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Zarif sees Iran-Bolivia ties at good level

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## Iran needs \$100b for upstream oil, gas projects by 2021

By Mahnaz Abdi

**TEHRAN** — Upstream oil and gas sectors require \$100 billion of investment to meet the objectives of the country's Sixth National Development Plan (2016-2021), Abdolmohammad Delparish, the deputy managing director of National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) for corporate planning, said in a press conference in Tehran on Saturday.

The official also said that progress of the sixth plan is conditioned on materializing the objectives of developing oil industry.

"As you know, one of the main objectives of the sixth development plan is to achieve economic growth of eight percent, and based on this target, the Oil Ministry is planned to reach a nine-percent growth. Among all subsidiaries of the ministry, NIOC is in charge of the major part of responsibilities to meet the growth objective," Delparish stated.

The official further notified that the daily productions of oil, gas and gas condensate are projected to reach 4.5 million barrels, 1.3 billion cubic meters and 950,000 barrels respectively, according to the sixth development plan.

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## Tehran seeking troika with India, Russia as bulwark against terrorism

**POLITICS** **TEHRAN** — As a follow-up to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Tehran in May, Iranian Supreme National Security Council Ali Shamkhani

arrived in New Delhi on Friday, seeking a counterterrorism trio with India and Russia.

"Iran is ready to revive concerted cooperation between Tehran, New Delhi, and Moscow

to address security challenges," said the Iranian official in his visit with Indian National Security advisor Ajit Doval on Saturday.

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## Makarem Shirazi: Blocking internet unable to prevent damage

**POLITICS** **TEHRAN** — Ayatollah Nasser Makarem Shirazi has said blocking websites will not be effective to prevent damage inflicted.



A national network has to be created to fight the problem of social media, the senior cleric said on Saturday, Nasim reported.

## Iran takes over SEANZA rotating presidency

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — Iran took over the rotating presidency of South East Asia, New Zealand, Australia (SEANZA) regional group's secretariat, IRIB news reported on Saturday.

The Islamic Republic could receive the rotating chairmanship of the international body during the 30th SEANZA's meeting of central banks governors in Nepal where the governor of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) Valiollah Seif participated in. The two-day meeting, opened on Friday, focused on providing customers from all walks of life with financial services and wide-scale banking ones.

SEANZA regional group was established in 1956 with the aim of exchanging experiences and information as well as holding training courses, especially in the field of supervision.

This regional group consists of 20 main members such as China, Japan, India, Singapore and Australia without any permanent secretariat.

With the agreement of SEANZA members, a country is chosen as the rotating president for two years to hold events including training courses in cooperation with international institutions such as the FSI, consultative meeting, CBC and Governors Symposium (GS).

## Iran's national internet network starts

**SOCIETY** **TEHRAN** — The first phase of the national internet network, Iran's biggest communication project, will be launched today in attendance of First Vice-President Es'haq Jahangiri, Tasnim news agency reported.

The project will be inaugurated in the Communications and Information Technology Ministry.

A national internet network is an organization under the umbrella of a Regional Internet Registry with the task of coordinating IP address allocations and other Internet resource management functions at a national level within a country or economic unit.

As adopted by the Supreme Council of Cyberspace Iran's national internet network will operate do-

mestically and independently from all other networks in the world (internet). It is protected from all other networks globally with the ability to interact with them should the permission is granted.

The network is guaranteed to give the best service to all the users nationwide with the capability of making a safe connection to all the organizations and important bodies

within the country.

The network also facilitates encryption and digital signature for the users and provides high speed broadband for them. As announced by the secretary for the Supreme Council of Cyberspace the next two phases of this project are scheduled to finish by February 2017 and World Communication Day, May 8, 2017 respectively.

## At least 155 MKO terrorists flee Iraq to Albania: reports

At least 155 members of the Mujahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO), including a number of the group's senior leaders, have reportedly fled Iraq to Albania.

A U.S. passenger plane transferred the MKO terrorists, who had been holed up in Camp Liberty near Baghdad International Airport since the 2003 U.S.-led invasion of Iraq, early on Thursday, Didehban Strategic Institute reported.

