energy, agriculture, housing, and infrastructure sectors in Venezuela.

(Source: PRESS TV)

Yemen missiles hit facilities of Saudi oil giant Aramco

U.S. pushes for new Yemen peace initiative

Yemeni forces have fired ballistic missiles at the facilities belonging to the Saudi state oil giant Aramco in the kingdom's southwest.

The retaliatory attack took place on Friday, hitting targets in Saudi Arabia's Jazan region and causing considerable damage to the Aramco facilities there, Yemen's al-Masrah television reported.

The Saudi military has been pounding Yemen since March last year to undermine Yemen's Ansarullah (Houthi) movement and to restore power to the former President, Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi, a staunch ally of Riyadh.

Nearly 10,000 people, most of them civilians, have been killed in Riyadh's military aggression which lacks any international mandate.

Also on Friday, the House of Saud regime fighters struck residential areas in the Baqim district of the northwestern Yemen province of Sa'ada, killing 11 people.

A day earlier, the fighters had hit a bazaar in the district, killing seven people and injuring 10 others, many of whom are in critical condition.

On Thursday, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad Zeid al-Husseini said the House of Saud regime's military was using cluster

bombs against residential areas in Yemen in violation of international law, blaming the Riyadh regime for most of the civilian casualties in its impoverished southern neighbor.

■ New peace initiative

Meanwhile, United States Secretary of State John Kerry has announced a new initiative to restart Yemen peace talks, offering Ansarullah movement's participation in the country's unity government in exchange for a transfer of their heavy weapons to a third party, Al Jazeera reported.

Kerry said on Thursday that the "fair and sensible approach" to end the 18-month conflict was agreed in talks with the Persian Gulf Arab states and the United Nations in Saudi Arabia.

"The bloodshed has gone on for too long," he said, speaking at a press conference with his Saudi counterpart Adel al-Jubeir in the Saudi city of Jeddah. "It has to stop ... There is no military solution."

Kerry said that the restoration of stability to Yemen was vital in order to ease the suffering of the civilians and to prevent the armed groups such as al-Qaeda and the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Daesh) terrorist group from taking further advantage of the power vacuum.



"It is essential for Yemen, for countries in the region and for the world community in general to agree on a plan to end the fighting and achieve a lasting peace," he said.

Kerry said United Nations envoy to Yemen Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed would immediately begin series of consultations with Yemen's warring sides to push for the renewed peace talks.

"The final agreement would include in the first phase a swift formation of a new national unity government, the withdrawal of forces from [the capital] Sana'a and other areas and the transfer of all heavy weapons including ballistic missiles, from the Houthis and forces aligned to them to a third party," Kerry said.

(Source: agencies)

Deadly bomb attack hits police HQ in southeast Turkey

At least 11 police officers have been killed and 70 wounded in a truck bomb attack at a police headquarters in Cizre in southeastern Turkey, according to the local governor's office.

The bomb was exploded at a checkpoint outside the headquarters on Friday, after the attackers failed to pass the guards there, state media said. The blast was followed by an armed battle between the police and attackers.

Predominantly-Kurdish Cizre is in Turkey's Sirtak province and it borders both Syria and Iraq.

The attack killed 11 police officers and injured 78 people, 3 of whom were civilians, the statement by Sirtak governor's office said.

Large plumes of smoke billowed from the attack site, footage on Turkish televisions showed. They also displayed a large three-story building reduced to its concrete shell, with no walls or windows, and surrounded

by grey rubble.

■ PKK blamed

Meantime, Turkish Prime Minister Binali Yildirim blamed the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK/Partiya Karkerên Kurdistanê) rebels for the attack.

"We will give those vile [attackers] the answer they deserve," Yildirim told a news conference in Istanbul on Friday.

On Thursday, Interior Minister Efkan Ala accused the same group of attacking a convoy carrying the country's main opposition party leader, Kemal Kilicdaroglu. One security official was killed in the incident.

The PKK, an armed group seen as a terrorist organization by Turkey, the United States and the European Union, has recently stepped up its attacks in southeastern Turkey.

The latest attack in Cizre comes two days after Turk-

ish forces launched an unprecedented ground and air offensive into neighboring Syria, which, according to Turkish officials, targeted the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Daesh) terrorist group and Syrian Kurdish fighters.

Ankara sees Syria's Kurdish Democratic Union Party (PYD/Partiya Yekîtiya Demokrat) and its armed People's Protection Units (YPG/Yekineyên Parastina Gel?) fighters as an extension of the PKK.

Southeastern Turkey is going through the most intense fighting in decades after a ceasefire between the Turkish state and the PKK collapsed in July last year.

The military has repeatedly ordered military operations and curfews in southeastern urban centers, including Cizre, since then.

More than 40,000 people, have died since the PKK rebels took up arms in 1984.

(Source: Al Jazeera)

Israeli forces kill 'unarmed' Palestinian in West Bank

Israeli military forces have fatally shot a Palestinian man at a military check post near the illegal Ofra settlement in the northern part of the occupied West Bank.

Local sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Israeli soldiers opened fire at 38-year-old Iyad Zakariya Hamed from close range at the entrance to the town of Silwad, located 12 kilometers (7.4 miles) northeast of Ramallah, on Friday afternoon, Arabic-language Safa news agency reported.

Silwad, close to the Jewish settlement of Ofra, is the scene of regular clashes between Palestinians and Israeli armed forces.

An unnamed Israeli spokesman said Hamed came at the soldiers' guard post running. Israeli soldiers then fired shot at the Palestinian man, killing him on the spot.

Israel's Hebrew-language media outlets initially reported that the slain Palestinian man had opened fire from inside a car, and that a woman might have accompanied him.

The further alleged that he was shot and critically injured inside his vehicle,



and later succumbed to his gunshot wounds.

Later investigations, however, dismissed earlier allegations, and showed that the Palestinian man, who is survived by three children, was unarmed at the time and had no weapons on him. No signs of gunfire were found at the site as

well.

The development came only a few hours after two young Palestinian men were shot in the leg during clashes with Israeli soldiers in Dheishah refugee camp just south of Bethlehem.

On Wednesday, a 24-year-old Palestinian man, identified as Sari Muhammad

Abu Ghurab, was shot dead by Israeli forces near the northern West Bank city of Nablus, situated approximately 49 kilometers (30 miles) north of al-Quds (Jerusalem), after allegedly trying to stab an Israeli soldier.

Israeli media reported that the Israeli soldier suffered light wounds during the alleged attack.

The occupied territories have witnessed a fresh bout of tensions ever since Israeli forces restricted the entry of Palestinian worshippers into the al-Aqsa Mosque compound in East al-Quds in August 2015.

Since October 2015, Israeli troops and settlers have killed up to 223 Palestinians, including unarmed demonstrators, bystanders and attackers.

During the same period, Palestinian attackers killed at least 35 Israelis in stabbing, shooting and car-ramming attacks.

Human rights groups have accused Israeli forces of unlawful killings and using lethal force in situations where non-lethal measures would have been appropriate.

(Source: agencies)

Italy quake: Emergency declared as hopes for more survivors fade

Italy has declared a state of emergency in the regions worst hit by Wednesday's earthquake as hopes of finding more survivors fade.

Prime Minister Matteo Renzi has pledged €50m (£42m) in funds for rebuilding.

At least 268 people are now known to have died and 400 were injured. Teams have continued to search the rubble of toppled buildings for a second night.

However, hundreds of aftershocks have hampered the efforts of the 5,000 rescuers.

Another magnitude-4.7 tremor struck early on Friday. In addition to the funds, Renzi cancelled taxes for residents and announced a new initiative, "Italian Homes", to tackle criticism over shoddy construction.

But he also said that it was "absurd" to think that Italy could build completely quake-proof buildings.

It follows criticism in the Italian press over building standards in high-risk areas. Some of the buildings that collapsed had recently been renovated.

Historic towns do not have to conform to anti-quake building regulations, which are also often not applied

when new buildings are put up.

■ Tourists among dead

The 6.2-magnitude quake hit in the early hours of Wednesday, 100km (65 miles) north-east of Rome in mountainous central Italy.

The worst affected towns - Amatrice, Arquata, Accumoli and Pescara del Tronto - are usually sparsely populated but have been swelled by tourists visiting for summer, making estimates for the precise number missing difficult.

More than 200 people died in Amatrice alone. At least three Britons died in the quake, a local official in Amatrice told the BBC. The Romanian government said 11 of its citizens were missing.

Bodies are still being found in the town, including one discovered in the rubble of the Hotel Roma in the city late on Thursday.

An official with the fire department, Lorenzo Botti, admitted they were facing a race against time.

"The chances of finding people alive in these conditions, in this type of setting, well, it's challenging," he said. But other rescuers said there was still hope, noting that

one survivor was pulled from ruins in L'Aquila in 2009 three days after an earthquake that killed more than 300 people.

Search teams have asked locals to disable their wi-fi passwords to help rescue workers communicate more effectively.

Police have also arrested a man for attempting to break into and loot an empty home in the town, Ansa reported.

Two firemen burrowed deep into the rubble looking for a survivor. "It's a dog," one of them shouted out.

For half an hour the men kept digging. They passed water down to be given to the animal. And eventually they worked it free, then emerged, carrying it to the surface. There was a ripple of applause in the crowd.

"It doesn't matter to us if it's a person or an animal, we save it," said Gianni Macerata, the fire officer in charge.

So the digging goes on. But so little is left of Pescara del Tronto it is unlikely that more survivors will be found here.

It seems unlikely too that this ancient little place, that has stood for centuries, can ever be rebuilt. Hundreds of years of history ended in an instant.

(Source: BBC)

U.S. aid to Pakistan shrinks amid mounting frustration over militants

Pakistan's continued support for resurgent militant groups hostile to the United States, coupled with warming United States military and business relations with India, is sharply diminishing Islamabad's strategic importance as an ally to Washington, U.S. military, diplomatic, and intelligence officials and outside experts said.

The United States has cut both military and economic aid to Pakistan sharply in recent years, reflecting mounting frustration among a growing number of officials with the nuclear-armed country's support for the Taliban in neighboring Afghanistan.

That frustration has dogged U.S.-Pakistan ties for more than a decade, but has spiked anew as the terrorist group has advanced in parts of Afghanistan that U.S. and allied forces once helped to secure, U.S. officials and analysts say.

"We're seeing a very definitive and very sharp reorienting of U.S. policy in South Asia away from Afghanistan-Pakistan and more towards India," said Michael Kugelman, a South Asia expert with the Woodrow Wilson Center, a Washington think-tank.

The U.S. relationship with Pakistan has long been a transactional one marked by mutual mistrust, marriages of convenience, and mood swings.

The long-standing U.S. frustration with Pakistan's refusal to stop supporting the Taliban, especially within the U.S. military and intelligence community, is now overriding President Barack Obama's administration's desire to avoid renewed military involvement in Afghanistan, as well as concerns that China could capitalize on fraying ties between Washington and Islamabad, the U.S. officials said.

Obama announced last month he would keep U.S. troop levels in Afghanistan at 8,400 through the end of his administration, shelving plans to cut the force in half by year end.

American civilian and military aid to Pakistan, once the third-largest recipient of U.S. foreign assistance, is expected to total less than \$1 billion in 2016, down from a recent peak of more than \$3.5 billion in 2011, according to U.S. government data. The United States has not appropriated less than \$1 billion to Pakistan since at least 2007.

The decrease also comes amid budget constraints and shifting global priorities for the United States, including fighting the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Daesh) terrorists, a resurgent Russia and an increasingly assertive China.

In March, Republican Senator Bob Corker, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said he would seek to bar \$430 million in U.S. funding for Islamabad's purchase of \$700 million of Lockheed Martin Corp. F-16 fighter jets.

Earlier this month, U.S. Secretary of Defense Ash Carter refused to authorize \$300 million in military reimbursements to Pakistan, citing the limited gains the country has made fighting the militant Haqqani network, which is based in the country's tribal areas bordering Afghanistan. The approval of such funding has been mostly routine in the past.

■ Limits of cooperation

However, the U.S. Congress has yet to authorize hundreds of millions of dollars in aid to Pakistan for the next fiscal year. The Pentagon is due to authorize \$350 million in military aid for the next fiscal year, and is unlikely to approve it under the Obama administration, a U.S. defense official said, speaking on the condition of anonymity.

"Congress is no longer willing to fund a state that supports the Afghan Taliban, which is killing American soldiers," said Bruce Riedel, a Brookings Institution expert and former CIA (Central Intelligence Agency) officer who headed Obama's first Afghanistan policy review.

In a stark illustration of the limits of U.S.-Pakistan cooperation, the United States killed Taliban Leader Mullah Akhtar Mansour in a drone strike in Pakistan's remote Baluchistan region in May, without informing Pakistan.

Some U.S. officials still warn of the dangers of allowing relations with Pakistan to deteriorate. In a July 26 opinion piece in the Financial Times, Senator John McCain, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, argued that "the strategic imperative for improved relations between the U.S. and Pakistan is clear - for the safety of American troops and the success of their mission in Afghanistan, for the stability of the region and for the national security of both Pakistan and the U.S."

A senior Pakistani defense official said the United States will continue to need Pakistan in the fight against terrorism. Authorities in Islamabad have long rejected accusations that Pakistan has provided support and sanctuary to militants operating in Afghanistan.

"We have lost over a hundred billion dollars in fighting terrorism, which is more than anything they have given us," said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

In any event, the official said, Pakistan can turn to other sources of aid, including China. Last year the two countries launched a plan for energy and infrastructure projects in Pakistan worth \$46 billion.

Nevertheless, the U.S. tilt toward India, Pakistan's arch-foe, is likely to continue.

U.S. defense companies including Lockheed Martin and Boeing Co. are entering the Indian market, and the country has become the world's second-largest arms buyer after Saudi Arabia, according to data compiled by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute.

Earlier this year, India and the United States agreed in principle to share military logistics, as both sides seek to counter the growing maritime assertiveness of China.

(Source: Reuters)



SNIPPET



7,142 production units operational in Iran in 3 years

ECONOMY TEHRAN — "During the past three years, 7,142 production units became operational in Iran's industrial parks," Ali Yazdani, the deputy industry minister, said on Thursday, IRNA reported.

"Around 115,000 people have been employed in 60 industrial parks all across the country in the said time," Yazdani, who is also the head of Iran Small Industries and Industrial Parks Organization (ISIPO), added.

According to him, some 54 industrial and mining projects have been implemented via attracting \$2.1 billion of foreign investments in the mentioned time span.

NEWS

South Korea to start trading with Iran in euro on Aug 29

South Korea's finance minister said on Thursday his country will start trading with Iran using the euro on August 29.

"It will be implemented from next Monday," Yoo Il-ho told reporters in Seoul, referring to a decision which will allow trade between the two nations to be settled in the euro.

The move "will greatly resolve obstacles that stood in the way of facilitating investment and trading with Iran," Yoo said, and added that KEB Hana Bank, Shinhan Bank and Woori Bank have been selected as settlement banks.

Up till now, South Korea's purchases of Iranian oil and payments for construction projects in Iran have been settled in the won, restricting business activities even after the lifting of Western sanctions against the Middle Eastern country.

(Source: Reuters)

China's biggest economic challenge

The best way to describe China's economic quandary is also the simplest: It can strive for maximum growth now or later -- but not both.

China's government is well aware that promoting the growth of the world's largest economy in the long term involves structural changes that will slow the economy in the short term. And its success in striking a balance has surprised many analysts. In several areas it has pressed ahead with ambitious reforms while letting growth moderate to a gentler pace (by Chinese standards) of less than 7 percent a year.

Even so, the dilemma remains, and resolving it is getting urgent.

The biggest threat to China's rising prosperity is a continuing and largely uncontrolled expansion of credit. Making loans to failing enterprises is a long-term drag on the economy's overall productivity. It discourages the entry of new and better-run suppliers. And it aggravates financial risk, especially because much of the lending is extended through so-called shadow credit that isn't properly measured or supervised.

The debt problem is bound up with the continuing role of state-owned enterprises. They are less efficient and less profitable than those in the private sector, and they rely more on credit, which they find easy to get because of implicit government guarantees. Evidence shows that losses and so-called "near defaults" are on the rise.

In their most recent appraisal of China's economy, economists at the International Monetary Fund put the restructuring of weak state-owned enterprises high on the list of needed reforms. Chinese authorities have announced some initiatives in this area, such as reducing the size of state-owned steel and coal producers. But overall, the IMF says, progress has been slow.

The government continues to send mixed messages. On the one hand, it confirms the need to restructure "zombie" enterprises and encourage private ownership. On the other, it says that state-owned enterprises should be bigger and stronger so they can better serve "national strategies."

What's needed is a broader and more explicit strategy that focuses not only on state-owned enterprises but also the expansion of corporate debt.

Losses need to be recognized, and then shared by firms, creditors and the government. Implicit guarantees need to be curtailed. Enterprises must be closed or restructured, with help for workers to find new jobs. Managing such a policy is an enormous challenge, and cannot be done all at once. It would make sense to press ahead faster in regions that are doing relatively well: That will make it easier to get workers into new jobs. At any rate, a more deliberate and less ad hoc approach has the best chance of succeeding.

China's government is not averse to economic reform. It has moved to a more flexible exchange-rate system, promoted consumption and lessened the country's reliance on exports. It has strengthened the fiscal system by making the value-added tax more comprehensive, made local-government budgets more transparent, and encouraged urban development. Reviewing these and other innovations, the head of the IMF team said that "just keeping up with the myriad of reforms on an almost daily basis is a challenge for us." (Source: Bloomberg)

Airbus deal to be finalized in few days: Iranian transport min.

ECONOMY TEHRAN — Iranian Transport Minister Abbas Akhondi announced that Airbus officials will travel to Iran by the end of August to finalize the aircraft purchase deal, ISNA reported on Thursday.

Since the financing issues have been concluded with Airbus, the deal is probable to be finalized within a few days, Akhondi said.

As he added, officials from Boeing have also visited Iran and negotiations are underway with them to supply Iran with its ordered aircrafts.

"We plan to make purchases by the end of 2016 and we hope that the two aircraft manufacturers can receive the required permit form Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) to provide us with our ordered 118 aircrafts from Boeing and 108 ones from Airbus," he explained.

The Iran Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) has insisted that recently announced deals with the world's two big aircraft man-



ufacturers, Boeing and Airbus, can still go ahead, despite strong opposition to the deals from some U.S. politicians.

Reza Ja'farzadeh, a senior spokesman for the ICAO, said in late July that although

no formal contracts have been signed, all sides remain committed to the undertakings they have given, according to remarks reported by IRNA news agency.

He added that the Ministry of Transport

and Urban Development and the Foreign Ministry were together working on the issue.

Iranian airlines need to buy around 500 planes over the next ten years to replace their ageing fleets and to take advantage of the expected growth in air travel in the coming years.

Iranian carriers currently own a 250-strong fleet, but at least 100 of their planes have either broken down or been stripped for spare parts.

In January, Airbus agreed to sell aircrafts to Iran in a deal worth \$27 billion. That was followed in June by Boeing tentatively agreeing to sell planes to Iran Air, in a deal worth \$17.6 billion at list prices.

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

Inflation rate hits 8.9% in Iran

ECONOMY TEHRAN — The Central Bank of Iran (CBI) has announced that the inflation rate for the 12-month period ended in the last day of the fifth Iranian calendar month of Mordad (August 21) compared to the same period in the previous year hit 8.9 percent.

The inflation rate for the 12-month period ended in the last day of Mordad fell

0.3 percent from the figure of its preceding month, Fars news agency reported.

Meanwhile, CBI put the point-to-point inflation rate at 9.4 percent in the fifth month, increasing 1.3 percent from its previous month.

On June 14, Finance and Economic Affairs Minister Ali Tayyebnia said the country planned to reduce the inflation rate to a single digit by the coming two months.