The MKO is listed as a terrorist organization by much of the international community and has committed numerous terrorist acts against

Iranians and Iraqis.

Several high-ranking officials of the MKO terrorist group, possibly its ringleader Massoud Rajavi, were reportedly on board the U.S. plane.

An arrest warrant had been issued for the terrorists by the Iraqi government.

Didehban also quoted informed sources in Iraq as saying that the U.S. plane had had no other passenger but the MKO terrorists.

The terrorists' departure has been reportedly facilitated by the United States, the United Nations and with the cooperation of Saudi Arabia.

There is a deep-seated resentment toward

MKO in Iraq because of its criminal past. The group widely supported former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein in his brutal crackdown on opponents.

Iraqi leaders have long urged MKO remnants to leave the Arab country but a complete eviction of the terrorists has been hampered by the U.S. and European supporters of the group.

The terrorist group had to flee Iran shortly after the Islamic Revolution in 1979 after carrying out a spate of assassinations and bombings which took the lives of many top officials and civilians.

(Source: Press TV)

## Iran detects malware in petrochemical plants, rejects link to recent fires

**POLITICS** **TEHRAN** — Head of Iran's civilian defense said on Saturday that the country has detected and removed malicious software from its petrochemical units, rejecting links to recent fires in some of the country's petrochemical facilities, Mehr reported.

"Necessary defensive measures were taken" after the malware was detected and removed, according to brigadier general Gholam-Reza Jalali.

Over the past two months, a

number of Iran's petrochemical units, including Imam Khomeini as the biggest one, stopped operating wholly or partially due to fires.

The issue is still being probed by Iranian officials and expert teams. Initial informal speculations linked the fires to cyber-attacks.

Last week, Iran's National Cyberspace Council announced that it was investigating whether the recent fires triggered in petrochemical plants were caused by a cyber attack.

Following the investigations, Jalali said while the malicious software affected two petrochemical complexes, it did not play a role in the recent fires because it was inactive at the time.

According to the official, the malware packages petrochemical units had purchased from abroad were to blame.

"Investigations indicated that the industrial software packages, bought from foreign countries, were already corrupted,"

he added.

Iran has been increasingly afflicted with the threat of cyber attacks by foreign countries.

Learning from the cyber attack by the U.S. and Israel on its nuclear facilities in 2009, what came to be known as Stuxnet virus, the country has been upgrading its cyber security capabilities in recent years, developing homegrown firewalls for its sensitive facilities, including nuclear, military, and economy sites.

## 200 Iranian historic houses to undergo restoration by March 2017

**HERITAGE** **TEHRAN** — A top Iranian cultural official has said that some municipalities across the country will conserve a total of 200 historic houses in need of restoration by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2017).

Iran's Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicraft Organization (CHTHO) Director Masud Soltanifar announced the scheme on Thursday during his one-day visit to Lalejin in Hamedan Province.

Based on memorandums of understanding inked between the CHTHO and municipalities, the right for operating the restored houses has been transferred to the municipalities for a 20-year time span, he said.

Soltanifar made the remarks during the celebration for Lalejin's registration as the world pottery capital, a privilege given to the western Iranian city by jurors of the UNESCO-affiliated World Crafts Council.

The project which can indirectly benefit several businesses such as restaurants and hotels is currently being implemented in Fars, Kerman, Qazvin, Semnan, Isfahan, Gilan and several other provinces.

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## Iran elected to head AIBD General Conference

**CULTURE** **TEHRAN** — Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) has been elected as the president of the next edition of the Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development (AIBD) General Conference.

IRIB was elected during the 15th edition of the conference, which was held in Tehran from August 25 to 27.

IRIB Director Abdol-Ali Ali-Asgari will be the president of the conference for a two-year term, which begins from August 2016. Rosarita Niken Widiastuti, the director of Radio Republik Indonesia (RRI), was the former president of the AIBD General Conference.

## Bank Sarmayeh defeats Toyota Gosei Trefuerza at Asian Club Volleyball Championship

**SPORTS** **TEHRAN** — Iran's Bank Sarmayeh defeated Toyota Gosei Trefuerza from Japan 3-1 (28-26, 25-18, 23-25, 25-13) at the 2016 Asian Men's Club Volleyball Championship on Saturday.

Bank Sarmayeh will meet Taiwan Power in Pool F on Sunday.

Bank Sarmayeh has already defeated Kazakhstan's Altay VC (3-1), Malaysia (3-0) and Hong Kong (3-0) respectively in group stage. The final will be held on August 31. The awards presentation and closing ceremony will take place shortly after the final showdown.

Winner of the prestigious tournament will represent Asia at the FIVB Volleyball Men's Club World Championship at Belo Horizonte and Betim in Brazil.

The Tehran Times new pocket-sized glossary is now available on the market. The reader-friendly is a rich source of the most common journalistic terminology collected by the daily's retired staff.

It can benefit a wide range of tastes from students to professional journalists. Persian equivalents have been given for all entries, including idioms and expressions. The glossary also includes example sentences for entries the authors thought it would be a bit difficult to learn.

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## MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS



### Preparations being made for next presidential elections

**POLITICS TEHRAN** — The deputy interior minister for political affairs has said the ministry is preparing the ground for next year's presidential elections.

The ministry's electoral activities will officially begin in January, Mohammad Hossein Moqimi said, Mehr reported on Saturday. He made the remarks in a ceremony where he inaugurated a website for the registration of minorities.



### Afghan FM to visit Tehran

**POLITICS TEHRAN** — The foreign minister of Afghanistan will visit Tehran on Sunday. Salahuddin Rabbani will meet his Iranian counterpart Mohammad Javad Zarif before he sits for talks with Secretary of Supreme National Security Council Ali Shamkhani, the YJC reported on Saturday. Terrorism, drugs, and economic-political cooperation will be on agenda of the talks.



### Good potential for cooperation between Iran, Moldova: Paduraru

**POLITICS TEHRAN** — There is good potential for cooperation between Iran and Moldova, Secretary General of the Moldova's Presidential Chancellery Office Ion Paduraru said.

He made the remarks in a meeting with Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Asia-Pacific and Commonwealth Affairs Ibrahim Rahimpour on Friday, IRNA reported. Paduraru said that there is good potential for cooperation between the two states in all fields particularly in the fields of agriculture and economy.

During the meeting, Rahimpour referred to the history of ties between the two countries, adding that Iran was one of the first countries which recognized Moldova's independence.



### 7 major projects operational in presence of defense minister

**POLITICS TEHRAN** — Defense Minister Brigadier General Hossein Dehqan unveiled seven major geographical projects including the vertical take-off and landing (VTOL) drone for the first time in the country.

The projects became operational here Saturday on the fifth day of the national Government Week that started on August 23, IRNA reported.

The vertical take-off and landing unmanned drone is capable of receiving and processing the photogrammetric data. The first indigenous radar positioning system was also among those projects.



### Majlis to finalize biannual report on JCPOA in coming weeks

**POLITICS TEHRAN** — Chairman of the Iranian parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Committee said the body will finalize a six-month report on the process of implementing the July 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and world powers (known as the JCPOA) in coming weeks.

Speaking to the Tasnim News Agency, Alaeddin Boroujerdi pointed to efforts made to prepare the report on the process of implementing the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) over the past six months and said the members of National Security and Foreign Policy Committee are drafting the report.



### Reformists can only support Rouhani: Younesi

**POLITICS TEHRAN** — Ali Younesi, special aide to president in minorities' affairs, said on Saturday in an interview with Fars that reformists "have no choice but to support Rouhani" in the upcoming presidential elections.

Elsewhere in his remarks, he said "I am a strong supporter of the use of the Nojeh airbase."

Regarding the JCPOA, he said the deal "moved the shadow of war away from the country."

# Zarif sees Iran-Bolivia ties at good level

**POLITICS TEHRAN** — Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said on Friday that political and economic relations between Iran and Bolivia stand at a good level, calling for expansion of relations in various areas.

Zarif made the remarks during an economic conference in the Bolivian city of Santa Cruz, where he further expressed hope that the relations between Iran and Bolivia will expand enough to engage the private sector.

He also praised the Bolivian government and people's resistance against foreign sanctions imposed on the country.