The goal was achieved in the third Iranian calendar month of Khorرداد when the inflation rate hit 9.5 percent.

Curbing inflation was one of the major promises by Iranian President Hassan Rouhani during his presidential campaign. Under the previous administration, inflation skyrocketed to cross 44%.

Tayyebnia also noted that the government is to institutionalize growth in the

country's economy in a move to reach the five-percent economic growth which has been envisaged in the country's budget plan for the current Iranian calendar year (began on March 20).

The official believes that removal of the West-led sanctions against Iran's economy provides many opportunities for the country to achieve sustainable economic growth.

Gold edges off four-week low ahead of Yellen speech

Gold edged higher on Friday as markets braced for a speech by Federal Reserve chair Janet Yellen later in the session, which is being closely watched for clues on the direction of U.S. interest rates.

Yellen is scheduled to address a meeting of central bankers in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, at 1400 GMT. Top Fed officials have pushed the case for a rate hike in the past week, citing improvement in U.S. data.

Gold is highly sensitive to rising U.S. interest rates, which increase the opportunity cost of holding non-yielding bullion, while boosting the dollar, in which it is priced.

Spot gold was up 0.3 percent at \$1,325.45 an ounce at 0930 GMT, while U.S. gold futures for December delivery were up \$3.80 an ounce at \$1,328.40. The spot prices hit a four-week low on Thursday of \$1,317.46 an ounce.

The metal has slid for five straight days, falling on Thursday after U.S. jobless and durable goods data beat forecasts, and Kansas City Fed President Esther George said it was time for the Fed to raise U.S. rates gradually.

If Yellen chooses to retain a neutral



tone, gold could remain caught in its recent range between \$1,310 and \$1,375.

"We'll have to see whether Yellen deviates from the consensus view, which is that she'll say nothing, really, to alter the status quo," Societe Generale analyst Robin Bhar said. "Gold is trading water right now and is unlikely to see too much action."

"(We would need) volatility in the currency markets or the rate markets to provide some trading incentives for gold."

The dollar held steady against the euro on Friday, leaving it little changed on the week, as investors focused on Yellen's speech. It could rise sharply, weighing on gold, if Yellen indicates rates will rise sooner rather than later. (Source: Reuters)

British economy escapes Brexit 'blow', for now

Britain's high streets are heaving with shoppers despite June's shock vote to leave the European Union, big companies have reported few signs of distress and some tabloid newspapers are even talking about a post-Brexit economic boom.

The overwhelming view from economists is that it is too early to know how Britain will cope with years of Brexit uncertainty - but there is a growing belief the country can avoid a recession that only weeks ago was regarded as likely.

On the face of it, the early optimism contrasts with the pre-referendum warning from former Prime Minister David Cameron that a Brexit vote would put a "bomb under the economy".

Retail sales in August reversed much of an immediate post-Brexit vote fall, with retailers reporting their strongest sales in six months, industry data showed on Thursday, partly due to a weaker pound attracting overseas buyers. Official figures out last week showed the number of people claiming unemployment benefit fell unexpectedly in July.



Before the June 23 referendum, the British finance ministry had warned a Brexit vote would mean homeowners facing higher borrowing costs, pushing the economy into a "DIY recession", and that equity prices were likely to fall.

However, nearly half of mortgage borrowers look set to gain from the Bank of England's interest rate cut on August 4, while British equity markets have risen.

Some British newspapers which supported the Leave campaign have hailed such news. "Remainers were WRONG!" the Daily Express declared earlier this month, adding: "Brexit Britain booms". (Source: Reuters)

Japan July core CPI falls more than expected on-year

Japan's core consumer prices fell for a fifth straight month and marked the biggest annual drop in more than three years in July, government data showed on Friday, keeping the central bank under pressure to expand an already massive stimulus program.

The gloomy data reinforces a dominant market view that Premier Shinzo Abe's stimulus programs have failed to dislodge the deflationary mindset prevailing among businesses and consumers.

The nationwide core consumer price index, which includes oil products but excludes volatile fresh food prices, fell 0.5 percent in July from a year earlier, more than a median market forecast for a 0.4 percent decline.

The fall was slightly bigger than a 0.4 percent drop in June.

Core consumer prices in Tokyo, available a month before the nationwide data, fell 0.4 percent in August from a year earlier, more than a median market forecast

for a 0.3 percent drop.

Starting from this release, the government changed the base year for the price indices to 2015 and changed the components making up the indices to better reflect consumer spending trends in an overhaul it conducts once every five years.

Japan's economic growth ground to a halt in April-June and analysts expect any rebound in the current quarter to be modest as weak global growth and the yen's 20 percent rise against the dollar so far this

year hurt exports and capital expenditure.

Despite three years of heavy money printing by the BOJ, weak household spending and a strong yen pushing down import costs have kept inflation distant from the bank's 2 percent target.

Markets are simmering with speculation the BOJ will ease monetary policy further at its next rate review in September, when it conducts a comprehensive review of the effects of its existing stimulus program.

(Source: Reuters)



Volkswagen to spend at least \$1.2 billion to compensate U.S. dealers: sources

Volkswagen AG has agreed to spend more than \$1.2 billion to compensate its 650 U.S. dealers for their losses from the German automaker's diesel emissions scandal, two sources briefed on the matter said on Thursday.

The company and a lawyer for VW dealers announced a tentative settlement at a court hearing in San Francisco, but declined to disclose the amount. The settlement, which followed talks that began in May, came as a judge ordered VW to move quickly to decide whether to fix or buy back 85,000 3.0 liter luxury vehicles with polluting engines.



French economy ground to a halt in Q2

France's economic growth came to a standstill in the second quarter, official data have confirmed.

French GDP was flat quarter-on-quarter between April and June, according to a second reading published today, which was unchanged from an earlier estimate that came out last month.

The disappointing performance follows 0.7 percent growth in the first quarter.

France's National Institute of Statistics and Economic Studies said household consumption ground to a halt in the second quarter following a 1.2 percent jump in the first three months of the year.



Hyundai sets target to make over 1m cars

Hyundai Motor India, the nation's second largest car maker, has set an internal target of producing more than 1 million vehicles a year by 2020-2021. That will be an over twofold jump in sales from now for the maker of the Creta SUV and i20 hatchback.

Encouraged by the success of the Indian subsidiary, Korean Hyundai Motor is close to announcing the India entry of another of its unit: the small car specialist Kia Motors.

Post Kia's entry, the chaebol sees itself selling 1.1-1.2 million vehicles a year in India, a market that is expected to become the third largest by 2020-21. It sold 4.65 lakh vehicles in India in 2015. The company aims to have a total output of 1.1 million-1.2 million which includes local sales and exports.

First driverless taxi hits streets of Singapore

SINGAPORE (Reuters) — The first driverless taxi began work on Thursday in a limited public trial on the streets of Singapore.

Developer nuTonomy invited a select group of people to download their app and ride for free in its "robo-taxi" in a western Singapore hi-tech business district, hoping to get feedback ahead of a planned full launch of the service in 2018.

"This is really a moment in history that's going to change how cities are built, how we really look at our surroundings," nuTonomy executive Doug Parker told Reuters.

The trial rides took place in a Mitsubishi i-MiEV electric vehicle, with an engineer sitting behind the steering wheel to monitor the system and take control if necessary.

The trial is on an on-going basis, nuTonomy said, and follows private testing that began in April.

Parker, whose company has partnered with the Singapore government on the project, said he hoped to have 100 taxis working commercially in the Southeast Asian citystate by 2018.

Nutonomy is one of several companies racing to launch self-driving vehicles, with automakers and technology firms striking new alliances.

Swedish automaker Volvo AB said last week it had agreed to a \$300 million alliance with ride-hailing service Uber [UBER.UL] to develop a driverless vehicle, while Ford Motor Co said its self-driving car was slated for 2021.



A nuTonomy self-driving taxi drives on the road in its public trial in Singapore August 25, 2016.

Flash card, math and organizer apps for the 21st century student

By KIT EATON

When you're not distracted playing Pokémon Go, your smartphone can be a great study buddy with apps that help you meet deadlines, do homework and take notes — especially now that it is back-to-school season.

Flash card apps are helpful tools for memorizing facts. StudyBlue offers flash cards, and it's free for Android and iOS users. It works like this: You create a set of flash cards for a topic you want to learn by typing the relevant information on each card. You can add a photo to help visualize the data, or add audio. Then the app lets you quiz yourself using them.

The real power of StudyBlue is that you can share flash cards with classmates or teachers. Better yet, the app lets you search flash card sets uploaded by students and teachers around the world, so you can probably find a pre-made set that is relevant to you by looking up keywords or searching by school.

The StudyBlue app has many features, so it may take

some time to master it — and it requires setting up a free account and an internet connection to make the most of its offerings. If you pay \$19 a month or \$80 a year, you can upgrade to "pro" level, which unlocks extra features, including additional options for formatting cards.

If StudyBlue doesn't suit you, try Cram.com flash cards, available on iOS and Android. The app works similarly to StudyBlue in that it offers access to numerous prebuilt flashcards uploaded to the app and the website. Cram.com's menus and interface are slightly more clunky, but it is free (with pop-up ads).

For solving tough math problems, the Symbolab app may be what you seek. This app, available on iOS and Android, promises to help you understand a variety of math problems by showing the solutions and, most important, the steps to solving the problem.

Symbolab can understand and solve algebra, trigonometry, calculus and matrix problems. Users put in problems using an intuitive, math-friendly keyboard,

before pressing "go." The app takes just a few seconds to display the answer in the form of an equation that is sometimes accompanied by a graph. The keyboard tool is handy, so long as you're not using it to cheat on math homework. There's one sticking point, though: To use this tool (and turn off advertisements), the cost is \$7.

Staying organized is a critical part of being a disciplined student, and the My Study Life app is an excellent organizer. Free for both iOS and Android, this app is a smart calendar that can keep track of class and assignment schedules. It also lets users share their calendars with classmates or teachers. The app has a slightly old-fashioned interface but plenty of useful features.

Lastly, Google Keep is a simple note-taking app that lets you jot down information in class and search through it later. Keep also lets you add photos and has many other tricks, like extracting text from a photo. It synchronizes across your devices, and it's free for iOS and Android.

(Source: The New York Times)

Amazon pushes deeper into auto industry with research site



Amazon.com Inc. is pushing deeper into the auto industry and car-parts market with a new website featuring reviews, images and specifications on thousands of new and classic car models.

Customers can research cars on the new Amazon Vehicles website, they just can't buy one there. The site is designed to complement the company's other car initiatives such as Amazon Automotive, a marketplace featuring millions of parts and accessories for cars, trucks and motorcycles, and Amazon Garage, which lets shoppers save vehicles in their profiles to make it easier to find parts they need.

Shoppers also can book and pay for routine auto maintenance such as oil changes, tire rotation and battery installation from screened professionals in their neighborhoods through Amazon Home Services.

The new Amazon effort has features similar to car-centric websites such as TrueCar and Autotrader. The idea is to draw more people to Amazon when they are thinking about buying and fixing their cars -- and potentially generating advertising revenue or partnerships with dealerships and manufacturers.

(Source: Bloomberg)

Why Twitter can't shake its harassment problem



Twitter Inc. has been working hard lately to shake its reputation as a haven for harassment. The social network recently banned a notorious troublemaker and instituted a "quality filter" to limit responses users can see. Earlier this year, it improved its abuse reporting system and convened a Trust & Safety Council of outside advisers.

A Twitter spokeswoman told the Journal that the company has "invested heavily in improving our tools and enforcement systems" to respond to incidents of abuse and prevent future ones.

But the increase in effort may have little effect, experts say. The problem is so widespread, Twitter's own design can publicize and magnify instances of harassment, and the company's rules and response tactics are still too vague and inconsistent.

For many users, Twitter has improved, said Paul Booth, an associate professor at DePaul University who researches how people use social media. "There are fewer trolls and fewer hate groups on there, and abusive people can get away with a lot less."

(Source: The Wall Street Journal)

Apple fixes security flaw after UAE dissident's iPhone targeted

SAN FRANCISCO (Reuters) — Apple Inc issued a patch on Thursday to fix a dangerous security flaw in iPhones and iPads after researchers discovered that a prominent United Arab Emirates dissident's phone had been targeted with a previously unknown method of hacking.

The thwarted attack on the human rights activist, Ahmed Mansoor, used a text message that invited him to click on a web link. Instead of clicking, he forwarded the message to researchers at the University of Toronto's Citizen Lab.

The hack is the first known case of software that can remotely take over a fully up-to-date iPhone 6.

Experts at Citizen Lab worked with security company Lookout and determined that the link would have installed a program taking advantage of a three flaws that Apple and others were not aware of. The researchers



A salesman checks a customer's iPhone at a mobile phone store in New Delhi, India, July 27, 2016.

disclosed their findings on Thursday.

"Once infected, Mansoor's phone would have become a digital spy in his pocket, capable of employing his iPhone's camera and microphone to snoop on activ-

ity in the vicinity of the device, recording his WhatsApp and Viber calls, logging messages sent in mobile chat apps, and tracking his movements," Citizen Lab wrote in a report released on Thursday.

The researchers said they had alerted Apple a week and a half ago, and the company developed a fix and distributed it as an automatic update to iPhone 6 owners.

Apple spokesman Fred Sainz confirmed that the company had issued the patch after being contacted by researchers.

Mansoor had previously been targeted with software from both of those companies, according to Citizen Lab. "I can't think of a more compelling case of serial misuse of lawful intercept malware than the targeting of Mansoor," said one of the Citizen Lab researchers, John Scott-Railton.

NEWS IN BRIEF



WhatsApp users to receive adverts

WhatsApp says it will begin sharing more data with Facebook and will start letting some companies send messages to users.

It is the first time the company has changed its privacy policy since the firm was bought by Facebook in 2014.

WhatsApp will now share users' phone numbers with the social network, which it will use to provide "more relevant" friend suggestions and advertisements.

One analyst said some people might feel "betrayed" by the move.



Apple plans iPhone for Japan with tap-to-pay for subways

Apple Inc. is planning a new iPhone feature for Japan that will enable users to pay for mass-transit rides with their smartphones instead of physical payment cards.

A future iPhone will include technology called Felica, a mobile tap-to-pay standard in Japan developed by Sony Corp., according to people familiar with the matter.



Google punishes sites with pop-up adverts

Google is to penalize websites that feature intrusive pop-up adverts.

It is updating the algorithms used to rank its search results so that offending pages are more likely to get lower placings. The change is due to come into effect on 10 January.

Google makes much of its money from placing ads on the mobile web. One expert said the company wanted to give users one less reason to use ad-blockers or search within apps instead.



HP laptop blocks over-shoulder snooping

Computer firm Hewlett-Packard has developed two new laptops that feature an optional privacy mode, which obscures the screen unless viewed face-on.

The technology, called Sure View, darkens the picture by "up to 95%" when observed from wide angles.

HP said the laptop can ensure privacy when used in public spaces.

One analyst said it could appeal to security-conscious enterprise customers.



Healthy fast food restaurant to power its stores using clean energy

UK restaurant chain LEON has announced that it is using 100 percent renewable energy across all its stores.

The business has chosen a renewable energy tariff from Opus Energy, which sees more than 30 sites use 100 percent "renewably sourced energy."

A founding member of the Sustainable Restaurant Association, LEON opened its first restaurant in 2004 and describes its menu offering as "naturally fast food."

ROUND THE GLOBE

U.S. convicts Russian hacker in credit card theft scheme

Jurors in a U.S. federal court have convicted a Russian hacker of stealing and selling more than 2 million credit card numbers.

On Thursday, the jury in Seattle found Roman Valerevich Seleznev guilty of charges related to his hacking of point-of-sale systems.

Seleznev was arrested in 2014 after U.S. authorities accused him of installing malicious software on point-of-sale systems in U.S. restaurants.

From 2009 to 2013, Seleznev used this scheme to steal credit card data from businesses and send it back to his servers in Ukraine and McLean, Virginia.

The stolen data was then sold on the black market, with Seleznev promising that buyers could make fraudulent purchases with them.

Testimony at his trial revealed that Seleznev's scheme defrauded US\$169 million from 3,700 financial institutions, the U.S. Secret Service said in a statement.

(Source: PCWorld)



COMMENT

Hillary Clinton must explain exactly what she's fighting for

By Julian Zelizer

Hillary Clinton has been sitting back and just watching Donald Trump do his thing. With Republicans openly defecting from the GOP nominee and polls showing that Trump is performing poorly in solidly red states like Georgia, as well as swing states like Pennsylvania and Ohio, there will be a strong temptation for Clinton to remain silent. No need to enter the fray when your opponent appears to be fraying by the seams.

But it would be a big mistake for Clinton to take this path forward.

The truth is that complacency is the enemy of political success. At a minimum, if there is a major domestic or foreign policy crisis that fundamentally shakes up the electorate, Trump's standing might quickly improve. As a Democrat who experienced the financial meltdown of 2008, which occurred right in the middle of the presidential campaign, she must know this first-hand.

If such a crisis occurred again, it would be important for voters to have a good sense of what kinds of issues and policies Clinton stands for to push back against any surge in Trump's standing. Providing voters with a strong sense of her vision will also be important if she wants to create greater distance between herself and Trump in states such as Florida, where the polls still show an extremely tight race.

Just as important is the fact that campaigns are not only about what happens in November, but also about preparing for the months that follow the inauguration. If Clinton is victorious, the reality is that at best she will have an extremely short time frame for securing legislation, as all new presidents discover.

The best-case scenario for Clinton would be that Trump's impact on the ticket is so detrimental that it produces reverse coattails, giving Democrats control of the White House and Congress.

Democratic Senate

More likely, a Clinton victory would probably produce a Democratic Senate, with Republicans retaining control of the House. And, of course, Republicans might manage to preserve their control of both chambers, leaving Clinton with divided government.

With any of these outcomes, a Clinton presidency would be tough. Republicans would be determined to rebound from the Trump candidacy by preventing a Democratic president from making any legislative gains. Even in the best-case scenario, Senate Republicans would employ the filibuster to block the administration.

Just a couple of years later, Democrats could easily lose control of both chambers given the number of seats they want to defend (and, like in 1964, Republican districts that go Democratic because of a divisive presidential candidate would likely revert back to the GOP once he was off the ticket). The most successful presidents enter the short window that a president enjoys to legislate after having articulated a broad vision of what they hoped to accomplish and what their key priorities would be.

When he ran for re-election in 1964, for example, Lyndon Johnson had made clear that he intended to pursue the civil rights revolution and to push for a series of bills that had eluded liberals for decades, including health care for the aged and federal assistance for secondary and elementary schools.

When Ronald Reagan stepped into the White House in 1981, most voters knew that cutting taxes and increasing military spending would be his top priorities. President Barack Obama came into office in 2009 having promised to restore the role of government in a nation that had been moving rightward since Reagan.

As a result of the economic crisis that unfolded in the middle of the campaign, he had shifted his legislative priorities to financial regulation and an economic stimulus. He did this while keeping his promise for finally dealing with health care.

Clinton has many strengths as a candidate. Her vast experience in Washington is about as formidable as we have seen in any recent campaign and her steely attitude in the face of vicious attacks should make Trump supporters worry. She has also done a good job since the summer at uniting a party that became badly divided during the primaries.

Too often, however, Clinton doesn't do enough to outline what she is fighting for and who she is as a leader. This vacuum of information is connected to why so many voters are often unwilling to trust what she says and often believe in the attacks against her character.