Bolivian Foreign Minister David Choquehuanca Céspedes, for his turn, said that the conference is a good opportunity for the Iranian and Bolivian corpora-



Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif during an economic conference in the Bolivian city of Santa Cruz

tions to expand ties.

He also called for expansion of relations with Iranian partners in the environmental sphere.

The two countries signed a document for cooperation in the space sector, as well.

Zarif started his Latin America tour on Monday starting with Cuba, where he has already met with Cuban President Raul Castro, Bruno Rodriguez, the Cuban foreign minister, and the country's Minister of Economy and Vice-President Ricardo Cabrisas.

He also visited Ecuador, Chile and is scheduled to visit Venezuela, as well.

The top Iranian diplomat is accompanied by a high-ranking politico-economic delegation comprising 120 businessmen and financial executives from government and private sectors.

## Tehran seeking troika with India, Russia as bulwark against terrorism

### Iran urges closer cyber security, defense and economic ties with India



Particularly, the synergy can make inroads into the counterterrorism campaign and stability in Afghanistan, according to Shamkhani.

"Such reunion can act as a bulwark against terrorism and contribute to restoration of security and stability in Afghanistan."

Shamkhani's Indian counterpart also welcomed the initiative, saying, "The Indian government welcomes negotiations between India, China, Russia, and Iran in security, political, and economic sectors."

The meeting comes after Tehran allowed Russian fighters and bombers to launch airstrikes in Syria, a development Iranian officials hailed as "strategic."

As a military clout, India can make the troika more a show of defiance against Washington which is blaming both Iran and Russia for backing President Bashar al-Assad.

#### ■ Closer cyber security and defense ties between Tehran and New Delhi

Elsewhere in his remarks, Shamkhani underscored Tehran and New Delhi can build large cyber security and defense capacities which can move regional capacities a notch forward.

"Achieving common analytical and strategic approaches in the light of successful defense cooperation between the two countries works toward boosting regional capacities to establish security and stability," said the former defense minister.

The Indian national security advisor, for his part, appeared open to defense cooperation with Tehran, saying time is ripe for starting relevant talks.

"We are ready to lay the ground for strategic relations in the cyber security sector considering the capacities of the two sides," said Ajit Doval.

Both Iran and India have developed home-grown military infrastructures, particularly producing a gamut of long-range missiles.

It is not yet clear whether the officials signed a defense pact during the visit. However, likely on the agenda should have been exchange of views on Russian-made Sukhoi Su-30 multirole fighters, a pillar to the Indian air force.

In a recent televised interview, Iranian Defense Minister Hossein Dehqan had said Iranians would be hearing soon good news about the purchasing of Sukhoi Su-30 fighters from Russia.

Already in February, Dehqan showed interest in the co-production of an undisclosed number of the fighters.

Another important area for cooperation between Iran and India is cyber security and the common threats both are feeling.

"A balanced ruling over the web space and laying the ground for all nations and states to benefit from the capacity fairly and ethically can form an axis for joint cooperation in the cyber security sector."

#### ■ Economy key to bilateral ties, Chabahar a regional cooperation model

In addition to defense and cyber security areas, Tehran and New Delhi have a third, yet important, common ground to build upon to boost bilateral ties.

During Modi's visit to Tehran in May, the prime

### Iranian Shamkhani says, "Iran is ready to revive concerted cooperation between Tehran, New Delhi, and Moscow to address security challenges."

## Tehran is categorically against disintegration of Iraq: Larijani



**POLITICS TEHRAN** — Iranian Majlis Speaker Ali Larijani said on Saturday that Iran is totally against disintegration of Iraq as are Iraqi religious scholars.

"We should be aware that the enemies' project in Iraq and Syria is not finished and the crisis in the two countries cannot be settled by one or two victories," he said during a meeting with Akram al-Kaabi, the Secretary General of Harakat al Nujaba, in Tehran.

Larijani also said that Iran faced many security crises after the Islamic Revolution, adding that the country could counter them through both military and cultural actions.

Elsewhere, he said that Saudi Arabia is taking many "negative" actions in the Middle East region; however, all of the actions has led to failure.

Also, in the session Kaabi said that terrorists in Iraq are provided with the U.S. missiles which have been bought by Saudi Arabia.

He also thanked the Iranian people and Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei for standing beside the Iraqi and Syrian governments and people.

Iraq has achieved many victories in countering Daesh with the help of Iran, he added.

## Govt. has reached many achievements so far: cleric



**POLITICS TEHRAN** — Grand Ayatollah Lotfollah Safi Golpaygani, an Iranian religious scholar, said on Friday that the government has reached many achievements so far and praised the government and officials' efforts.

"Balance in the government's behavior, interaction among the bodies and peace in the society, which has been created as the result of the government's behavior, are quite obvious and the issue is among important achievements of the government," he said during a meeting with Presidential Office Head Mohammad Nahavandian in Qom.

The Grand Ayatollah also said that the country deserves to make advanc-

es increasingly.

He also called for more activities and planning based on the people's cultural needs.

During the meeting, Nahavandian elaborated on the achievements of the government of Prudence and Hope in various political, economic, cultural and international areas.

He said that all the government's achievements are the result of national integrity and the people's supports.

Nahavandian met with a number of religious scholars including Grand Ayatollah Abdul-Karim Mousavi Ardebili, Grand Ayatollah Naser Makarem Shirazi and Grand Ayatollah Ja'far Sobhani, as well.

## Commander boasts Iran's defense capability

**POLITICS TEHRAN** — Iranian Basij Force Deputy Chief Ali Fazli has said the defense capability of the Islamic Republic is at its highest level since the 1979-revolution, 37 years ago.

Underlining Iran's missile power, Brigadier General Ali Fazli described the country's defense capability as a deterrence capability against enemies.

"Iran's defense capability is not just limited to its borders. We are able to target our enemies from thousands of

kilometers away," explained Fazli.

"Brigadier General Mohammad Ali Jafari once said if Israeli fighter jets attempt to bomb Iran's strategic facilities, in their way back, there won't be a place named Israel left," Fazli said, quoting the commander of Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC).

"But the IRGC commander's remarks were too humble, because today we monitor very closely all U.S. military bases in the region with our drones and in

the event of any strikes against Iran, we would retaliate immediately," he added.

The comments came a week after Iran released images of its first domestically built long-range missile defense system, a project which was launched when the country was under international sanctions.

The system was designed as an alternative to the Russian S-300 system, the delivery of which was suspended in 2010 due to international sanctions that were imposed over Iran's nuclear program.

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# Russia, U.S. lessen areas of misunderstanding on Syria: Lavrov

Moscow and Washington will boost their cooperation on resolving the Syrian crisis as they have managed to reduce their mutual mistrust on the conflict in the country, says the Russian foreign minister.

"It is an achievement that we have been able to reduce areas of misunderstanding and to reduce the level of mutual mistrust between the two countries," Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said at a joint press conference with his American counterpart John Kerry at the President Wilson Hotel in Geneva, Switzerland, on Friday.

During the presser, which was preceded by a 12-hour-long meeting between the two sides, Lavrov said that both countries had agreed to boost their military cooperation to settle the years-long crisis, and on ways to accelerate the peace process in Syria.

The Russian minister also said that separating "sane opposition forces" from terrorist organizations, including the Takfiri al-Nusra Front group, was key to curbing the violence in Syria.

"In fact, today our American partners for the first time gave us a list of rebel organizations who joined the cessation of hostilities after the U.S. mediation," Lavrov further said.

"I don't see any possibility of assuring a really durable, full-fledged ceasefire without the separation of healthy opposition forces from terrorists. The understanding of this task between us and our American partners gets increasingly clearer," he added.

Without naming any countries, Lavrov also slammed some governments for illegally intervening in Syria and emboldening terrorists by undermining the government



of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, calling Iran and Russia as the only countries legally assisting Syrians inside the country.

Kerry, for his part, said that there would not be a military solution to the crisis, which he described as "dramatically deteriorated."

"The conflict will not end without a political solution. It is really the only viable path towards peace and security and normalcy that the Syrian people deserve," Kerry added.

The two top diplomats also said that experts from their respective countries would meet in Geneva in the coming days to conclude the few remaining technical issues and to clarify the details of what had been agreed on Friday.