In the coming months, Clinton must do more to fill in the portrait that voters have of who she is as a politician. The time has come for Clinton to explain herself as something more than a winner and someone who knows how to get things done. Voters need to know her vision of what the government should do to improve life of working Americans, what the role of the U.S. should be overseas and what political leadership means to her. While many commentators thought that the Democratic convention did a good job starting to make this case, particularly the biographical film that highlighted her background, the conversation has come to a halt in recent weeks with Donald Trump once again moving front and stage with his controversial exploits. Clinton has tended to sit back when things are going well. But these are the moments when she becomes most vulnerable. As tempting as it might be to watch Trump implode and make this election a mandate about him, she needs to persuade voters that she is ultimately the person they want in the White House or else she will start at a big disadvantage if she is victorious in November.

Clinton also has to be careful not to let the opportunity to attract Republican voters define her campaign. The message from the Democratic primaries was clear: Democratic voters want their candidate to stand for Democratic values. It will be important in the coming weeks to make clear that Clinton heard the message loud and clear. (Source: CNN)



Interview with Libya's prime minister: 'We will not become like Somalia'

Since March, Fayed Sarraj has been the prime minister of Libya, a country torn by civil war. Now he is tasked with surmounting the country's political divisions and leading the fight against the Islamic State terrorist group (ISIL) and a network of human-traffickers transporting tens of thousands of migrants to Europe.

The power goes out in the capital city for as long as 10 hours a day, there is little cash available at the banks, food prices have skyrocketed and every second hospital is closed due to a lack of medication or staff. There's trash everywhere -- on every street and every corner. People crouch as they walk. Shots can be heard -- isolated ones -- in what has become everyday life in Tripoli, Libya.

"We will burn the ground beneath their feet," Moammar Gadhafi said, threatening his opponents as his time as the country's dictator drew to a close. Gadhafi was shot and killed in 2011, but his threat came true. The massive desert country, with only 6.4 million inhabitants, already had plenty of weapons and ammunition depots even back then. Gadhafi had opened the depots for his supporters and allowed weapons to be sold in the major cities. That same weapons arsenal is Gadhafi's legacy and the basis of today's civil war.

Libya, of course, also had its zero hour -- a time when things could have gone very differently if the United States, Russia, Europe and, naturally, the people of Libya themselves had made a more serious effort. But the opportunity was lost and the old authorities merely got replaced by the anarchy of the militias -- young men, often still children, who control the streets with one gun on their waistband and the other in their hand.

In Tripoli's Qerqarish district, just behind a shopping street where vendors selling brands like Mango and Benetton wait for customers, a dark world begins. With few jobs, little industry and no growth, many here are involved in the smuggling business. They trade in cigarettes and drugs, but mostly in people. Entire parts of the city are sinking into poverty and transforming into a criminal jungle.

Few countries are more important to Germany than Libya right now. Thousands of refugees depart from the country each day as they make their way to Europe, and tens of thousands more are waiting to set sail. Meanwhile, the ISIL has also found a home in this burning country. That makes Libya a center of two of the major issues currently occupying Germany and Europe.

As the government structures fall apart, Libya has become the main staging ground on the journey to Europe, a hub for traffick-

Gadhafi had opened the depots for his supporters and allowed weapons to be sold in the major cities. That same weapons arsenal is Gadhafi's legacy and the basis of today's civil war.

ers and refugees alike. No one does anything to help the migrants who have been captured by the Libyan coast guard. They can be found sitting in camps like the one in Abu Salim, where 150 men share around 50 mattresses in one muggy room and 60 women can be found on 60 mattresses in another. They whisper that they are being mistreated and that they are never allowed to get fresh air. They were captured on a beach, shortly before they were to depart for Europe, and now they are waiting to be taken to the desert in the country's south.

Even Fayed Sarraj's new government is unable to offer its people much by way of protection. The government had been brokered by the United Nations. The West considers Sarraj to be a man who could unite Libya, a country in which there are still two governments -- one in Tripoli and another in Bayda in the east. Sarraj's unity government still hasn't been officially recognized by the political forces in the east. Martin Kobler, the German special representative for the UN for Libya, has compared the government to an ambulance that transports the seriously injured to the hospital without a license plate

-- meaning it lacks legitimacy, but will at least hopefully keep the country from falling apart completely.

It is hot and sticky in Tripoli. During the day, the streets are packed and bustling, with few people working. Everyone here says they fear attacks and shootings. Despite this, there are still people here who could leave Libya, but choose to stay because they are determined to save their country. People like the student leader who organizes an international book swap each year. Or the human rights expert who dispatches stoic reports about abuse of migrants and private torture chambers to Human Rights Watch and journalists.

Fifty-six-year-old Prime Minister Sarraj, an architect, is one of these people. His father had been a minister during the times of the monarchy, before Gadhafi came to power in 1969. Sarraj himself had been a member of parliament in Tobruk. The UN and Libya's international partners appointed him as prime minister specifically because he isn't closely aligned with any group, he has no criminal background and because he appears to be entirely free of corruption. All these factors are simultaneously strengths and weaknesses, because Sarraj appears to be independent, but also lacks a strong connection to the people he is supposed to be governing. Nor has he been elected in any



The West considers Sarraj to be a man who could unite Libya, a country in which there are still two governments -- one in Tripoli and another in Bayda in the east.

election or vote by parliament.

Sarraj receives two editors from Spiegel to conduct an interview at a navy base. Pictures of sea battles are hanging all over the place, images of things that are burning or exploding.

Prime Minister, are you really the right man to lead Libya?

A: It would be better if you posed this question to the people of Libya -- they are qualified to answer it. The situation here is complicated, and when I was appointed chairman of the Libyan presidency council, I was in any case ready to accept the assignment. We are hoping for support, both locally and internationally.

It is said that you are a good listener, that you're well educated, that you're not corrupt and, if we may say so, that you're a pleasant man. Will you be taken seriously in a country as armed and brutal as Libya?

A: The Libyans have experienced a great deal of unrest and difficulties during the past five years, as well as a delicate security situation. They need a bit of peace and reflection.

You don't have any apparatus of power -- you don't even have the power base to govern in Tripoli, not to mention the east. We're sitting here at a naval base at the port, and you are relying on a militia to provide you with protection. Do you have any connection to your people whatsoever?

A: This here was our first stop when we arrived in Tripoli in the spring. The new seat of government for the prime minister is now located in the original government building. We work there often. But now and then we get a longing for the naval base.

Do you feel safe?

A: Most of the time.

There haven't been any attempted attacks yet?

A: No, as we Arabs say: Whether you live or die lies in the hands of God. One should not have too much fear.

So you still consider the probability of terrorist attacks to be very likely?

A: The threats will increase as a result of our fight against terrorism, but we have to play our role and take responsibility in this battle. That is our fate.

Young men continue to join the militias. Schools and universities are open, but there is no work.

A: We only have a limited number of jobs that can be offered in the public sector. In order to create jobs, we need an economic upswing, and for that to happen, we need to recommence our oil exports. They are the decisive motor for our economy.

How was the ISIL able to become so strong in Libya?

A: The reason is that there was a security vacuum in Libya after 2011.

You mean the lack of police, military and a functioning civil society after Gadhafi's toppling?

A: Yes. We often pointed this out to the world, but nobody listened. No one gave us support. Today our youth are fighting bravely against the ISIL, but they remains an international problem.

Is the West listening to you now?

A: We are exchanging views. We have received support from the U.S., which helped a lot. We still need logistical support. We need the lifting of sanctions against our armed forces that are fighting against ISIL. And it is enormously important that the West take in our injured. We have no medicines and our hospitals aren't in working order. We all have a shared responsibility for these young men who are fighting for our cause.

Many countries have so far pursued their own interests in Libya.

A: I cannot speak to the past, but since we have been in office, the U.S. has been helping to overcome the crisis and in the fight against terrorism. The Americans are supporting our military in the battle against the ISIL in Sirte with airstrikes.

Your government has not yet been officially recognized by the eastern part of the country, and many consider you to be a puppet of the West. How is that supposed to work?

A: By changing it. There is no problem between us and the parliament in the east -- the problems exist within the parliament in Tobruk. So far, the confidence vote

working separately and against each other. Hafter and Agila Saleh Essa, the head of the parliament, need to allow the decisive session of parliament to take place.

Doesn't Libya need to be split anyway because of the endless conflicts? An arrangement of three states -- Misrata, Benghazi and the south -- under a central political government, would also be conceivable.

A: That is all unrealistic. The future of Libya lies in the hands of the people, not in those of the politicians or the military. And the Libyans believe that Libya is a single entity -- and the political elites should realize that they must forge ahead with the Libyan Unity project. Today's government exists for everybody -- in the east, the west and the south.

What will you do if the ISIL is defeated in Sirte, the Misratians want to keep the city -- and then General Hafter rejects this? The next civil war could unfold there.

A: I want to take this opportunity to congratulate our heroes. I value their willingness to sacrifice themselves in order to free our country from terrorism. I plea to God that he take mercy on our martyrs.

Libya is a rich country. What went so fundamentally wrong after Gadhafi's fall?

A: Many decisions would have been easy to implement right after the revolution, easier than today. Back then the weapons of the youths and all of the other fighters could have been collected. If there had been explanations, goals and opportunities, it would have worked. But nobody did it. Militias were founded, there were many militias and that led to today's situation.

What mistakes did the West make?

A: Shortly after the revolution, the West abandoned Libya. The country stood alone with its economic, societal and political problems.

You mean that Libya could have used nation-building, or reconstruction aid or at the very least attention?

A: Yes, after decades of dictatorship and a violent revolution, that's only natural.

Now Europe is struggling with the refugee crisis. Do you sense this has made the West more understanding?

A: It has gotten better lately. The West is trying to understand and help Libya. Illegal migration creates problems for Libya as it does for the West. But above all else it's a humanitarian catastrophe for all of those who are fleeing and for their families. The crisis has three dimensions: a humanitarian one, a financial one and a criminal one. Libya is a bridge to the West for migrants and smugglers. Unfortunately, our southern area, the desert, is open, and the borders there are open.

Is Libya doing everything it possibly can in this crisis?

A: We have built up good relations with our neighboring countries, and we are working on borders with joint controls. Our view is that people who are caught should be sent back to their countries of origin. We cannot be their home, because of our unstable situation we cannot take them in.

The man who is possibly the biggest human trafficker in Libya lives in Sabratha. It is believed that he smuggles at least one-third of all migrants coming to Europe, or around 50,000 per year.

A: These kinds of networks are bigger than individuals -- they exist in Libya but also in neighboring countries and in Europe. We are talking with Germany, Italy, the EU. We will lead the fight together in order to save the refugees and beat the smugglers.

Do you also expect more engagement on this issue from Europe?

As the government structures fall apart, Libya has become the main staging ground on the journey to Europe, a hub for traffickers and refugees alike.

A: Yes, there are two levels of cooperation. One is that the Europeans should apply pressure on the surrounding countries in the south. On Chad, Niger, Mali. So that the border controls work and are taken seriously. The border soldiers on both sides require training. And as for Operation Sophia in the Mediterranean: We hope that the Europeans will modernize and support our navy, so that it can play its role. It is very weak.

Will you wage a look into the future: Is Libya more likely to develop in the direction of Somalia or in the direction of, let's say, Italy.

A: We will not become like Somalia.

What kind of Libya would you like to leave behind for your successor?

A: A secure and stable one, a prosperous one in which the people smile once again; our people have suffered very much and have a right to prosperity and security. One with better relationships to its neighbors, one in which the state functions and has the sole right to the use of force. One that is free of the ISIL and one that has a self-evident place in the international community.

(Source: Spiegel)

Iran needs \$20b investments for petchem projects in 5 years

ECONOMY TEHRAN — Managing Director of Iran's National Petrochemical Company (NPC) Marzieh Shahdaie said Iran needs \$20 billion of investment for completion of unfinished petrochemical projects across the country in 5 years, IRIB news agency reported on August 23.

"For the time being, there are 55 unfinished projects across the country, 15 of which will be completed and operational by the first half of the next Iranian calendar year of 1396 (will start on March 21, 2017)," Shahdaie said.

She also noted that a 10-year long program with 28 projects has been defined in NPC and considering the resources available these projects will be implemented within the next 10 years.

"For these projects to go operational, about \$35 billion of investment is need-



ed," she added.

'Petchem production up 6m tons'

According to Shahdaie, five petrochemical projects started operating in the current Iranian calendar year (began on March 21, 2016) and the country's petrochemical production capacity has risen by 6 million tons.

"Iran has witnessed a 46 percent rise in petrochemical exports during the last three years and only the previous year the exports of petrochemicals increased by 10 percent to 19 million tons," she said.

"With the new export-oriented complexes going operational, urea-ammonia, polyethylene, methanol and poly acetylene will be added to the country's petrochemical export basket and the export level will grow higher of course," she added.

Iran to join OPEC talks to help stabilize oil market

A similar initiative died back in April during talks in Doha, Qatar, when Saudi Arabia backed out over Iran's refusal to join in a so-called production freeze until it had reached pre-sanctions levels of oil production. Under the freeze, countries would have agreed to limit their production to certain levels in a bid to raise oil prices by constricting the amount of crude on the market.

Iran retains right to regain market share

Zanganeh also said Iran believes that those who made bigger contributions to the instability and chaos in the oil market should take more responsibility and have a greater role propping up the market.

"Iran will continue cooperating with OPEC members but we expect

that the right to revive our market share not to be ignored," he added.

"Regaining our market share is a nationwide demand," he stressed.

'Barkindo to visit Iran in near future'

Oil minister also said on Thursday that OPEC Secretary General Mohammed Barkindo will visit Tehran "in the near future".

He also mentioned the new oil contracts and said, "the new contract model which only needs to be approved by the cabinet, includes the general terms for now, first the drafts are crafted and after signing a contract, a classified copy will be sent to the Majlis".

"Development of joint fields and increasing oil recovery from the older fields are our priorities in signing contracts," he added.

Iran, Ecuador discuss ways to strengthen oil prices

Iran and Ecuador on Wednesday discussed ways that the two countries can strengthen oil prices as Iran signals it may support joint efforts by exporters to prop up flagging crude.

Iran has been boosting output since Western sanctions were eased in January. Tehran refused to join a previous attempt this year by OPEC plus non-members such as Russia to stabilize production, and talks collapsed in April.

But Reuters reported on Tuesday that sources in OPEC and the oil industry said Iran is sending positive signals on taking joint action, which could help revive a deal on freezing output levels at talks next month.

"We have held conversations on strengthening our position in

oil markets," Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said through an interpreter after a meeting with Ecuador's President Rafael Correa.

Zarif added that the two countries have agreed to continue talks within the framework of OPEC, without providing further details.

Ecuador Foreign Minister Guillaume Long said they discussed establishing a common position with regards to strengthening oil prices.

Ecuador, OPEC's smallest member, has consistently supported calls by ideological ally and oil price hawk Venezuela to boost crude prices. Since the 2014 collapse in oil markets, the group has remained more focused on retaining market share.

(Source: Reuters)

NEWS

India's Aban sees surge in receivables from Iran after sanctions eased out

As the sanctions are easing out against Iran, Aban Offshore has said that it started receiving payments from the country.

S. Srinivasan, senior vice-president of Aban Offshore Ltd said that the last whole year of 2015-2016, the company received about \$51 million from Iran whereas in the first quarter itself the company has received around \$51 million.

"But still we have about \$260-270 million as of July 31 to receive from Iran," he said during an analyst call recently.

Queried whether the company is expecting the entire receivables to come down to normal situation, he responded saying: "It may not happen in four to five months, but we hope the trend will continue."

He added, the company is taking the help of all agencies to collect the receivables.

Earlier, the company also said that it started talking with the Iran government to get more contacts so that it can deploy its rigs in Iran waters, which is one of the oil rich countries in the World.

It has been in talks with companies in Iran as far as contract deployment is concerned including several subsidiaries of National Iranian Oil Company, who are the company's client.

(Source: Business Standard)

India Essar's July oil imports from Iran rise 43.2% y/y: trade

Essar Oil, the top Indian buyer of Iranian crude, imported about 43.2 percent more oil from Iran in July compared with a year ago, according to tanker arrival data obtained from trade sources and ship-tracking services on the Thomson Reuters terminal.

Essar shipped in about 186,000 barrels per day (bpd) of oil from Iran last month, an increase of about 4.4 percent from June, the data showed.

Essar's oil imports from Iran averaged about 158,800 bpd in the first seven months of 2016 compared with 103,700 bpd in the previous year, when the private refiner had to cut imports under pressure from western sanctions against Iran's nuclear program, the data showed.

Iran's share in overall imports by Essar Oil in the January-July period rose to about 44 percent from about 30 percent in the year-ago period.

(Source: Reuters)



LONGINES

SARMAN CO.

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



The Longines Master Collection

Pulling kids from war's rubble

Global reaction to children in conflicts – as soldiers, refugees, or among the injured – has improved as more nations presume innocence for the youngest and most vulnerable.

Within days of each other in August, two news items about children in conflicts caught the world's attention. And each in a different way offered a reminder of why focusing on their plight in war is a necessary path to peace.

One was the image of a five-year-old Syrian boy, Omran Daqneesh, sitting with a bedazzled look in an ambulance after being pulled from a house in Aleppo bombed by either a Syrian or Russian jet.

The other item was about a suicide bomber, believed to be around 13 and trained by Islamic State (terrorist group), who killed 51 people at a wedding in Turkey.

Child soldiers

Nearly half of those killed by the child soldier were children themselves.

These two young people – an injured refugee and a military perpetrator – were at opposite ends of warfare.

Yet in the eyes of much of the world, they are

each a victim deserving protection. That is because of the rising scrutiny of children in conflict, not only in the Middle East but also from Nigeria to the Philippines, backed up by a near-universal presumption of their innocence.

The most widely ratified treaty on human rights is the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Because of that 1989 pact and an increasing number of other efforts, the world is more active than ever in helping children in war – and using that issue to end conflicts.

UNICEF, for instance, reported in June that 9 out of 10 refugee or migrant children arriving in Europe from North Africa were unaccompanied. And it has recorded thousands of child soldiers recruited in South Sudan, Yemen, Afghanistan, and other places, as well as by terrorist group.

In a sign of this new attention, the 2016

Summer Games in Rio included young refugees under the official Olympic flag. Many, such as 18-year-old Syrian swimmer Yusra Mardini, had fled war.

Generation of terrorists

Of particular concern is the strategy by the terrorist group to forcibly recruit, indoctrinate, and train children as fighters to create a generation of terrorists even if the group loses its territory in Syria and Iraq.

Last year, an estimated 1,100 children under age 16 – dubbed by the group as “lion cubs of the caliphate” – were part of the terrorist group forces, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

A retired Canadian military general, Roméo Dallaire, has launched a training program aimed at helping Western-backed forces in that struggle engage with the terrorist group child soldiers and return them

The particular concern is the strategy by the terrorist group to forcibly recruit, indoctrinate, and train children as fighters to create a generation of terrorists even if the group loses its territory in Syria and Iraq.



to their families.

The idea, while a difficult task, is yet another sign of the global awakening to the

need to protect the most innocent – and innocence itself – from war's harm.

(Source: The CSM)

Pars Diplomatic Real Estate

Apartment

Apt. in Farmanieh
300 sq.m, 4 bdrs, fully furn,
nice view, 3000 USD
Mr.Arvin: 09128103207

Apt. in Zaferanieh
2nd Fl., 350 sq.m, 4 bdrs,
fully furn, SPJ, Pkg,
International Bldg., 5000 Euro
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Apt. in Jordan
150 sq.m, 3 bdrs, furn,
marble floor, 2500 USD
Mr.Arvin: 09128103207

Apt. in Elahieh
8th Fl., 200 sq.m, 3 bdrs, fully furn,
lobby, SPJ, high security, nice view,
small balcony, \$4000
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Apt. in Jordan
200 sq.m, 3 bdrs, furn,
marble floor, nice view, \$2900
Mr.Arvin: 09128103207

Duplex Apt. in Farmanieh
220 sq.m, 3 bdrs, furn & unfurn,
nice balcony with flower boxes, Pkg,
Diplomatic, 4500 USD
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Villa

Duplex Villa in Zaferanieh
700 sq.m built up in 1800 sq.m land,
6 bdrs, larg living room, outdoor pool,
\$10000
Mr.Arvin: 09128103207

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

Duplex Villa in Velenjak
800 sq.m built up in 1300 sq.m land,
furn, large living room,
nice garden, 9000 USD
Mr.Arvin: 09128103207

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

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



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

Section Manager "Tina 09128440154"

Tel: 22662452-8, Fax: 22667173

Hot Line: 28141

info@parsdiplomatic.com

Building & Office

Office in Elahieh
All brand new, 250 sq.m,
open space, Pkg lots
Mr.Arvin: 09128103207

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

**Administrative license whole Bldg. in
Mirdamad**
5-Storey, 1500 sq.m, open space
Mr.Arvin: 09128103207

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

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

Occasion

Apt. in Jordan
180 sq.m, 3 bdrs, furn, \$2300
Mr.Arvin: 09128103207

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

Apt. in Farmanieh
300 sq.m, 3 bdrs, fully furn,
very nice view, \$3000
Mr.Arvin: 09128103207

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

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

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

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

مالکین محترم
ویلا شمارا جهت اجاره به منزل سفیر
و مدیران شرکت های بین المللی
در مناطق شمالی تهران نیازمندیم

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

مالکین محترم
ساختمان در دست در مناطق شمال تهران
جهت اجاره به یک سفارتخانه
و کمپانی های خارجی نیازمندیم

FIRST CHOICE REAL ESTATE
Mr. Ghanizadeh
Nobody does it better
آژانس املاک انتخاب اول در خدمت شماست
TEL: 22041212 - 09121081212
APARTMENT - VILLA - OFFICE
PROPERTY@FIRSTCHOICECO.COM
WWW.FIRSTCHOICECO.COM

Don't Waste Your Time
Visit our website to choose your desired rental Properties
www.DeltaHOME.ir
The Most Specialized Website for Foreigners
HOME
Real Estate
Member of DELTA Real Estate Group
(021) 88888865

REAL ESTATE PORSALEH
villa in reclusive area (Velenjak)
2500 sq.m with the beautiful old trees and lush courtyard,
swimming pool, gym and tennis court
Mede Shah 09372748090 - 021-22051919 - Mede78@yahoo.com
Fereshteh Bagh [Garden] Tower
350 sq.m, 4 bedrooms, super luxury, 10 sq.m balcony, fully
furnished, chic and very beautiful Babak (0912-6507011)

Advertising Dept:
times1979@gmail.com
+9821 430 51 450
www.tehrantimes.com

CHINESE RESTAURANT GOLDEN DRAGON
SINCE 1968
(+9821) 22230292 - 22219036
Add: Shariati Ave., Pol-e-Roomi, Top of Qeytarieh, Tehran

maharaja
Indian Restaurant
FIRST INDIAN RESTAURANT IN IRAN
PRIVATE PARKING LOT
Jahan Hotel (Exelsior) - Rahimzade Alley - Taleqani
Crossroads - Valiasr St. Tel: 66476855

CHINESE DRAGON RESTAURANT
Since 1969
Address: No.52, Darya-Noorani Blv.Crossroad,
Farahzadi Blv, Shahrak-e-Gharb
Tel: 88562040 - 88562050

Massage: Get in touch with its many benefits

Massage is no longer available only through luxury spas and upscale health clubs. Today, massage therapy is offered in businesses, clinics, hospitals and even airports. If you've never tried massage, learn about its possible health benefits and what to expect during a massage therapy session.

What is massage?

Massage is a general term for pressing, rubbing and manipulating your skin, muscles, tendons and ligaments. Massage may range from light stroking to deep pressure. There are many different types of massage, including these common types:

- Swedish massage. This is a gentle form of massage that uses long strokes, kneading, deep circular movements, vibration and tapping to help relax and energize you.
- Deep massage. This massage technique uses slower, more-forceful strokes to target the deeper layers of muscle and connective tissue, commonly to help with muscle damage from injuries.
- Sports massage. This is similar to Swedish massage, but it's geared toward people involved in sport activities to help prevent or treat injuries.
- Trigger point massage. This massage focuses on areas of tight muscle fibers



that can form in your muscles after injuries or overuse.

Benefits of massage

Massage is generally considered part of complementary and alternative medicine. It's increasingly being offered along with standard treatment for a wide range of medical conditions and situations.

Studies of the benefits of massage demonstrate that it is an effective treatment for reducing stress, pain and muscle tension.

While more research is needed to

confirm the benefits of massage, some studies have found massage may also be helpful for:

- Anxiety
 - Digestive disorders
 - Fibromyalgia
 - Headaches
 - Insomnia related to stress
 - Myofascial pain syndrome
 - Soft tissue strains or injuries
 - Sports injuries
 - Temporomandibular joint pain
- Beyond the benefits for specific con-

ditions or diseases, some people enjoy massage because it often produces feelings of caring, comfort and connection.

Despite its benefits, massage isn't meant as a replacement for regular medical care. Let your doctor know you're trying massage and be sure to follow any standard treatment plans you have.

Risks of massage

Most people can benefit from massage. However, massage may not be appropriate if you have:

- Bleeding disorders or take blood-thinning medication
- Burns or healing wounds
- Deep vein thrombosis
- Fractures
- Severe osteoporosis
- Severe thrombocytopenia

Discuss the pros and cons of massage with your doctor, especially if you are pregnant or you have cancer or unexplained pain.

Some forms of massage can leave you feeling a bit sore the next day. But massage shouldn't ordinarily be painful or uncomfortable. If any part of your massage doesn't feel right or is painful, speak up right away. Most serious problems come from too much pressure during massage.

(Source: mayoclinic.org)

HAVE YOUR HERB Thyme



It's about time to have thyme.

Thanks to its distinctive taste, thyme has remained a culinary staple to this day in kitchens, while it is also gaining a fast reputation for its medicinal qualities. Below is a list of its health benefits:

- Antibacterial properties
- Acne-fighting characterizes
- Lower blood pressure
- Stop coughs
- Boost immunity
- Thyme oil disinfectants air and kills mold
- Get rid of pests
- Has good smells
- Boost your mood
- Make good food

AT A GLANCE

Lung infection

What is a lung infection?

A chest infection is an infection that affects your lungs, either in the larger airways (bronchitis) or in the smaller air sacs (pneumonia). There is a build-up of pus and fluid (mucus), and the airways become swollen, making it difficult for you to breathe.

Are your lungs in the back?

The lungs are found in the chest on the right and left side. At the front they extend from just above the collarbone (clavicle) at the top of the chest to about the sixth rib down. At the back of the chest the lungs finish around the tenth rib.

Can you cure lung disease?

Lung disease can't be cured but can be slowed. Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, or COPD, is the fourth-leading cause of death in the United States, after heart disease, cancer and stroke, in that order.

14 heart-healthy foods to work into your diet

Boost nutrition, flavor and color in meals and snacks

A healthy diet can be good for your heart as well as your waistline. You can definitely reduce your risk of developing cardiovascular disease by eating certain foods every day," says Julie Zumpano, RD, LD, a dietitian in the Preventive Cardiology and Nutrition Program at Cleveland Clinic. "There is a great variety of fruits and vegetables that are good for your heart."

"Try to eat foods that are in their natural form, as they come from the ground," Ms. Zumpano says, recommending what she calls the "whole-foods diet."

That diet includes, of course, heart-healthy foods such as fish, whole grains, vegetables and fruits, but don't be afraid to treat yourself occasionally with a piece of dark chocolate, Ms. Zumpano says. She suggests using this list as a guide to create meals and snacks with a healthy focus. Just a few simple swaps could make a big difference for your cardiovascular health.

Foods that are good for your heart

1. Eat fish high in omega-3s, such as salmon, tuna, mackerel, herring and trout.
2. A handful of healthy nuts such as almonds or walnuts will satisfy your hunger and help your heart.
3. Berries are chock full of heart-healthy phytonutrients and soluble fiber. Try blueberries, strawberries, cranberries or raspberries in cereal or yogurt.
4. Flaxseeds contain omega-3 fatty acids, fiber and phytoestrogens to boost heart health. Take them in ground or milled form to reap the greatest benefit.
5. Oatmeal: the comfort-food nutrient powerhouse.
6. Dark beans, such as kidney or black beans, are high in fiber, B-vitamins, minerals and other good stuff. Veggie chili, anyone?
7. Try marinated tofu in a stir-fry with fresh veggies for a heart-healthy lunch or dinner.
8. Red, yellow and orange veggies such as carrots, sweet potatoes, red peppers and acorn squash are

packed with carotenoids, fiber and vitamins to help your heart.

9. Popeye was right – spinach packs a punch! Use it in sandwiches and salads instead of lettuce.

10. Fruits such as oranges, cantaloupes and papaya are rich in beta-carotene, potassium, magnesium and fiber.

11. Tender, sweet asparagus is filled with mighty nutrients such as beta-carotene, folate and fiber, and only provide 25 calories per cup, or 5 calories per large spear.

12. Tomatoes – even sun-dried varieties in winter months – provide lycopene, vitamin C and alpha- and beta-carotene.

13. Dark chocolate is good for your heart health, but just be sure that it's at least 70 percent cocoa.

14. Crisp, fresh broccoli florets dipped in hummus are a terrific heart-healthy snack with a whopping list of nutrients, including vitamins C and E, potassium, folate, calcium and fiber.

(Source: health.clevelandclinic.org)

Are your yoga pants bad for your health?

By Ashley Stern

A new word is being added to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary: "Ath-leisure." It seems as though the yoga pants trend is here to stay – and who isn't excited about that?! Yoga pants are form flattering, versatile, and best of all – comfy! But what if your comfort comes at the cost of your health? There is an entire host of skin issues that can develop from wearing tight, synthetic clothing for too long; especially if you don't shower or change out of your gear after a workout.

Assistant Professor at Mount Sinai School of Medicine and Chelsea Skin & Laser Medical Director, Dr. Michael Eidelman, talks about skin conditions that can develop due to clothes that "don't breathe as well and hold sweat closer to the skin." Dr. Eidelman explains that moisture and oil on the skin can cause issues such as acne, folliculitis (which is basically an inflammation of the hair follicle due to rubbing or tight clothes), fungal and yeast flare ups from the heat and moisture, and even eczema. Not to mention the issues women can encounter, due to fabrics that don't breathe well enough, or trap sweat close to the body. As a result, some experts claim that yeast infections are becoming more common.

But fear not! Wearing sweat wicking or breathable clothing during exercise can prevent issues from developing. There are also natural and organic fabrics out there that are breathable and better for your skin. And don't forget to get yourself clean after a sweaty workout, especially if you go to a gym. Not only do you sweat at the gym, but so does everyone else! All the bacteria you come in contact with during a normal workout (even if you bring your own yoga mat) are a huge contributor to many of the aforementioned health issues. Washing the sweat and bacteria off after class will not only make you feel better, but will also keep your skin clear. While it might be nice to change into a clean pair of stretchy pants, remember – keeping those yoga pants on all day might not be so comfortable in the long run . . .

Your pants might be the ones causing issues, but your gym bag can be a useful tool in combating all those nasty effects of sweaty clothes. If you don't have time to shower after your work-



out, freshen up with some shower wipes (such as Yuni Shower Sheets which are biodegradable and made with essential oils) and change your clothes if you can. Start a habit of keeping an extra pair of clean pants (yoga leggings, work pants – whatever suits your lifestyle most) either in your car and/or in your gym bag. That way, even if you forget to pack a change of clothes, there's nothing stopping you from staying clean and preventing health issues on-the-go.

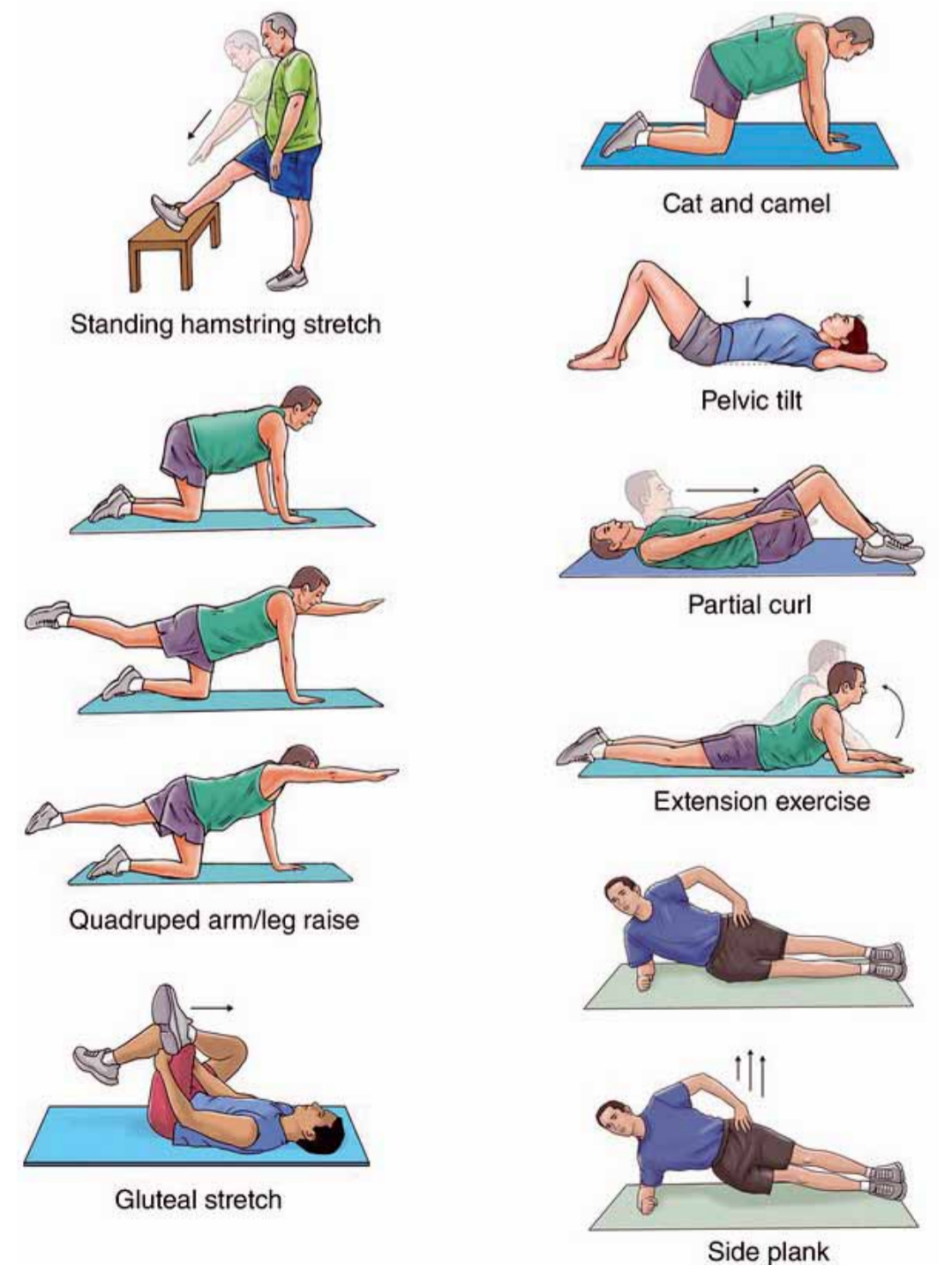
If it's a dirty yoga mat you're worried about, mat cleaning spray or wipes like these can be found online. Lastly, if you want to keep your yoga mat clear of nasty germs after each use, fold it in half with the top side folded together, and then roll it up. This way, the part of the mat that picks up whatever is on the floor doesn't transfer the dirtiness to you.

While these skin conditions sound serious, the good news is that you have the power to prevent them. Just make sure to keep yourself clean and wear clothing that breathes as much as possible. There's no need to get rid of your favorite lululemons – just make sure to clean up – both yourself and your yoga mat – after a workout (sorry if you were hoping for an excuse to skip cardio day). Cheers to your health!

(Source: yogiapproved.com)

Lower back pain workouts

Sedentary lifestyle can encourage lower back ache. To eliminate the pain do the recommended exercises below, of course, with your doctor's permission.



Can going vegan be a path to enlightenment?

Adopting a plant-based diet makes sense for your health and the environment, and according to some yogis' interpretation of Patanjali's Yoga Sutra, one of yoga's primary texts, it may also be a way to enlightenment. Some yogis believe diet is the key to practice the Yoga Sutra's principle of Ahimsa, or non-harming., meaning "non-harming," is the first of five yamas, or guides for self-restraint, set forth in the Yoga Sutra. To some practitioners, veganism is ahimsa in practice: "It's about being kind—to others, including animals, to the planet, and to

oneself," says Sharon Gannon, co-founder of Jivamukti Yoga School and the vegan Jivamuktea Café in New York City, and author of the vegan cookbook Simple Recipes for Joy. "Veganism is not about restriction—it's a way of eating and living that can create more happiness and joy."

Gannon is on one end of the veganism-as-ahimsa spectrum, choosing also not to eat honey or wear clothes made from animals, such as leather. But other practitioners take a different tack. "[Patanjali] says to be as kind as you can and to do no harm,

and while being vegan is one way, there are a lot of other ways," says Alanna Kaivalya, an international yoga teacher and author of Myths of the Asanas. A former vegan, Kaivalya, with her doctors, determined that the diet actually exacerbated an existing thyroid condition, so now she buys local and organic food when possible, including meat, and looks for other ways to incorporate ahimsa into her life. "There's not one right way to practice yoga, but there is a right way for you," she says.

(Source: yogajournal.com)

Kimia's bronze shines golden in Iranian women's eyes

By Marjan Sheikhi

Kimia Alizadeh, an 18-year-old taekwondoka, made history in Iranian women's sports as she became the first Iranian woman to ever win a medal at the Olympic Games.

The flame of Rio Olympics 2016 went out on Sunday, Aug. 21, with the Iranian squad packing up 8 medals as they returned home from the 16-day extravaganza in the Brazilian seaside city. With two gold medals in weightlifting, one gold, one silver and three bronze in wrestling and one landmark bronze in taekwondo, Iran finished 25th, which was an eight-step drop from its previous performance in London Olympics 2012.

Admittedly, Iran's national freestyle wrestling team achieved its best result since Melbourne Olympics 1956, but more gold medals were expected of them and somehow, the one gold medal in this category won by Hassan Yazdani, even though after 16 years, still left much to be desired.

Although the end results showed a disappointing performance as compared to the previous Olympic Games where Iran finished 17th with a total of 12 medals, this year's Olympics was not completely disappointing or devoid of any dramatic merit in certain categories for the Iranian athletes.

One such dramatic event that took the social media in Iran by storm was the match between Iranian wrestler Komeil Ghasemi and American opponent Tervel Dlagnev in the semifinal of 125kg freestyle wrestling where Ghasemi crushed Dlagnev in only 33 seconds. 'You can't put on your socks in 33 seconds, let alone do five wrestling throws,' an Iranian tweeted following the surprisingly short match. Unfortunately, Ghasemi's bout of good luck did not accompany him to the final where he was stripped of an Olympic gold as he lost against his Turkish opponent Taha Akgul.

Weightlifter Kianoush Rostami made another highlight during the Olympic Games, as he won Iran's first medal at Rio Olympics following days of disappointing performances. Eclipsing his own world record set in May by one kilogram, Rostami grabbed gold in the men's 85-kilogram category with a world record after lifting a total of 396 kilograms.

But perhaps more drama-laced and this time, highly frustrating, story happened in Men's over 105kg weightlifting division, where Iran's super heavyweight weightlifter and London Olympics champion Behdad Salimi, while beating the world record in snatch, was later disqualified in the clean and jerk by a controversial decision by the jury. Once again, the biased judgment infuriated Iranians' nationalistic sensibilities to the extent where the website of International Weightlifting Federation was hacked by an anonymous hacker and its Instagram page flooded with over 285,000 comments in support of Salimi as social network users expressed their objections over the unfair refereeing.