#### ■ 'A united Syria'

Both ministers also supported the sovereignty of Syria and agreed that the

Syrian Kurdish population should remain a part of the Middle Eastern country.

"Kurds must remain a part of the Syrian state, part of resolving the problem, and not a factor that will be used to split Syria apart," Lavrov said.

Kerry also echoed Lavrov's remarks, saying, "We are for a united Syria. We do not support an independent Kurd initiative."

He added, however, that the U.S. had so far cooperated with "some elements" of the Kurdish forces on a "very limited basis."

Friday's meeting came a month after the two top diplomats met in Moscow and agreed on a number of unspecified actions to resuscitate a truce that would pave the way for peace talks.

#### ■ Darayya 'sets a precedent' for more Syria gains

Under a Thursday deal between the

Syrian army and foreign-sponsored militants, some 700 militants began leaving the Damascus suburb of Darayya on Friday.

Thousands of male and female residents of Darayya also began departing the area to be relocated to temporary accommodation centers scattered in Damascus neighborhoods and surrounding areas.

Darayya had 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. The occupying militants are leaving the town after they handed over their medium-caliber and heavy weapons to the army soldiers.

Referring to the evacuation of militants from Darayya, Lavrov said, "This is an example I think will get some following."

The development comes as Syrian army units have boosted their clean-up operations against Takfiri militants both inside and around Darayya over the past few days, pounding terrorist positions and inflicting heavy losses on militant ranks.

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.

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

(Source: Press TV)

## Clinton leads Trump by 5 points in Reuters/Ipsos poll

The United States Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton leads her Republican rival Donald Trump by 5 percentage points among likely voters, down from a peak this month of 12 points, according to the Reuters/Ipsos daily tracking poll.

The Aug. 22-25 opinion poll found that 41 percent of likely voters supported Clinton ahead of the Nov. 8 presidential election, while 36 percent supported Trump. Some 23 percent would not pick either candidate and answered "refused," "other" or "wouldn't vote."

Clinton, a former secretary of state, has led real estate developer Trump in the poll since Democrats and Republicans ended their national conventions and formally nominated their presidential candidates in July. Her level of support has varied between 41 and 45 percent during that period, and her lead over Trump in the tracking poll peaked this month at 12 percentage points on Tuesday.

During the past week, Clinton has been dogged by accusations by Trump, which she has denied, that donations to her family's charitable foundation influenced her actions while she was secretary of state from 2009

to 2013. Questions have also surfaced again about her use of a private email server and address rather than a government one during her period at the State Department.

Meanwhile, Trump and Clinton also sparred over who would be a better advocate for African Americans and other minorities, and Trump hinted he could soften his hard-line stance on immigration.

In a separate Reuters/Ipsos poll that includes candidates from small, alternative parties, Clinton leads the field by a smaller margin. Some 39 percent of likely voters supported Clinton in the four-way poll, compared with 36 percent for Trump, 7 percent for Libertarian candidate Gary Johnson and 3 percent for Green Party nominee Jill Stein.

Both polls were conducted online in English in all 50 states. They included 1,154 likely voters and have a credibility interval of 3 percentage points.

The results may differ from the Reuters/Ipsos States of the Nation project, which includes a separate weekly tracking poll that measures support for the major party



candidates in every state and Washington D.C.

The States of the Nation, released on Wednesday, estimated that if the election were held now Clinton would have a 95 percent chance of winning by a margin of about 108 votes in the Electoral College, the body that decides the election through a count of the candidates' wins in each state.

(Source: Reuters)

## Bangladesh police kill 'mastermind' of Dhaka cafe attack

Bangladesh security forces killed three extremist militants on Saturday including a Bangladesh-born Canadian citizen alleged to have masterminded an attack on a cafe in Dhaka last month in which 22 people, mostly foreigners, were killed, police said.

The militants were cornered in a hide-out on the outskirts of the capital and, having refused to surrender, were killed in the ensuing gun battle, Monirul Islam, the head of the Dhaka police counter terrorism unit, told Reuters.

He initially said four militants had been killed but later revised the number to three.