Head of Iran's National Olympics Committee Kiyomars Hashemi retold the story as this: "all experts of weightlifting saw on night of August 16 the scope of bias and partiality of the juries under the illegal influence by the head of Asian Weightlifting Federation who had been sitting just behind the jury members; after all 3 lights were white, thus approving Salimi's second attempt in clean and Jerk sub-category, the jury members renounced their initial decision effectively to deprive a champion of his gold medal which was inevitable." He went on to add, "incontrovertible evidence is the list of jury members where the name of notorious Mohamed Hassan Jaloud is missing, but who, along with his wife, exerted undue influence on the final decision."

But biased refereeing did not end there for Iranian wrestlers. During the match between Iran's Reza Yazdani and Azerbaijan's Khetag Gazymov, the Russian judge Sergey Novakovskiy did not give Yazdani's deserving two points. The Russian judge, along with two others, was later suspended by United World Wrestling due to 'suspicious manner of judging' during the controversial refereeing in the match for the bronze medal in the weight category +65kg among men, in which the Mongolian Mandhara Gantrisin lost to Uzbek Ataru Matrosovu.

But all drama aside, this year's Olympics had one memorable moment for the Iranian nation to savor, and that was thanks to Kimia Alizadeh's inspiring achievement of becoming the first Iranian woman to ever win an Olympic medal. She took the bronze in the -57kg class of taekwondo, beating Sweden's Nikita Glasnovic 5-1, after defeating opponents from Croatia and Thailand and narrowly losing against Spain's Eva Gomez who finished with silver against gold medalist Jade Jones of Britain.

This was a great moment in history for Iranian women, athletes or otherwise, for whom Kimia's victory touched every corner of their hearts and rekindled the flames of hope for triumph in the face of limitations and hardship.

The 18-year-old taekwondo practitioner, affectionately known as the Iranian "Tsunami", had already won a gold and bronze medal at the 2014 and 2015 Taekwondo World Championship, respectively, and went on to win gold at the World Taekwondo Grand Prix in August 2015 in Russia.

The historic bronze that she won at Rio Olympics did not weigh any less than a gold in the eyes of Ira-

nian nation. In fact, many called her medal 'the gold-est bronze in the history of Iran's sports' and there were many tweets with a wordplay on Kimia's name which means 'alchemy' in Persian, saying that Kimia had in a sense turned her bronze medal into gold. But this trend did not stop at metaphors. Kimia, whose bronze medal was worth gold, was promised to receive \$10,000 as cash prize, the same amount for a gold medalist.

Kimia, who did not just win against her opponents but against limitations and lack of opportunities on her way to victory, was the only Iranian athlete at Rio Olympics to receive a tweet from the President himself: "My dear girl Kimia, you have brought happiness to all the Iranians, and particularly to the women. I wish you eternal happiness," President Rouhani said on Friday, the day after Kimia's historic win.

The message of Ayatollah Khamenei, Leader of the Islamic Revolution, came on Aug. 23 wherein he hailed Iran's Rio Olympic delegation for their efforts and victories, and directed a part of his message especially at female athletes "who displayed an honorable form of hijab as an Iranian code for all."

Deputy Foreign Minister Hossein Jaber Ansari also congratulated Alizadeh as well Hedaya Malak of Egypt, who landed the other women's bronze in taekwondo, in a post on his Instagram page: "The presence of Kimia and another veiled woman from Egypt on the podium is the symbol of unity and efforts of Muslim women, who shine in new arenas while respecting their values."

Shahindokht Molaverdi, Vice-President for Women and Family Affairs, also lauded Kimia for her exemplary hard work, courage and self-confidence; "no doubt this victory will forever stay in the history of this land and the memory of our people, especially the women, and open up brighter horizons for women's sports during the term of a government that promises 'prudence' and 'hope'," she said in a message.

The United Nations mission in Iran also commended Alizadeh for her great success, saying such a victory would pave the way for other Iranian female athletes to pursue their dreams in sports.

Popular Iranian actress Taraneh Alidoosti, known for her role in Asghar Farhadi's award-winning film 'The Salesman' and 'About Elly', was also among the figures who found Kimia's victory as the stepping stones for her other compatriots; "The future will tell what you have achieved for your peers," tweeted Alidoosti, "You gave them self-confidence and showed them that (sports) belongs to them as well."

Kimia, at the tender age of 18, might have been surprised and perhaps a little overwhelmed at the tremendous outpouring of support from such high-ranking officials and the public (her Instagram post after her victory received more 25,000 congratulatory comments), but she was not surprised that she had



There is no doubt that the budget allocated to women's sports must be equal to that of men, and that any financial limitation will hinder the women's progress in society. But Kimia's medal radiated beams of hope on the hearts of all who need that little spark of motivation and confidence to take greater steps toward victory.

won a medal. In fact, she was disappointed that it was not a gold one.

"I was technically and psychologically ready, in fact I had never felt more prepared in my life," Kimia told Mehr News reporter in Rio, "with this level of readiness, I expected of myself nothing short of a gold medal. Some people find it hard to believe when they achieve success, but I had faith in myself for coming this far. What I still can't believe is that I lost to the Spanish athlete."

Her frustration is understandable, especially when one realizes that the Olympic Games are not only a sphere to prove your skills and capabilities to yourself and the world, but in many cases, as the athlete is elevated to the level of 'ambassador', they become a challenge, an opportunity, to prove your whole nation to the world, and to give your peers hope that if it had been possible for you to get this far, it would be possible for them to get further.

And Kimia definitely did that. The situation of women's sports in Iran and Iranian women athletes is far from ideal, yet far from stagnant and deteriorating. It is true that women's sports have been going through a rough patch mostly due to economic difficulties that slash budgets, but the situation is improving, and each year, a higher number of women participate in international games.

The share of female participants in the Olympic Games reached 45 per cent this year. This is while only 16 per cent (9 out of 63) of the Iranian Olympic squad were female. On the other hand, the share of Iranian women athletes has never been this much in any

previous Olympics, and the increased share definitely worked in Iran's favor. With more female participation in the Olympics, one could expect more victories achieved by them, and perhaps this is exactly the kind of jolt women's sports in Iran need in their ongoing battle to win more recognition and financial and emotional support.

Kimia's winning of the first Olympic medal in female sports made many hopeful that the problems currently facing the Iranian athletes would be solved in part.

It was only last year that Iran women's national futsal team were on the verge of losing their chance at the 2015 Women's Futsal World Tournament in Guatemala, due to 'budget problems' and 'not enough time to obtain visas'. The decision made by the head of Iranian Football Federation, Ali Kafashian, came under heavy criticism in various media outlets, until President Rouhani became directly involved and the Ministry of Sports and Ministry of Foreign Affairs followed up on the issue so that the problems would be solved and the women's team could participate in the international event. The team, although did not manage to make it to the quarterfinals at Guatemala games, became a champion in the 2015 AFC Women's Futsal Championship in Malaysia, as well as the 2012 and 2008 WAFF Women's Futsal Championship in Bahrain and Jordan.

Another more recent example of how women's sports in Iran receive less budget and recognition was the dissolution of one of the most active women's football team called Malavan (Sailor) due to, once again, 'financial problems'. What made the matters worse was a quote by the club CEO Rezaeian in 'defense' of his decision to dissolve the team: "We have many mouths to feed. When a storm-lashed ship is sinking, it starts unloading extra burdens," the quote went viral on social media and a great number of fans, activists, and female athletes lashed out at what was so obviously a gender discrimination.

Maryam Irandoost, previous head coach of the team, was completely scandalized by the news of the dissolution of the most decorated team in history of women's football; "this will definitely dampen motivation among female athletes," she said in an interview, while noting that she had been forced to resign from her position as a coach and leave football behind because of the existing problems.

"I kept telling myself that better days were on their way and our efforts would be seen through championships," she lamented. "I do believe that such maltreatments and discriminations will have adverse effects on women's sports community and create a great chasm of despair."

'The better days' that Irandoost was hoping to see did come, this time in the form of the first Olympic medal achieved by an Iranian women athlete, and it made many hopeful for more inspiring achievements to come. There is no questioning the fact that the budget allocated to women's sports must be equal to that of men, and that any financial limitation will hinder the women's progress in society. But Kimia's medal radiated beams of hope on the hearts of all who need that little spark of motivation and confidence to take greater steps toward victory.

Iranian medalists at Rio Olympic Games 2016:

Gold Kianoush Rostami	Weightlifting	Men's 85 kg
Gold Sohrab Moradi	Weightlifting	Men's 94 kg
Gold Hassan Yazdani	Wrestling	Men's freestyle 74 kg
Silver Komeil Ghasemi	Wrestling	Men's freestyle 125 kg
Bronze Saeid Abdevali	Wrestling	Men's Greco-Roman 75 kg
Bronze Ghasem Rezaei	Wrestling	Men's Greco-Roman 98 kg
Bronze Kimia Alizadeh	Taekwondo	Women's 57 kg
Bronze Hassan Rahimi	Wrestling	Men's freestyle 57 kg



With two gold medals in weightlifting, one gold, one silver and three bronzes in wrestling and one landmark bronze in taekwondo, Iran finished 25th, which was an eight-step drop from its previous performance in London Olympics 2012.

Human-caused climate change has been happening for a lot longer than we thought, scientists say

A new paper is challenging our understanding of how long human-caused climate change has been at work on Earth. And the authors say their findings may question existing ideas about how sensitive the planet is to greenhouse gas emissions — with potentially big implications for our global climate policy.

The new study, just out on Wednesday in the journal *Nature*, suggests human-caused, or anthropogenic, climate change has been going on for decades longer than existing temperature records indicate. Using paleoclimate records from the past 500 years, the researchers show that sustained warming began to occur in both the tropical oceans and the Northern Hemisphere land masses as far back as the 1830s — and they're saying industrial-era greenhouse gas emissions were the cause, even back then.

"I don't think it changes what we know about how the climate has warmed during the 20th century, but it definitely adds to the story," said Nerilie Abram, an expert in paleoclimatology at Australian National University and the new study's lead author.

Global temperature records

People first started keeping organized, global temperature records starting around the 1880s, and these are the records that many scientists reference when looking back on how the climate



has changed over the last century. And it's clear that it's been warming — and that human activities are the primary cause. But just looking at records from the 1880s on doesn't tell the whole story, according to Abram.

"We can see that by only looking from the 1880s on, we don't have the full picture of how we've been changing the climate," she said.

The new research involved 25 scientists from around the world, including

The industrial era is a period of time loosely beginning around the mid-18th century, when industrial growth around the world led to a sharp increase in the burning of fossil fuels and the emission of greenhouse gases, which contributed to the onset of anthropogenic climate change on Earth.

more than a dozen researchers from the PAGES 2k (or Past Global Change 2000 year) Consortium, a group supporting research into Earth's past in order to gain a better understanding of its climate future. The PAGES team has been involved with creating paleoclimate reconstructions of temperatures over both land and sea. These reconstructions have relied on special analyses of coral, tree rings and ice cores, all of which contain chemical fingerprints that can give scientists insights into what the climate was like hundreds or even thousands of years ago.

The research team used these paleoclimate records to look back at the progression of industrial-era warming across the Earth over the past few hundred years. The industrial era is a period of time loosely beginning around the mid-18th century, when industrial growth around the world led to a sharp increase in the burning of fossil fuels and the emission of greenhouse gases, which contributed to the onset of anthropogenic climate change on Earth.

The team's reconstructions indicated that significant and sustained warming began in the tropical oceans around the 1830s, about the same time it began over the continental land masses in the Northern Hemisphere.

(Source: *The Washington Post*)

China unveils 2020 Mars rover concept: report

China has unveiled illustrations of a Mars probe and rover it aims to send to the Red Planet at the end of the decade in a mission that faces "unprecedented" challenges, state media said on Wednesday.

China, which is pouring billions into its space program and working to catch up with the U.S. and Europe, announced in April it aims to send a spacecraft "around 2020" to orbit Mars, land and deploy the rover.

Zhang Rongqiao, chief architect of the project, said Tuesday they were targeting July or August of that year for the launch, the Xinhua news agency reported.

The "challenges we face are unprecedented," the report quoted him as saying.

A Long March-5 carrier rocket will be dispatched from the Wenchang space launch center in the southern island province of Hainan, Xinhua said, citing Ye Peijian, a mission consultant.

The lander will separate from the orbiter at the end of a journey of around seven months and touch down near the Martian equator, where the rover will explore the surface, it said.

The 200-kilogram (441 pounds) rover has six wheels and four solar panels, and will operate for around 92 days, according to Xinhua and other Chinese media reports. It will carry 13 sets of equipment including a remote sensing camera and a ground-penetrating radar to study the soil, environment and inner structure of Mars and look for traces of water and ice, Xinhua said.

Rising global stature

China has an ambitious, military-run, multi-billion-dollar space program that Beijing sees as symbolizing the country's progress and marker of its rising global stature.

China has an ambitious, military-run, multi-billion-dollar space program that



Beijing sees as symbolizing the country's progress and a marker of its rising global stature.

China has an ambitious, military-run, multi-billion-dollar space program that Beijing sees as symbolizing the country's progress and a marker of its rising global stature.

The nation's first lunar rover was launched in late 2013, and while it was beset by mechanical troubles it far outlived its expected lifespan, finally shutting down earlier this month.

But for the most part China has so far replicated activities that the US and Soviet Union pioneered decades ago. It has already been beaten to Mars by Asian neighbor India, which put a low-cost probe into orbit around the Red Planet in September 2014.

The U.S. has landed two rovers on Mars and the former Soviet Union and the European Space Agency have also sent missions to the planet.

China's first attempt to send a satellite into Mars orbit floundered in 2011 when the Russian rocket carrying the payload failed to make it out of the Earth's orbit. (Source: *phys.org*)

What's it like on our neighbor, Proxima b?

The newfound planet Proxima b is the closest planet outside our Solar System ever discovered, and scientists think it might be amenable to life. But what would it be like to live on our nearest interstellar neighbor?

The two facts researchers are surest of are that it circles its star every 11.2 days — to match the telltale stellar wobble they used to identify the orbiting planet — and that its minimum mass is 1.3 times that of the Earth. The rest is up to probability and future measurements, but the results look promising — especially because of its 4.2 light-year distance from Earth at Proxima Centauri, the closest neighbor star to the sun.

It's not only the closest terrestrial planet found, it's probably the closest planet outside our Solar System that will ever be found because there's no star closer to our Solar System than this one," Ansgar Reiners, an astrophysicist at Göttingen Institute for Astrophysics and co-author on the paper, said at a news briefing. Its closeness to Earth makes it not only a possible destination for humankind, but a perfect target to gather more information from home.

Researchers think the planet is likely rocky, and it has a surface one could walk on — it's probably not a tiny gas planet. (Its location around a red dwarf star suggests it's not a giant gas planet, either, like Jupiter or Saturn.)

Fainter than sun

Its star, Proxima Centauri, is much fainter than the sun and just 0.12 times its mass, and the planet huddles nearby, at just 5 percent the distance between the sun and the Earth. (The star has a diameter just 1.4 times that of Jupiter.) Researchers think because of its close orbit the planet is likely tidally locked and in synchronous rotation, which means that it always presents the same face to its star as it orbits around



(like Earth's moon does). One half of the planet is always bathed in the sun's radiation, and the other faces outward.

"One side is always sunny, the other is gloomy and dark," Guillem Anglada-Escudé, a researcher at Queen Mary University of London and lead author on the new paper, said during the briefing.

Looking up at the sky from the right location on Proxima b, then, one might see two bright dots of the nearby binary system, Alpha Centauri — a pair that researchers think are part of the same system as Proxima Centauri, even though it's relatively without an atmosphere, the planet's surface could hover at around minus 40 degrees Fahrenheit (minus 40 degrees Celsius).

But that's no cause for alarm, the researchers said during the briefing — Earth itself would hover at around minus 4 F (minus 20 C) without an atmosphere. If this planet has an atmosphere, too, it could range from minus 22 to 86 F (minus 30 to 30 C) on its dark and light sides, making it warm enough to host liquid water on its surface. (Source: *space.com*)

Italy earthquake: Complex geology drives frequent shaking

Powerful earthquakes like the 6.2-magnitude temblor that rocked central Italy early on August 24 are surprisingly common in the region, geologists say.

The shaking was caused by movement in the Tyrrhenian Basin, a seismically active area beneath the Mediterranean Sea. Here, the ground is actually spreading apart, said Julie Dutton, a geophysicist with the U.S. Geological Survey. The same underlying geology was responsible for the devastating 2009 earthquake in the city of L'Aquila, just 34 miles (55 kilometers) away from the quake. That earthquake killed more than 300 people.

"It's a pretty complicated or complex area for earthquakes," Dutton told Live Science. "In this area, they have sizable earthquakes that cause destruction every so many years."

The epicenter of today's quake, which hit around 03:30 A.M. local time, was about 6.2 miles (10 km) southeast of the historic tourist town of Norcia. The earthquake killed at least 73 people and turned scores of charming medieval buildings into rubble. The shaking was felt all the way in Rome, about 70 miles (112 km)



southwest of the city.

The temblor was caused by complicated geology. In northeastern Italy, the slow-motion collision of the African and Eurasian plates has pushed up the ground beneath the Alps. In fact, many of the quakes have occurred in towns fringing the Apennine Mountains, along the northeastern coast of Italy.

Uplift process

However, the quakes themselves are not caused directly by this uplift process. Instead, because the continental plate collision zone is drifting southeast, it is

stretching the crust beneath a region of the Mediterranean Sea. This ground extension, which occurs at a 90-degree angle relative to the mountain range, is what was behind both the current earthquake and the 2009 L'Aquila temblor, Dutton said.

"It's a normal fault earthquake and it's an expression of the east-west extensional tectonics where the Tyrrhenian Basin is being opened up," Dutton said.

Normal faults occur when the ground on one side of the fault slides down relative to the other side, and the motion goes in the direction expected based on the pull of gravity on the Earth, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

This region is no stranger to ground shaking. In 2009, the 6.3-magnitude-6.3 that struck L'Aquila led to a trial in which the seismologists in the area were convicted of manslaughter for failing to predict the quake. In 1997, a 6.0-magnitude earthquake killed more than 100 people and damaged 80,000 homes.

And records going back nearly 700 years document terrifying earthquakes in central Italy that caused people to abandon towns during the Middle Ages. (Source: *Live Science*)

NEWS

Scientists generate methane from carbon dioxide in 1 enzymatic step

By way of a light-driven bacterium, Utah State University biochemists are a step closer to cleanly converting harmful carbon dioxide emissions from fossil fuel combustion into usable fuels. Using the phototropic bacterium *Rhodospseudomonas palustris* as a biocatalyst, the scientists generated methane from carbon dioxide in one enzymatic step.

"It's a baby step, but it's also a big step," says USU professor Lance Seefeldt. "Imagine the far-reaching benefits of large-scale capture of environmentally damaging byproducts from burning fossil fuels and converting them to alternative fuels using light, which is abundant and clean."

Seefeldt and USU doctoral students Derek Harris, Sudipta Shaw and Zhi-Yong Yang, along with colleagues Kathryn Fixen, Yanning Zheng and Caroline Harwood of the University of Washington, and Dennis Dean of Virginia Tech, published findings in the 22 August 2016, online Early Edition of the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

The team's work is supported by a grant awarded through the U.S. Department of Energy Office of Science's Energy Frontier Research Center program to the Center for Biological and Electron Transfer and Catalysis or "BETCY." Based at Montana State University, BETCY is a seven-institution collaboration, of which USU is a partner.

"To our knowledge, no other organism can achieve what this bacterium has done with a single enzyme," says Seefeldt, professor in USU's Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry and an American Association for the Advancement of Science Fellow.

"Reducing," or breaking apart, carbon dioxide molecules requires tremendous energy, he says, because carbon dioxide is very stable.

"Use of phototrophs opens a new world of possibilities," says Seefeldt, who received USU's D. Wynne Thorne Career Research Award in 2012. (Source: *EurekAlert*)

With tiny hats, elephant seals help researchers study Antarctica's melting ice

Seals in tiny hats might conjure up images of the circus or Sea World, but, in Antarctica, elephant seals with hat-like sensors are helping scientists study melting ice.

The project to study the temperature and salinity of Antarctica bottom water (AABW) is led by Dr. Guy Williams of the University of Tasmania, and is supported by an international team of researchers who hope to find clues into the immediate effects of climate change.

"(Bottom water is) a key part of the global circulation," Dr. Williams told ABC. "If you think of a conveyor belt, (bottom water) is really the gear that drives the engine that is pumping that circulation."

According to the researchers' data, which they published in the journal *Nature Communications*, if ice shelves continue to melt at their current rate, the production of bottom water will be impacted and the pumping mechanisms Williams described will be restricted.

"If we can anticipate this melting will increase in the future under global warming, if Antarctic bottom water is already being suppressed, it is likely to be further impacted by this down the track," Williams said.

Between 2011 and 2013, Williams and his team were able to grab data from 20 young male elephant seals, who stayed in the East Antarctica region of Prydz Bay between March and October, a time when traveling by ship would be extremely difficult. The seals dove deep into the bottom water up to 60 times a day, gathering vital data for the researchers.

"We've never really been able to get such amazing spatial and temporal coverage before," Dr. Williams said. "That's a period of time where we would never get down with a ship." (Source: *Digital Trends*)

One shower could flush 100,000 microbeads into the ocean

British MPs have issued a report detailing the damage to the environment wreaked by microbeads used in cosmetic products.

The report from the House of Commons Environmental Audit Committee called on the government to introduce a legislative ban on microbeads in cosmetics and toiletries.

According to environmental advocacy group Greenpeace, microplastics are "tiny pieces of plastic that are added to everyday cosmetic products [like] face wash, toothpaste, abrasive cleaners and lots more."

Because of their size — typically 0.1 to 0.5 millimetres in length — microbeads can easily go down plug holes and pass through water filtration systems.

Microbeads — often labelled as polyethylene — settle into ocean sediment and can be ingested by marine life, resulting in severe health impacts.

The report states that a "single shower can result in 100,000 plastic particles being flushed into the sewage system."

Indeed, James Clark — a research scientist at Plymouth Marine Laboratory — told Mashable that 25ml of shower gel can contain up to 40,000 plastic particles.

"If one were to use 50ml while showering, that would equate to 80,000 particles. This is consistent with the number quoted from the report," Clark told Mashable. (Source: *Mashable*)

NEWS IN BRIEF



Male-female birth ratio in Iran on the rise

SOCIETY TEHRAN — The male-female birth ratio has increased since the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year, March 20, up to now, the National Organization for Civil Registration announced on Wednesday.

So far, some 650,728 infants have been born, of which 333,172 are boy babies and 317,556 are girl babies, Nasim news agency reported.

The number of infants born in urban areas is 507,567, while some 143,161 babies were born in rural districts.

On the other hand, the number of deaths reported in the same period totals 155,261, including 822,088 men and 729,073 women.



Iranian left-handers want to be counted in upcoming census

SOCIETY TEHRAN — The left-handers club of Iran has asked the national center for statistics to count lefties in the upcoming census, Tasnim news agency reported.

The club's secretary urged the center to count left-handers in the upcoming census starting from September 24 in order to make better arrangements for these minorities who live in a right-hand friendly society facing inconvenience in everyday life.

The text of the letter reads "Please arrange for the questionnaire for the upcoming census to include the number of left-handers in each family to make better plans for them particularly at schools, for sport programs and other activities of the kind."

Left-handers make up 10-12 percent of the population, but live in a world which is predominantly right-handed. Most gadgets, office supplies, cooking supplies, and various other objects are catered for right-handed folks. Most of left-handed people in today's society have to adapt to use right handed tools and objects.

LEARN ENGLISH

Watching Special Effects

Chrissy: Wow, that movie was amazing, but I can't believe that they **blew up** the Eiffel Tower. I bet the French are really **pissed**.

Jack: You're kidding, right? They didn't really blow up the Eiffel Tower. They used **special effects** to make it look that way. Chrissy: Are you sure? It really looked like the real thing.

Jack: They used a **scale model** or a **computer-generated image** of the Eiffel Tower and added some **pyrotechnics** or other **visual effects** to create what you saw on the screen. It's like a big **optical illusion**. I can't believe you really thought they blew up the Eiffel Tower.

Chrissy: Oh no, I didn't. I was just kidding. But you have to admit that it was pretty cool that they got the real president of the United States to kill that **monster**, right?

Jack: You must be **messing with my mind** again. That wasn't the president. That was an actor wearing **prosthetics** and **makeup** standing in front of a **green screen**. They added the monster later in **post-production**.

Chrissy: Oh, right, sure. But you have to **hand it to them** for moving a section of the Great Wall of China to New York City, right?

Jack: Oh, boy...

(Source: eslpod.com)

Words & phrases

blow up: to destroy something, or to be destroyed, by an explosion

pissed: annoyed, disappointed, or unhappy

special effects: an unusual image or sound that has been produced artificially to be used in a film or television program

scale model: a representation or copy of an object that is larger or smaller than the actual size of the object being represented, very often the scale model is smaller than the original and used as a guide to making the object in full size.

computer-generated image: an image made, drawn or produced by the computer

pyrotechnics: a brilliant display, as of rhetoric or wit, or of virtuosity in the performing arts

visual effects: in filmmaking, visual effects (abbreviated VFX) are the processes by which imagery is created and/or manipulated outside the context of a live action shot

optical illusion: a picture or image that tricks your eyes and makes you see something that is not actually there

monster: an imaginary or ancient creature that is large, ugly, and frightening

mess with somebody's mind: to cause someone to feel confused

prosthetics: an artificial feature or piece of flexible material applied to a person's face or body to change their appearance temporarily

makeup: colored substances that are put on your face to improve or change your appearance

green screen: (in film and video techniques) a blue (or green) background in front of which moving subjects are filmed and which allows a separately filmed background to be added to the final image

post-production: work done on a film or recording after filming or recording has taken place

hand it to somebody: something that you say which means that you admire someone's achievement; to hand it to someone you mean that they have been very successful or skilful

Organs of brain dead soldier save 3 lives

SOCIETY TEHRAN — Family of a brain dead soldier, who was declared brain dead following a June 22 road accident, donated his organs and saved three lives.

Vahid Hallaj, a soldier who was among the passengers boarding a bus coming back from the garrison in Kerman, was announced brain dead on August 23 after spending two months in a critical condition at the hospital.

Vahid's kidneys and liver were the organs viable for transplant. His liver went to a 39-year-old male patients and his kidneys went to two patients; a 47-year old male and a 48-year old female, Mehr news agency quoted Health Ministry spokesman Iraj Harirchi as saying on Thursday.

Over a bus rollover which took place on June 22 on a road linking the southern cities of Shiraz and Kerman 19 passengers who were all soldiers passed away and dozens got injured.



'I was frozen': Czech tourist lost in New Zealand wilderness recalls ordeal

The Czech couple knew they were in trouble.

As heavy snow continued to fall, making the hiking trail they were walking on New Zealand's south island slippery and treacherous, they decided to make for a small warden's hut nearby.

That was when tragedy struck. Ondrej Petr, 27, fell down a steep slope, becoming trapped in a heap of rocks and broken branches.

His partner, Pavlina Pizova, also injured in the fall, attempted to help him, but he soon succumbed to his injuries and the extreme weather.

Pizova said she huddled next to his lifeless body for almost 24 hours, wrapping herself in as many layers as she could find and hoping against hope that help would come.

Survivor

Finally, determined that she would not herself die, she struck out for the cabin alone, wading through deep snow covering the trail and other hiker's tracks for another two days until she found it.

She would spend the next five weeks in the hut, surviving off its meager winter supplies and attempting to reach the outside world. She even drew a giant letter "H" in the snow with ashes from the fire, but to no avail.

During her time in the hut, Pizova said she saw "many avalanches."

Finally, she was found on Wednesday by a helicopter search and rescue team, who had been alerted by friends back in the Czech Republic weeks after her disappearance.

Deadly mistakes

Pizova described her harrowing ordeal and the tragic accident that began it in a press conference Thursday.

"After (Petr's) death it took three nights in the open



before I reached the safety of the hut. I was walking through waist deep snow and because of that the track lines were covered," she said. "My feet were frozen."

Though she made several attempts to make it back to civilization, she always returned to the relative safety of the hut, forced back by deep snow and extreme conditions.

"I am aware we made a few mistakes," she said, adding that they had underestimated the difficult conditions on the trail during winter, failed to carry a personal locator beacon (PLB) and did not inform anyone of their intentions.

"All these aspects contributed to our tragedy."

Visibly emotional, Pizova thanked New Zealand police "for their efforts to bring me to safety."

Tourists from Czech Republic

The missing couple began to hike the popular Routeburn Track on July 28, a month before they were reported missing by the Czech Embassy.

"It's very unusual for someone to be missing in the

New Zealand bush for such a long period without it being reported," New Zealand's Otago Lakes Central Area Commander Inspector Olaf Jensen said.

It wasn't clear why it took so long for anyone to notice the couple was missing.

Pizova said she attempted to use the radio in the hut, but was unable to get it to turn on or understand English instructions on how to fix it.

Vladka Kennett, Consul for the Czech Republic, said the hiker also attempted to signal helicopters overhead and draw a sign outside in ash.

"I give her enormous credit, she tried really hard to get out," Kennett said, adding that Pizova now "really wants to go home, back to her family."

Rare deaths on remote track

New Zealand's Department of Conservation, who owned the warden's hut, said there significant hazards walking the Routeburn Track in winter.

"Huts on the track are open but wardens' quarters are locked. Huts are not regularly checked during the off season," Department of Conservation's Wakatipu operations manager Geoff Owen said in a statement.

A spokesman for New Zealand police said Pizova "made the right decision to stay put and wait to be rescued."

Deaths on New Zealand's hiking trails are very rare, New Zealand Mountain Safety Council spokesman told CNN, with an average of six people dying every year.

"To give you an understanding, annual participation in tramping is a little over 321,000 local people (on average), while for international visitors it's close to 447,000 per annum," he said.

The spokesman said the Routeburn Track could be a difficult track to hike during the winter months.

(Source: CNN)

IN FOCUS IRNA/ Abouzar Ahmadzadeh



The first cactus festival of the southeastern Iran is ongoing in Kerman province. The seven-day festival will last until August 28.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

Childhood obesity on the rise in Iran

Some 30 percent of children in Iran are suffering from obesity which is on the rise due to lack of movement, an official with the Health Ministry has warned.

Childhood obesity is pretty worrying and is getting worse as children hardly move and healthy food are mostly replaced by fast food and junk foods, Davoud Khalili told IRNA on Friday.

Unless the ministry takes effective measures to reverse this situation the future generation would face some serious health conditions, Khalili highlighted.

Generally some 60 percent of adults in Iran suffer from obesity which is more endemic among women than men, he added.

شیوع بالای چاقی در کودکان

یکی از مسئولین وزارت بهداشت، درمان و آموزش پزشکی هشدار داد: حدود ۳۰ درصد کودکان چاق هستند و میزان چاقی در کودکان به علت کم تحرکی رو به افزایش است. داود خلیلی روز جمعه در گفت و گو با ایرنا گفت: افزایش چاقی در کودکان واقعاً نگران کننده است، تحرک و فعالیت بدنی در کودکان به شدت کاهش یافته ست و مصرف غذاهای آماده (فست فود) و تنقلات چاق کننده بر روند شتاب چاقی کودکان در کشور افزوده است. وی خاطر نشان کرد: وزارت بهداشت باید برای کاهش چاقی کودکان فکر جدی بکنند در غیر این صورت نسل آینده ایران با معضلات و بیماریهای زیادی مواجه می شود. وی افزود: به طور کلی بیش از ۶۰ درصد بزرگسالان و افراد بالغ در کشور یا اضافه وزن دارند یا چاق هستند، میزان چاقی در زنان بیشتر است.

ENGLISH PROVERB

Like father, like son

Explanation: a son's character can be expected to resemble his father's

For example: Jill: George's father smoked all the time, and now George is smoking excessively, too. Jane: Like father, like son.

PHRASAL VERB

Bail on somebody

Meaning: stop supporting someone when they are in trouble; to walk out on someone; to leave someone

For example: She bailed on me after all we had been through together.

ENGLISH IDIOM

All hands on deck

Explanation: when there is a need for all hands on deck, everyone must help, especially when there is a lot of work to be done in a short amount of time

For example: As the opening day approached, it was all hands on deck to have everything ready in time.

Hungary is planning to build a second fence on its southern border with Serbia to keep out any major new wave of refugees, Prime Minister Viktor Orban announced.

A 500km barrier - a razor-wire fence - was built last year along Hungary's border with Serbia and Croatia after the country witnessed an increase of refugees moving up from the Balkans towards northern Europe.

Stricter border patrols and the makeshift wall have led to a significant decrease in the number of refugees reaching Hungary. Last year around 400,000 migrants crossed Hungary on their way to western and northern Europe, but less than 18,000 have entered in 2016, according to official data.

"Technical planning is under way to erect a massive defense system next to the existing line of defense which was built quickly [last year]," Orban said in an interview with the Hungarian public radio before adding that police presence would also be boosted to 47,000 from 44,000.

"If it doesn't work with nice words, we'll have to stop them with force, and we will do so."

Hungary's treatment of refugees has been heavily criticized over the last year.

Those who pass the Hungarian-Serbian border get stuck in a "no man's land",

Hungary to build second border fence to stop refugees



Hungarian territory that the authorities do not administer.

A recent report by Human Rights Watch (HRW) cited refugees claiming

border guards beat up the ones who tried to make their way from "no-man's land" into Hungary.

"Hungary is breaking all the rules for

asylum-seekers," HRW researcher Lydia Gall said.

"The European Commission should use its enforcement powers to press Budapest to comply with its obligation under EU law, to provide meaningful access to asylum and fair procedures for those at its borders and on its territory."

Meeting Merkel

Elsewhere, Orban criticized the EU's policy of taking in refugees and distributing them over its member states based on a refugee quota. He is due to meet and discuss the policy with German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

"The question is whether Angela Merkel will be willing to change this flawed Brussels decision and whether she is willing to fight with us for this or not," Orban said.

Turkey and the European Union are currently working together to minimize the number of refugees traveling from Turkey through the Balkans to reach Europe.

Recent tensions between the EU and Turkey have led to this deal being called into question by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

If the deal breaks down, Hungary might see an increase in refugees reaching its borders, which has prompted the plans for this second border fence.

(Source: Al Jazeera)

JUMP

Syria: Aid convoys enter Daraya after deal to end siege

However, activists told Al Jazeera that they were extremely concerned over the safety of civilians, many of whom are relatives of the rebels.

Some opposition groups also criticized the deal, calling it a major.

Militants to leave southern Damascus

Hundreds of foreign-sponsored militants are expected to leave a besieged suburb of the Syrian capital Damascus within the next few days under an accord struck with the government forces.

Seven hundred armed men will depart Darayya, situated eight kilometers (five miles) southwest of Damascus, to the northwestern city of Idlib, after they handed over their medium-caliber and heavy weapons to the army soldiers, Syria's official SANA news agency reported.

Abu Jamal, a militant commander, said the evacuation would start on Friday and last for two or three days.

Darayya has been under siege since November 2012. It has become one of the most heavily-bombed militant-held areas during Syria's conflict, which is now in its sixth year.

Syria has been gripped by foreign-backed militancy since March 2011. United Nations Special Envoy for Syria Staffan de Mistura estimates that over 400,000 people have been killed in the conflict.

However, the UN no longer keeps track of the death toll due to the inaccessibility of many areas and the complications of navigating conflicting statistics put forward by the Syrian government and armed opposition groups.

Back in 2014, the UN said it would no more update its official death toll for Syria.

(Source: agencies)

Somalia: Al-Shabab gunmen attack beach restaurant

At least 10 people have been killed after al-Shabab fighters attacked a beach restaurant in the capital Mogadishu with a car bomb before entering into a gunfight with security forces, according to police and the group.

"A car bomb exploded at Banadir beach restaurant at Lido beach and there is exchange of gunfire. We have no other details so far," Major Ahmed Ibrahim, a police officer, told Reuters news agency on Thursday.

The al-Qaeda-linked al-Shabab group claimed responsibility for the attack.

"We attacked the Banadir beach restaurant and now our fighters are fighting inside it," Abdiasis Abu Musab, its military operation spokesman, told Reuters.

The Associated Press news agency reported that a car bomber had prematurely detonated an explosives-laden vehicle near the new Turkish embassy compound in the capital, according to a Somali police officer.

Al-Shabab has carried out a series of deadly attacks in Somalia to try to topple the Western-backed government.

In January, its fighters stormed another restaurant on



Lido beach, killing 17 people.

On Thursday, Reuters witnesses near the scene of the beach attack said the restaurant had been sealed off by security officers and that the attackers had lobbed grenades at the officers and fired at them.

They said they had also seen two bodies lying on the ground.

Internal Security Minister Abdirizak Omar Mohamed said on his Twitter account: "Warning: People near the blast scene should stay in the hotels and in their houses in which they are inside. Cars should not enter Lido beach area."

Al-Shabab was pushed out of Mogadishu by the African Union peacekeeping force AMISOM (African Union Mission in Somalia) in 2011 but has remained a potent threat in Somalia, launching frequent attacks aimed at overthrowing the Western-backed government.

In a separate incident in southern Somalia, a roadside bomb believed to have been planted by al-Shabab terrorists wounded at three people in Baardheere town in Gedo region, Colonel Hussein Nur, a police officer in the town, told Reuters by phone.

On Sunday, more than 20 people were killed when its suicide bombers detonated two car bombs at a local government headquarters in Somalia's semi-autonomous Puntland region.

(Source: agencies)

Bolivian minister Rodolfo Illanes 'killed by miners'

Bolivia's Deputy Interior Minister, Rodolfo Illanes, has been killed after being kidnapped by protesting miners, a senior government official has said.

"All the indications are that our deputy minister Rodolfo Illanes has been brutally and cowardly assassinated," Carlos Romero, the minister of government, said late on Thursday in comments quoted by the Reuters news agency.

He said that the 56-year-old had gone to talk to protesters earlier on Thursday in Panduro, around 160km from the capital, La Paz, but was intercepted and kidnapped by striking miners.

The government was trying to recover his body, Romero said.

Local media also reported Illanes' death, citing a radio station director who claimed he saw his body.

Protesters have been demanding more mining concessions with less stringent environmental rules, the right to

work for private companies, and greater union representation.

Protests turned violent this week after two workers were killed on Wednesday after shots were fired by police. The government said 17 police officers had been wounded.

The National Federation of Mining Cooperatives of Bolivia, once strong allies of leftist President Evo Morales, began what they said was an indefinite protest after negotiations over mining legislation failed.

Morales nationalized Bolivia's resources sector after taking power in 2006, initially winning plaudits for ploughing the profits into welfare programs and boosting development.

However, his government has been dogged by accusations of cronyism and authoritarianism in recent years, and even the unions who were once his core support have become disillusioned with him as falling prices have limited spending.

(Source: agencies)

Three die in crossbow attack in Toronto, man in custody: police

Three people were killed in an attack involving a crossbow in Toronto's East End and a man was taken into custody, a police spokesman said.