The success notched up by the security forces came ahead of a visit on Monday by the United States Secretary of State John Kerry, who is expected to discuss security in the wake of a series of killings of liberals and religious minorities in the mostly Muslim country.

The Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Daesh) terrorist group claimed responsibility for the assault on the cafe in a posh neighborhood of the capital, during which militants singled out non-Muslims and foreigners, killing Italians, Japanese, an American and an Indian.

The government has steadfastly de-



nied the presence in the country of any transnational militant organization, like al-Qaeda or the ISIL.

But police believe that Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB/Assembly of Jihadists of Bangladesh), which has pledged allegiance to the ISIL terrorist group, was involved in organizing the cafe attack.

The scale of that attack and the targeting of foreigners has cast a shadow over foreign investment in the poor

South Asian economy, whose \$28 billion garments export industry is the world's second largest.

#### ■ Mastermind's death

The suspected mastermind killed in Saturday's raid was identified as Tamim Ahmed Chowdhury, a 30-year-old Canadian citizen born in Bangladesh. Analysts say ISIL in April identified Chowdhury as its national commander.

"According to our evidence we are now sure that Tamim was among the

three killed," Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan told reporters. "So the chapter of Bangladesh has ended here."

Khan said Chowdhury was one of the main suppliers of funds and arms for several recent attacks. He had returned to Bangladesh in October, 2013 via Abu Dhabi, A K M Shahidul Hoque, the inspector general of police, said.

The raid followed a tip off from the landlord of the house where the militants were staying, Hoque told reporters. The landlord said the militants had described themselves as businessmen in the medical trade.

Police have also been holding in detention two men who had been among the survivors of the attack on the restaurant.

Hasnat Karim, holds dual British and Bangladeshi citizenship, and Tahmid Hasib Khan, a student of Toronto University, had been dining separately in the restaurant.

A lawyer for Karim, a 47-year-old engineer, has said his client is innocent. Relatives of Khan, 22, say he is innocent too.

Earlier this month, security forces arrested four women suspected of being members of Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh. (Source: Reuters)

## Yemen's Ansarullah reject Kerry's initiative for peace

Yemen's Ansarullah (Houthi) movement has rejected an initiative put forth by the United States Secretary of State John Kerry to resolve the crisis in the war-torn country.

Mohammed Abdulsalam, the Ansarullah spokesman, said on Saturday that the offer aims at depriving the Ansarullah of their arms in their fight of resistance against the House of Saud regime invasion.

"Whoever has a greedy eye on our weapons, we will have a greedy eye on his life," Abdulsalam wrote in a message posted on Facebook.

Kerry earlier called on Ansarullah movement to hand over their weapons including ballistic missiles and to pull back from the capital Sana'a. In return, the U.S. secretary of state said Ansarullah and allies can have a share in Yemen's future unity government.

The proposal comes amid reports that Ansarullah have stepped up missile attacks on border regions in Saudi Arabia over the past weeks. The attacks are carried out in reaction to deadly Saudi airstrikes that the regime in Riyadh says are meant to restore power to Abd Rabbuh Mansour Hadi, Yemen's president who has resigned and fled the capital, and to undermine Ansarullah and allies.

About 10,000 people have been killed across Yemen since the Saudi campaign started in March 2015.

The conflict in Yemen re-escalated after peace talks mediated by the United Nations and held in Kuwait collapsed earlier this month. The talks hit a snag after Ansarullah rejected a similar initiative proposed by the UN, saying it lacked any clear mechanism for transition of power.

Ansarullah movement had declared since the start of the talks in April that they were ready for disarmament and withdrawal from key areas they control in case a broad political agreement is reached in which Hadi would have no role.

(Source: Press TV)

## Fire kills 17 Kyrgyz nationals in Moscow printing plant

A fire in a Moscow printing plant killed 17 people on Saturday, officials said, and a representative of the Kyrgyz diaspora in Russia said all the dead were members of its community.

"The incident happened when people were changing shifts at the printing house. It is very hard for us," Abdygany Shakirov, the Kyrgyz representative told Reuters.

Around 500,000 citizens of the impoverished former Soviet republic of Kyrgyzstan are working in Russia. The two countries belong to a Russian-dominated customs union.