In a related incident, police evacuated a building in the Downtown Core area of the city later in the day due to a suspicious package, Detective Mike Carbone told a news conference. He gave no details on how it was related or what the package contained.

All of the victims were adults, while one other person was taken to hospital, Carbone said.

The National Post newspaper reported that the three victims were shot with a crossbow in the garage of a Toronto home and left to bleed out onto the driveway. Drone footage appeared to show at least one body covered by a tarp in the driveway.

In the initial incident, police responding to a call about a stabbing found three people who appeared to have

been wounded by crossbow bolts, said another police spokesman David Hopkinson. The two men and a woman were pronounced dead.

An unidentified man, 35, was taken into custody, police said.

"We don't have any idea with regards to why this may have happened," said Hopkinson.

According to the Post, one of the victims made a 911 call, and the suspect was also seriously wounded.

Television footage showed police tape surrounding part of a residential street in Scarborough, a suburban area east of the city's downtown area.

In 2010, a man shot his father in the back with a crossbow in a Toronto public library before smashing his skull with a hammer. Zhou Fang, who had suffered domestic abuse, was convicted of a lesser charge of second-degree murder.

(Source: Reuters)

Zimbabwe police teargas anti-Mugabe protesters

Riot police in Zimbabwe once again fired tear gas, beat up protesters and blocked off the site of an opposition rally in Harare, the latest in a string of demonstrations to hit the country.

Friday's rally, which was authorized by a court, was to demand electoral reforms before 2018 when 92-year-old President Robert Mugabe, who has ruled the southern African country for decades, will seek re-election.

Demonstrators fought back by throwing stones at police while some set tires ablaze and others pulled down the sign for a street named after Mugabe.

Some people caught up in the melee, including children going to an agricultural show nearby, ran for shelter in the magistrate's court building, while riot police pursued the demonstrators and threatened journalists covering the rally.

The usually bustling pavements were clear of street hawkers while some shops were shut and stones, sticks and burning tires were strewn across the streets.

The opposition protesters also clashed with supporters of the ruling ZANU-PF party who had refused to clear their street stalls.

The ZANU-PF youths hurled stones at the opposition activists but were overpowered and their market stalls were set on fire.

High court judge Hlekani Mwayera ordered the police and government "not to interfere, obstruct or stop



the march" organized by 18 opposition parties including the Movement for Democratic Change led by Morgan Tsvangirai and the Zimbabwe People First formed this year by former vice president Joice Mujuru.

"We view this as victory for democracy," opposition spokesman Douglas Mwonozora said after the court ruling.

"The demonstration is going ahead (although) we know the police have already tear-gassed the venue."

The move to seek court backing came a day after police violently put down another march by opposition

youths, firing tear gas and water cannon and beating them as they staged a protest against police brutality.

Foreign diplomatic missions based in Harare called on the authorities to ensure that basic human rights and freedoms are respected during policing.

Police tried to "discourage" Friday's march, saying the anticipated crowd of around 150,000 would disrupt business and traffic.

But the opposition was defiant and resorted to the courts for protection.

Former cabinet minister Didymus Mutasa, spokesman for the National Electoral Reform Agenda which groups political parties pushing for the reforms, said the march was to demand free and fair elections.

Zimbabwe's last elections in 2013 were won by Mugabe in a vote the opposition said was rigged.

Home Affairs Minister Ignatius Chombo warned on Thursday that the government would clamp down heavily on what it termed "Western-sponsored" protests seeking "regime change".

Zimbabwe has seen a mounting tide of violent protests over the past weeks, with demonstrators calling on Mugabe to step down.

Mugabe, who has been in power since 1980, has overseen an economic collapse that has caused food and cash shortages, with the country battling to pay public servants.

(Source: agencies)

Erdogan, Putin agree to speed up efforts for Aleppo aid delivery

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Russia's Vladimir Putin agreed in a phone call on Friday to accelerate efforts to deliver aid to Syria's Aleppo, Erdogan's office said in a statement.



Erdogan informed Putin about Turkey's incursion into Syria that started early on Wednesday, and the two stressed the importance of cooperation for regional security against all "terrorist organizations", including the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Daesh), according to the statement.

Erdogan and Putin agreed to hold a bilateral meeting during the G20 Summit in China during the first week of September. Russia and Turkey have been repairing relations, which were strained after Turkey downed a Russian jet near the Syrian border last year.

(Source: Reuters)

ISIL terrorists execute over 25 young men in northern Iraq

Members of the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Daesh) terrorist group have reportedly executed more than two dozen young men in Iraq's northern province of Kirkuk as the terrorists continue committing crimes against humanity in various parts of the crisis-hit country.

Muhammed Tamim, a legislator from Kirkuk with the Arab Front for National Dialogue political party, told Arabic-language al-Sumaria television network that ISIL terrorists killed at least 25 people in secret prison in the town of Hawijah, located about 282 kilometers (175 miles) north of the capital, Baghdad, on Thursday.

Tamim added that the victims were residents of al-Abbasi, al-Zab and Riyad districts of the town. They were executed either by firing squad or decapitation on charges of collaboration with Iraqi security personnel or attempts to escape from Hawijah towards areas under the control of Kurdish Peshmerga forces.

On August 15, ISIL terrorists placed 25 local residents of Hawijah inside a booby-trapped house and then blew up the building.

An informed source, requesting not to be named, said ISIL terrorists had accused the victims of espionage and collaboration with Iraqi security forces.

Hassan Mahmoud al-Soufi, a commander of pro-government Popular Mobilization Units (al-Hashd al-Sha'abi), said on August 6 that ISIL terrorists had executed 61 people, among them a woman, by firing squad at a militant base on the outskirts of Hawijah.

Soufi said those killed were among the 3,000 civilians whom ISIL Takfiris had ambushed and captured days before as the former tried to flee from the militant-held city.

The northern and western parts of Iraq have been plagued by gruesome violence ever since the ISIL terrorists mounted an offensive in June 2014. The militants have been committing vicious crimes against all ethnic and religious communities in Iraq, including Shias, Sunnis, Kurds and Christians.

The Iraqi army and fighters from the Popular Mobilization Units have been engaged in joint operations to retake militant-held regions.

(Source: Press TV)

FOOTBALL

Iker Casillas left out of Julen Lopetegui's first Spain squad

Iker Casillas, Spain's most-capped player, was omitted from Julen Lopetegui's first squad as the new coach of La Roja on Friday.

Casillas, 35, has won two European Championships and the World Cup over the course of his 167 senior appearances for his country, but is not included on the list for the upcoming internationals against Belgium and Liechtenstein.

Fellow veterans Cesc Fabregas, Pedro Rodriguez, and Juanfran Torres were also left out of the squad to play Belgium in a friendly on Sept. 1 and then host Liechtenstein in their first 2018 World Cup qualifier four days later.

Former Real Madrid goalkeeper Casillas, who recently secured his place in the group stage of the Champions League for an 18th consecutive season with current club Porto, lost his place in the starting XI to Manchester United's David De Gea at Euro 2016.

Lopetegui, who brought Casillas to Porto last summer while in charge of the Portuguese club, moved earlier this week to deny reports that he was set to offer the goalkeeper a coaching role with the national team.

"I spoke with Casillas," Lopetegui, a former goalkeeper, told a news conference. "He is my friend and he is a reference point for the national team. We have decided that our starting goalkeeper is David De Gea."

"In any case we have not shut the door to Iker's place in the national team. Iker is a special player."

Fabregas was a member of Spain's squad in France this summer but the 29-year-old has had limited playing time for Chelsea at the start of this season.

"For the first time in 11 years Cesc is not here," Lopetegui said. "However, he is in our plans. He has only played 15 minutes in the first two official league games (for Chelsea). We will take into account his form and performances."

Fabregas's Chelsea teammate Costa is back. The Brazil-born striker has struggled to make an impact with Spain, scoring just once in 10 international appearances since becoming a naturalised player in 2014.

However, Costa has scored two goals in two league starts for Chelsea and Lopetegui expects good things from the 27-year-old. "Diego has convinced us," Lopetegui said. "He's had a good pre-season and a good start to the campaign. His presence in the team is positive. I want us to have different alternatives in attack even if we play the same style of football."

"Diego fits in perfectly with what we want."

Manchester United's Juan Mata missed the cut for Euro 2016 but is back. Real Madrid's Marco Asensio has made the list of 24 after an impressive summer with his club. Asensio scored in Real's European Super Cup final win over Sevilla and in his team's 3-0 triumph at Real Sociedad in their La Liga opener.

"He has had a great pre-season and a great start to the season," Lopetegui said. "He has quality, youth, he is a very interesting player. He is showing a lot of maturity. We hope he will show that with us and we will try to help him."

Lopetegui replaced Del Bosque, who stepped down after eight years in charge following Spain's round-of-16 elimination from Euro 2016.

(Source: Soccernet)

Europe's top four leagues guaranteed four Champions League places

Europe's top four leagues will have four automatic places in the Champions League group stage from the 2018-19 season onwards, Uefa has announced.

The move, which is understood to have been championed by representatives from Spain and Italy, has partly been driven by the potential threat of a breakaway European Super League by top clubs.

Other changes implemented by Uefa, to take effect in 2018 when the new three-year commercial cycle begins, will see clubs judged on their own records, deleting the country share for the individual club coefficient unless that coefficient is lower than 20 per cent of the association's coefficient.

Historical success in the competition will also be acknowledged in coefficient calculation with points awarded for previous European titles, while financial distribution to clubs will be increased significantly for both the Champions League and Europa League.

The Champions League will continue to have a 32-team group stage and a 16-club knockout phase and the Europa League remains at 48 teams, although in a new development the winners will automatically qualify for the Champions League group stage as currently they can potentially take part in a play-off round.

"The evolution of Uefa's club competitions is the result of a wide-ranging consultative process involving all stakeholders and taking into account a wide range of expertise and perspectives," said Uefa's general secretary ad interim Theodore Theodoridis. "The amendments made will continue to ensure qualification based on sporting merit, and the right of all associations and their clubs to compete in Europe's elite club competitions."

"We are happy that European football remains united behind the concepts of solidarity, fair competition, fair distribution and good governance."

Karl-Heinz Rummenigge, chairman of the European Clubs Association, which lobbies on behalf of teams playing in continental competition, said: "I welcome Uefa's decision, it reflects a serious and fair solution for European club football. I am particularly pleased with the fact that the European football community remains united moving forward."

(Source: Guardian)



Guardiola returning to Barca in Champions League

Pep Guardiola will return to the Nou Camp in the Champions League group stage after his new club Manchester City were drawn against his former Barcelona team on Thursday in one of the toughest of the eight groups.

Bayern Munich were given a quick chance to avenge last season's semi-final defeat by Atletico Madrid after they were drawn together while English Premier League winners Leicester City will face Porto, Club Brugge and Copenhagen on their debut.

Elsewhere, holders and 11-times champions Real Madrid renew their recent rivalry with Borussia Dortmund.

Barca and City were drawn in Group C alongside Borussia Moenchengladbach and former European champions Celtic, with recent history clearly favouring the Catalans.

Spanish coach Guardiola, who won the Champions League twice with Barca, suffered a 5-3 aggregate defeat when he faced his old team with Bayern in the semi-finals two seasons ago.

City, who visit the Nou Camp on Oct. 19, met Barca in the round of 16 in 2013-14 and 2014-15 and lost both legs on each occasion.

Bayern, now under triple Champions League winner Carlo Ancelotti, and Atletico are clear favourites to progress from Group D which also features PSV Eindhoven and Russian league runners-up Rostov who are also group-stage debutants.

Ancelotti was cautious, however, pointing out that Atletico needed a penalty shootout to beat PSV last season and that Rostov eliminated Ajax Amsterdam in the playoffs this week.

"It's a difficult draw and we have to be careful," he said.

Real and Dortmund should go through from Group F at the expense of Sporting and Legia Warsaw, who are back in the group stage after a 20-year absence.



CLASSIC MATCHES

Dortmund knocked out Real in the semi-finals in 2013 but the Spanish giants came out on top the following season in the last eight.

"It's difficult but attractive. Matches against Real are becoming classics for Dortmund. We are looking forward to meeting the holders," said Dortmund coach Thomas Tuchel.

Apart from the odd heavyweight clash, many of the groups look predictable, a criticism that has increasingly been levelled at the competition in recent years.

Leicester, the other newcomers among the 32 teams, and Porto will start as favourites in Group G even though the English side are taking part for the first time.

Porto are in the group stage for the 21st time, a record they share with Real and Barca, but the double champions from Portugal have won only three of their last 16 ties against English teams in the competition.

Paris St Germain and Arsenal, who are attempting to reach the round of 16 for the 17th time in a row, are the favourites in Group A against Basel and rank Bulgarian outsiders Ludogorets although the Swiss have caused upsets in the past.

Juventus, Serie A winners for the last five seasons, face Sevilla, Olympique Lyonnais and Dinamo Zagreb in Group H with the first three likely to battle for the top two places.

For the third season running Serie A

has only two teams in the group stage. The other side, Napoli, will meet Benfica, Besiktas and Dynamo Kiev in Group B.

Group E is arguably the most evenly-balanced with CSKA Moscow, Bayer Leverkusen, Tottenham Hotspur and Monaco.

It has been widely reported in the media that organisers UEFA, under pressure from the big clubs to reform the competition, will change the format from 2018-19 to allow four guaranteed places for England, Spain, Italy and Germany.

UEFA, which has faced talk of a breakaway Super League, has said only that it is studying possible changes for the 2018-21 cycle.

(Source: Reuters)

Brazilian police recommend charges against U.S. swimmer Lochte



Brazilian police recommended on Thursday that prosecutors present charges against Ryan Lochte for a false crime report, after the U.S. swimmer told police and media last week that he and three team mates were robbed at gunpoint during the Rio Olympics.

Brazilian police said no such crime took place and that Lochte was responsible for an act of vandalism in

a gas station while returning home drunk after a party.

A police statement on Thursday said the officer in charge of the investigation had recommended to judges that Lochte be deported in the United States and that a transcript be sent to the ethical commission of the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

(Source: Reuters)

Ronaldo: Pique can look at my 'very pretty' tweet!



The Barca defender took aim at Real's run to last season's Champions League final earlier in the week but the Blancos star was light-hearted in his response.

Real Madrid star Cristiano Ronaldo directed Barcelona rival Gerard Pique to his "very pretty" tweet after winning the UEFA Best Player in Europe award.

Outspoken defender Pique courted controversy earlier in the week when he took aim at Madrid's "easy" Champions

League group and run to the final of the competition last season.

Ronaldo was asked to respond to the jibe after claiming the individual prize in Monaco on Thursday but refused to rise to the bait.

"Well, I'm not going to answer," he told the El Larguero radio show. "What I can say to Pique is that he can see my tweet [with a] very pretty photo."

(Source: Goal)

Thierry Henry joins Belgium as Roberto Martinez's assistant coach

Thierry Henry will join the Belgium national team's coaching staff as Roberto Martinez's assistant.

Former France international Henry had been working as coach of Arsenal's under-18 side before leaving last month after Arsene Wenger told him he could not continue in the role unless he quit his work as a TV pundit.

However, he will now work with former Wigan and Everton boss Martinez as Belgium look to rebuild following a disappointing Euro 2016 campaign.

Henry, 39, won the 1998 World Cup and Euro 2000

with France.

He wrote on Twitter: "Honoured to be assistant coach @BelRedDevils. Thanks to Roberto Martinez & the Royal Belgian Football Association. Very excited. Can't wait."

Martinez, who replaced Marc Wilmots as Belgium boss after Euro 2016, told a news conference on Friday that he was "very satisfied" with the staff at his disposal as he prepares to start the 2018 World Cup qualification campaign.

(Source: ESPN)



Pep Guardiola 'was in his own world' at Bayern Munich - Thomas Muller

Bayern Munich forward Thomas Muller has said coach Carlo Ancelotti is closer to the players than his predecessor Pep Guardiola, telling Bild: "Pep was thinking about perfect solutions all day long."

Muller, 26, begins his eighth Bundesliga season with Bayern when the German

champions host Werder Bremen on Friday. Ancelotti is his fourth manager at the club after Louis van Gaal, Jupp Heynckes and Guardiola.

"Ancelotti is a bit closer to the players. Pep was somewhat in his own world," Muller said.

"All day long he'd think about how he could move players by two, three meters in a certain situation on the pitch to find a perfect solution. That was crazy in a positive sense."

He said training under Ancelotti was "fun," adding: "He has a good way of

handling players, and I hope that we'll be successful."

Guardiola won three consecutive league titles with Bayern but was criticised by winger Franck Ribery, who said he "lacks experience" and "sometimes talks too much."

(Source: Soccernet)

Iran crowned Continental Beach Soccer Tournament champion

SPORTS Iran became the champion of the Continental Beach Soccer Tournament Ordos on Thursday, following an impressive win over 2015 Asian champion Oman.

Indeed, the two most recent Asian champions faced off in the final of this Asian showdown in Ordos, China, with the Persian side claiming the crown in this maiden edition.

Amir Akhbari was in hand for the Iranians again, with another brilliant performance that confirmed him as both the top scorer and the most valuable player of the event. Peyman Hosseini, to no one's surprise, was named best goalkeeper of the competition.

Another former Asian champion, Japan, ended up third after a 4-8 win over Vietnam, beachsoccer.com wrote.

These were the results in the final matchday of the Continental Beach Soccer Tournament Ordos 2016:

Lebanon 3-4 Bahrain (Play-off for 7th place)

China 1-5 Thailand (Play-off for 5th place)

Vietnam 4-8 Japan (Play-off for 3rd place)

Oman 3-6 Iran (FINAL)

Final Standings

CHAMPION: Iran

Runner-up: Oman

3rd place: Japan



4th place: Vietnam
5th place: Thailand
6th place: China

7th place: Bahrain
8th place: Lebanon
Individual awards

MVP: Amir Akhbari (IRN)
Top Scorer: Amir Akhbari (IRN)
Best goalkeeper: P. Hosseini (IRN)

Qatar football has improved a lot recently, says Ashkan Dejagah



SPORTS Iranian international player Ashkan Dejagah believes that Qatar football team is in a good condition and may cause problems for Iran in the 2018 FIFA World Cup qualifying stage.

"Over the last four years Qatar football has improved a lot in every aspect. I believe they are a strong opponent and have a good chance of qualifying for the World Cup. South Korea is the favorites, China is tough to beat at home while Uzbekistan is a complicated team so we're not in an easy group," Dejagah said.

"We are going to take the three points in the first step against Qatar at Tehran's Azadi Stadium in order to make a strong

start and make our fans happy," he added.

"I'll never forget my first international goal for Iran in February 2012. It was against Qatar and the game finished 2-2 but I will never forget those two goals in my first international game with Iran jersey," former Fulham player added.

The Persians will play Qatar in the first game of 2018 World Cup qualification third round on September 1 while it has to face China five days later in Shenyang, more than 6,000 kilometer away.

Iran has been drawn in Group A of the World Cup qualification along with Uzbekistan, China, Qatar and Syria.

I am going to defend my title, Olympic gold medalist Yazdani says



SPORTS TEHRAN — Hassan Yazdani says that he will try from now on to repeat his gold medal at the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo.

Iranian wrestler came from six points down to beat Russian Anuar Geduev in a dramatic men's -74kg freestyle gold medal bout in the Rio 2016 Olympic Games.

"I really fought very hard and gave my heart out. The gold medal belongs to Iranian people and I am so glad to meet the expectations," Yazdani told Mehr news agency.

"I know my responsibility is heavier because everyone wants me to win gold medal from now on. I want to defend my title in the upcoming competitions, in

particular Olympic Games," the 21-year-old said.

Geduev was favorite to win the gold medal after beating reigning Olympic champion Jordan Burroughs in the category.

"Geduev is a very powerful wrestler and has won a bronze medal in the World Championships in Las Vegas. He defeated Burroughs and it shows he has high potential," Yazdani added.

"I am so happy for returning to my country with a valuable medal. Now, I need to rest for one month and then I will start my trainings. I want to repeat my goal in the upcoming competitions," Yazdani concluded.

"We're targeting the semi-finals": Hossein Tayebi

When Hossein Tayebi stepped into the fray at the Huamark Indoor Stadium during Iran's opening game at the FIFA Futsal World Cup Thailand 2012, he could scarcely have imagined that he would steal the show by notching the decisive goal as his country held eventual finalists Spain to a draw.

Just 24 at the time, he was the third youngest member of an Iran squad embarking on their sixth Futsal World Cup campaign. He began the match on the bench, but made his mark after coming on and then opening his account in this prestigious tournament.

Tayebi recently looked back on this experience in an interview with FIFA.com: "We couldn't have got off to a better start in the competition. As I recall, we could even have beaten Spain. Personally speaking, I couldn't have dreamed of a better start to the World Cup because my goal earned us a point."

"We played that first game with all our heart. We were determined to get that World Cup up and running on a positive note. The staff had studied Spain's style of play in depth and I remember that we almost scored a winner, hitting the post at 2-2. Spain performed well against us — they're a great team and I have a lot of respect for them."

Following this draw with the Spaniards, Iran overcame Morocco and Panama to progress from the group in second place. However, their run was ended in the Round of 16 by Colombia, a defeat that continued to rankle the Tasisat Daryaei schemer for a long while afterwards.

"It was really disappointing to get knocked out by Colombia. I can remember the match perfectly. We had a man sent off. We hardly allowed Colombia any chances, but then we lost it in the final moments. Before Thailand 2012, no one expected us to go out at that stage, but futsal dealt us a cruel hand that day."

Reunion time

Iran will be up against some familiar faces in the



group stage of the FIFA Futsal World Cup Colombia 2016, where they will take on not just Spain but also Morocco, whom Tayebi and Co edged past four years ago. Their third opponents, meanwhile, will be somewhat more of an unknown quantity in Azerbaijan.

The Asian champions will once again be kicking off against Spain, on this occasion in Medellin on 12 September. Tayebi stressed that he and his team-mates will be gunning for victory in this heavyweight bout: "I can assure you that every time the Iranian national futsal team enter the pitch, we do so to win, because we're among the world's powerhouses in this sport. We respect the Spaniards but we want to win our first match in Colombia. Encounters between Spain and Iran are always spectacular and tight affairs, but we're determined to get the win."

"We know that Azerbaijan have a strong team, even though we've never faced them," he continued. "The coaching staff have watched two of their games, though, and told us that they play some good stuff. As I said before, we play to win and that match will be no exception."

Despite his confidence in his own side's abilities, Tayebi is nevertheless mindful that several other countries have kicked on in recent years and so it will prove a tough task for Iran to achieve their goal of advancing to at least the last four.

"I think most teams' level has improved, which means the competition will be stiff and there will be no easy games. There are no favourites on paper and every side will be made to work hard for wins."

"We're going to do our best to reach the semi-finals of the World Cup and play with heart. We respect all the other teams a great deal, but we're determined to succeed."

Inspired by Shamsae

Tayebi is hopeful that the strike he bagged in Thailand four years ago will not be his last on the world stage, although collective glory remains his number-one target. "I was delighted to find the net against Spain. It was the most important goal of my career. Scoring at a World Cup is something unforgettable for any player," he said, before quickly clarifying that, "As far as I'm concerned, the team's success comes before my scoring statistics."

"It's exciting to see your name on the scoresheet in a World Cup match but, like I said, the team's targets are more important. The fact that I've scored at a World Cup before shows that I can play my part within the group."

In his eagerness to do his bit and perform his role with aplomb, Tayebi is inspired by the example of former Iran stars such as ex-national team captain Vahid Shamsae, whom he described as "one of the best players in futsal history."

"Vahid is a real legend and I have tremendous respect for him. He's a great man who had a lot of success in his career. I'm proud to be his compatriot. I love the way he played and I'm going to try to follow in his footsteps by living long in all the Iranian fans' memories."

Colombia 2016 could provide the perfect platform for Tayebi to fulfil this dream by not just adding to his World Cup goal tally, but accomplishing something that not even the great Shamsae was able to — helping his country through to the semi-finals of the global showpiece.

(Source: FIFA)

FOOTBALL

Sardar Azmoun – Rostov's Miracle Man

Sardar Azmoun rose up in the dark Rostov sky, connected well to the ball, and placed his header past Ajax Amsterdam keeper, Jasper Cillessen, to make it 1-0 for Rostov in the UEFA Champions League playoff match Rostov vs Ajax.

The goal in the 34th minute pushed the gates to the group stage of the Champions League wide open, as Ajax Amsterdam was now forced to play more offensively. In the second half, Ajax tried to gain control over the match, but Rostov's counter game was poison for Ajax's possession game, and Aleksandr Erokhin (52nd), Christian Noboa (60th), and Dmitry Poloz (66th) added three more goals.

The result means that Rostov's unlikely run to the very top of European football continues—despite the fact that the club is hindered by financial problems and lost their coach Kurban Berdyev. Azmoun, in particular, was impressive as the 21-year-old Iranian spearheaded Rostov's attacks throughout the match.

Azmoun's night was over in the 73rd minute when fellow striker, Aleksandr Bukharov, replaced him. Hence, Azmoun was no longer on the field when Ajax pulled a goal back after Davy Klaassen scored a penalty.

Sardar Azmoun was on loan from Rubin Kazan

Indeed, Azmoun's participation in the match was remarkable in itself. The Iranian was a major part of Rostov's run all the way to a second spot finish in the Russian Football Premier League last season. But the quick Iranian striker was only on loan from Rubin Kazan, and the Tatarstan based club expected very much that Azmoun would return to the club.

In the end, Azmoun refused to play for Rubin Kazan insisting that he wanted to return to Rostov, and continue his work under Kurban Berdyev. In the end, Rubin granted Azmoun his wish, and the Iranian striker, who is valued €7 million, returned to Berdyev's Rostov on a free transfer.

Azmoun then played in Rostov's third round Champions League qualifier against RSC Anderlecht. His goal in the second leg made it 2-0 against Anderlecht, and pretty much ensured his club's participation in the Champions League playoffs.

Berdyev departure put Azmoun's Rostov future in doubt

Following the victory against Anderlecht, however, Berdyev was gone, and there were speculations that several players could soon join Berdyev in his departure. Among them was Azmoun, who was apparently scouted by several big European clubs—among them FC Liverpool, Everton, Schalke 04, Bayer Leverkusen, and Olympique Marseille.

Furthermore, Spartak Moscow, which for a long time seemed to be the preferred destination for Berdyev, were also interested in signing the Iranian striker. Yet, with Rostov having reached the group stage of the UEFA Champions League it is unlikely that Azmoun will depart the club in the summer.

Yet scouts will continue to keep close tabs on the young and mobile striker, as the Iranian will certainly grow in his game during the UEFA Champions League group stage. Furthermore, Rostov's new coach, Dmitri Kirichenko, shows signs that he can successfully emulate Berdyev's coaching style.

In 2015-16 Azmoun was Rostov's top scorer

Under Berdyev last season, Sardar Azmoun scored nine goals in 24 matches for Rostov. Although this doesn't seem like a lot, it is substantial in a league that is widely considered a low scoring affair—the Ajax result aside—and with Rostov playing extremely defensively with often five men in the back.

Hence, in 30 games Rostov scored just 41 goals last season, which makes Azmoun's goal scoring prowess even more impressive. Playing for Rostov, as a striker, means that you have to be extremely patient, lurking at the halfway line for a quick counter attack. Also Rostov's defensive style means that strikers have to be complete strikers that are also expected to help out the defence whenever necessary.

Azmoun mastered those skills to perfection last season even though the Iranian has, so far, failed to score in two RFPL games this season. Like last season, Rostov will mostly rely on their defence first approach—but make no mistake, Azmoun will be deadly when he is given the chance to score.

Sardar Azmoun is a bit like Air Riedle

This goal scoring ability is especially impressive given the Iranian's skillset. The striker is equally adept with both feet, and although, at 183cm, Sardar Azmoun is not a giant, his goal against Ajax Amsterdam highlighted his aerial ability. In fact, as the ball was crossed into the box it briefly appeared that Azmoun stood in the air.

This goal, in particular, made me recall former Borussia Dortmund and Liverpool FC striker Karl-Heinz Riedle. Riedle was a gifted striker who, despite his low height of just 180cms, was known as Air Riedle in Germany, for his ability of seeming to stand in the air to receive crosses.

Hence, it would not be an exaggeration to compare Azmoun to the former German international. It is now up to Azmoun, however, to prove that he can play at the highest level in the Champions League before he makes the inevitable move to a big European league.

(Source: Bundesliga)





Poem of the day

Look not upon the dimple of her chin,
Danger lurks there!
Where wilt thou hide, oh trembling heart, fleeing in
Such mad haste--where?

Hafez

Prayer Times

Noon:13:06 Evening: 19:57 Dawn: 5:05 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:33 (tomorrow)

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

NEWS IN BRIEF



"Lives of Girls and Women" comes to Iranian bookstores

CULTURE TEHRAN — A Persian version of Canadian Nobel Prize-winning author Alice Munro's "Lives of Girls and Women" has recently been published by Butimar Publications in Tehran.

Translated by Maryam Oruji, the book is a collection of eight short stories narrated by a common character, Del Jordan, a young girl whose experiences in growing up from the basis of each story.

Published in 1971, the book won the Canadian Bookseller's Award.

WHAT'S IN ART GALLERIES

Painting

■ An exhibition of paintings by Dorsa Fayyazi and Rosita Sarraf is underway at Sayeh Gallery.

The exhibit entitled "Where I Am" runs until August 31 at the gallery, which can be found at 3 Aqakhani Alley, Omidvar St. in the Niavaran neighborhood.

Photo

■ A collection of black and white photographs by Emitis Soltani is currently on display at Eyvan Gallery.

The exhibition named "The Veil of Thoughts" will run until September 14 at the gallery located at 1 Hamid Dead End, off Lesani Alley, Jebbeh St., off Mahdiah St., in the Elahieh neighborhood.

Sculpture

■ Sculptures by Mojgan Khosravi are on display in an exhibition at Golestan Gallery.

The exhibit will be running until August 31 at the gallery located at 34 Kamasai St. in the Darus neighborhood.

■ Sohrab Gallery 2 is playing host to an exhibition of sculptures by Meysam Rezainia.

The exhibit named "The Hidden Masks" runs until September 6 at the gallery, which can be found at 11 Kachui St., off Evin St.

Multimedia

■ Mah Gallery is hosting an exhibition of paintings, sculptures, calligraphy works and photographs by 49 artists, including Aidin Aghdashlu, Azar Ahmadi, Shahu babai, Shahram Karimi and Farshid Maleki.

The exhibition will be underway until October 1 at the gallery located at 26 Golestan Blvd., off Africa Ave.

Actor Davud Rashidi dies at 83

A R T TEHRAN — Veteran actor Davud Rashidi, star of memorable movies like Kiumars Purahamd's "Bibi Chelcheleh", Ali Hatami's "Kamalolmolk", and Rasul Sadr-Ameli, and the acclaimed TV series "Hezardastan" and "Mokhtarnameh", died of heart failures at his home in Tehran on Friday. He was at 83.

"Unfortunately, the news is true," his daughter, Leili, told the Persian service of MNA, "Father died Friday morning." Rashidi had been suffering from Alzheimer's disease over the past few years.

His death came as a big shock to his colleagues and friends.

Speaking to the Persian service of ISNA, Parviz Parastui who costarred with Rashidi in director Bahmand Zarrinpur's 1994 TV series "The Song of Cuckoo" said, "I feel deeply sad" "I learned many things when we spent six months in Kerman working on 'The Song of the Cuckoo'," he added.

Parastui previously called Rashidi one of five living legends of Iranian cinema in acting. Ezzatollah Entezami, Mohammad-Ali Keshvarz, Jamshid Mashayekhi and Ali Nasirian are other pillars of the group.

In a condolence message sent to his family, Entezami, 92, also wrote, "He was knowledgeable and knew how to speak French fluently. He was at peace with everybody."

Mashayekhi wrote, "I know that his wife, Mrs. Borumand, really loved him; I hope that she can bear the great loss."

Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance Ali Jannati, Majlis speakers Ali Larjani, Cinema Organization of Iran Director Hojatollah Ayyubi and several cultural officials sent messages of condolences to his family.

Due to his father's diplomatic mission, Rashidi finished high school in Paris. He studied at the Conservatoire de Musique de Genève, a music school in Geneva, Switzerland. He also studied music, theater and political science at the University of Geneva.

In 1964, he returned home and was employed at the Theater Office of the Ministry of Culture. Shortly thereafter, he gathered actors Parviz Fannizadeh, Dariush Farhand, Mehdi Hashemi, Fahimeh Rastkar, Siavash Tahmures, Marzieh Borumand and Susan Taslami to establish the Emruz Theater Troupe, which performed many plays that were acclaimed by critics.



Actor Davud Rashidi in an undated photo

Rashidi left the Theater Office in 1973 to work as the director of the Theater and Entertainment Department of Iran National Television.

He costarred with Behruz Vosuqi in his acting debut movie "Escape the Trap" by Jalal Moqaddam in 1971.

"Many people warned me about Behruz, saying that he will degrade my role in that film... but we became friends. What they told me about him was not true," he said one in an interview.

After the victory of the Islamic Revolution in 1979, he chose to remain in Iran despite the fact that many of his colleagues left the country.

Playing the role of Javad Aqa in Purahamd's drama "Bibi

Chelcheleh" developed his reputation.

However, he was previously hired by Ali Hatami to play the role of an inspector, one of the leading roles in the acclaimed TV series "Hezardastan", which was produced between 1981 and 1986.

"I really liked 'Hezardastan' and also my part as Reza Shah in 'Kamalolmolk'," he once said.

For the last time, he made a cameo appearance in "Ekbatan" directed by Mehrshad Karkhani in 2011.

Rashidi is survived by his widow, Ehteram Borumand, his daughter, Leili, and his son, Farhad.

His funeral has been set for Sunday and he will be buried in Tehran's Behesht Zahra Cemetery.

Critics pick "Nightmares and Memories of a Bath Attendant" at annual celebration

A R T TEHRAN — Iran's Critic and Theatrical Writers Society of the Theater Forum selected "Nightmares and Memories of a Bath Attendant about the Life and Murder of Amir Kabir" by director Ali Rafiei as the best play of the year.

The play is based on "Amir Kabir", Iranian author Fereidun Adamiyat's biography of Amir Kabir, who was one of the most capable and innovative figures to appear during the entire Qajar period.

The winners of the society's 15th edition of the celebration were announced during a ceremony held at Tehran's Eyvan Shams Hall on Thursday, attended by a number of veteran theatrical figures, Persian media reported on Friday.

"Nightmares and Memories of a Bath Attendant"

was hailed and warmly received when it was on stage in January 2016.

Previously in May 1978, Rafiei had staged the play at Tehran's City Theater Complex with a strong cast, including Parviz Purhosseini, Mehdi Hashemi, Golab Adineh, Siavash Tahmures, Tania Johari and Reza Jian.

The ceremony was followed by tributes paid to the three veteran theatrical figures Asghar Dashti, Hamid Purazari and Amir-Reza Kuestani.

Prominent radio and television producer Fariborz Golbon was next honored on stage.

The ceremony was brought to an end by honoring actor and theater director Jafar Vaali and mass media expert Gholmarez Kazemi Dinan.



Director Ali Rafiei acknowledges the audiences after his play "Nightmares and Memories of a Bath Attendant about the Life and Murder of Amir Kabir" was named best play of the year by Iran's Critic and Theatrical Writers Society during a celebration at Tehran's Eyvan Shams Hall on August 25, 2016. (Mehr/Mohammad Moheimani)

PICTURE OF THE DAY Honaronline/Alireza Farahani



Art enthusiasts visit an exhibition of illustrations by the Wonderland Group at the Aria Gallery on August 25, 2016. Works by over 50 illustrators will be displayed until September 2 at the gallery located at 10 Zarrin Alley, near Behesht St., Vali-e Asr Ave.

Accidental mogul - China property billionaire's route to Hollywood

BEIJING (Reuters) — Wang Jianlin, the billionaire Chinese property tycoon turned entertainment mogul, says his push into movies was entirely accidental.

"We didn't have a choice, we were forced into it," Wang, whose Dalian Wanda Group controls Hollywood studio Legendary Pictures and U.S. cinema chain AMC Entertainment Holdings (AMC.N), told Reuters in an exclusive interview this week.

In 2006, Dalian Wanda Group was looking for a partner to operate movie theaters at the massive shopping malls it was building around the country.

Wang first turned to Time Warner (TWX.N), but the U.S. media giant was forced to quit China because of foreign ownership restrictions. Shanghai Media Group, a state-owned conglomerate, abandoned a separate deal.

Today, Wanda is not only the world's biggest commercial property developer, with 149 signature Wanda Plazas in China, but also the largest cinema operator, controlling more than 13,000 screens on four continents once current deals are closed.

NEWS

Dwayne Johnson dethrones Robert Downey Jr. as highest paid actor

NEW YORK (Reuters) — Wrestler-turned-actor Dwayne Johnson topped a Forbes magazine list of the world's highest paid actors on Thursday with an estimated 2016 payday of \$64.5 million.

Johnson, 44, knocked Robert Downey Jr. off the top spot and more than doubled his 2015 earnings, largely thanks to his action comedy "Central Intelligence." Johnson, known as "The Rock" during his wrestling career, also collected advance fees from the eighth installment of the popular "Fast and Furious" racing movie franchise.

The Forbes annual list again highlighted the pay gap between men and women in Hollywood. Earlier this week the magazine named "Hunger Games" star Jennifer Lawrence the world's highest paid actress for a second straight year, with an estimated 2016 take of \$46 million.

Forbes said 18 actors banked more than \$20 million in its June 2015-June 2016 scoring period, compared with four actresses.

Jackie Chan, who has not had a big U.S. box office hit for years but is a prolific actor and producer in the burgeoning Chinese entertainment market, was second on the list with \$61 million. Matt Damon came in third with \$55 million, largely due to the success of his 2015 space film "The Martian".

"Iron Man" Downey fell from top spot, despite reprising his comic book hero role in "Captain America: Civil War". He ranked eighth, tied with Bollywood star Shah Rukh Khan, with \$33 million.

Harrison Ford crept onto the list for the first time since 2009 thanks to his return as Han Solo in the blockbuster new "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" movie and video game. Ford, who also is to reprise his role as adventurer Indiana Jones in 2019, ranked 20th with earnings of about \$15 million.

AIBD meeting opens in Tehran

A R T TEHRAN — The Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) hosted the opening ceremony of the 42nd edition of the Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) General Conference in Tehran on Thursday, August 25.

The ceremony was attended by IRIB Director Abdol-Ali Ali-Asgari, secretary-general of the Iranian National Commission for UNESCO Sadollah Nasiri Qeydari and the conference director Rosarita Niken Widiastuti, IRIB announced in a press release published on Friday.

Speaking at the ceremony, Widiastuti said that these types of conferences and meetings help to build better programing and management.

These types of international conferences also give the participants a chance to meet and hold talks in person, while they also help to raise the standards of productions, she added.

She also asked for an increase in the number of members and expressed hopes that the conference would turn into a world assembly for developing respect among

the members.

At the end of the ceremony, the winners were announced. "Shingal's Children Banished by Daesh", a production of Iran's PRESS TV Channel by director Bjan Zamanpira, was the winner in the Best TV program category.

In addition, a documentary on Bagan from Korea and A radio program on the poor region Dongguan in China were among other winners.

The conference will be coming to an end today.