The Investigative Committee, which reports directly to President Vladimir Putin, said a criminal inquiry had been launched into the deaths of 16 of the victims of the blaze.

Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyenin said in his Twitter feed that one more person died later in a hospital.

Ilya Denisov, an Emergencies Ministry official, told Rossiya-24 TV station a malfunctioning lamp caused the fire.

Lax fire safety standards are often blamed for fatal workplace blazes in Russia. In January, 12 people died in a fire in a Moscow clothing factory.

(Source: AP)

## Tunisia's new government wins parliamentary approval

Tunisia's new government has won a confidence vote, almost a month after the last government was dismissed.

Prime Minister-designate Youssef Chahed's unity government was backed by parliament late on Friday with 167 votes in favor, 22 against and five abstentions, according to the AFP news agency.

The vote of confidence will now see Chahed and his cabinet take office in the coming days and comes amid warnings by Chahed that an austerity program will be inevitable if the country does not overcome its economic difficulties.

"If the situation continues like this, then in 2017 we will need a policy of austerity, and dismiss thousands of public sector employees and impose new taxes," Chahed told parliament before the vote for his broad coalition, which includes secular, Islamist and leftist parties, independents and trade union allies.

Chahed, who at 40 is the youngest prime minister that Tunisia has had since independence from France in 1956, vowed to press ahead with economic reforms sought by international lenders such as the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

He also said his new government would give priority to fighting corruption and "terrorism", and would be tough on illegal strikes.

"We will not allow interruption of production at any factory, and we will be firm and severe in dealing with illegal strikes and sit-ins," he said in his speech, according to Reuters news agency.

Critics of Chahed, who is an ally of President Beji Caid Essebsi, have questioned whether he has the political clout to overcome labor union opposition, strikes and party infighting that have dogged past governments.

## Russian gas pipeline 'bad' for Europe: Biden

Russia's pipeline project to pump gas to Germany under the Baltic Sea is a bad deal for Europe that would destabilize Ukraine, the United States Vice President Joe Biden said.

"From our perspective, the Nord Stream 2 pipeline is a fundamentally bad deal for Europe," Biden said during a visit to Stockholm where he met with Swedish Prime Minister Stefan Lofven.

"To lock in great reliance on Russia will fundamentally destabilize Ukraine," Biden said, adding: "Europe needs diverse sources of gas."

European Union states imported 53 percent of their energy in 2014. A third of gas comes from Russia alone and some newer eastern members are almost entirely reliant on Moscow for energy.

The EU has been seeking to reduce its dependence on Russian gas.

The European Commission, the EU's executive arm, has said the Nord Stream pipeline risks concentrating 80 percent of the EU's Russian gas imports on one route and will now look into whether the project meets European laws.

Biden said the energy market "needs to be open and competitive, and everyone has to play by the rules".

In a thinly-veiled reference to Russia, which has on several occasions cut off gas supplies to Ukraine amid disputes, Biden added: "No country should be able to use energy as a weapon, to coerce policies from other nations."

He noted that all European nations were now able to access U.S. liquefied natural gas if they wanted.

(Source: AFP)



NEWS

## Japanese Prime Minister promises to invest \$30b in Africa in next 3 years



According to the Kyodo news agency, Abe spoke at the Sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) held in Kenya. The media outlet added that the Japanese leader said that both private and public sector funds would be attracted for the investment project. TICAD is a Japan-led conference started in 1993 to "refocus international attention" on the importance of Africa's development, according to the conference's website. The conference is held every five years, but this year conference is the first held in Africa.

(Source: Sputnik)

## U.S. Q2 gross domestic product up 1.1% vs. 1.2% increase expected

U.S. economic growth was a bit more sluggish than initially thought in the second quarter as businesses aggressively ran down stocks of unsold goods, offsetting a spurt in consumer spending.

Gross domestic product expanded at a 1.1 percent annual rate, the Commerce Department said on Friday in its second estimate of GDP. That was slightly down from the 1.2 percent rate reported last month.



The revision also reflected more imports than previously estimated as well as weak spending by state and local governments. The economy grew at a 0.8 percent pace in the first quarter. It grew 1.0 percent in the first half of 2016.

The revision to second-quarter GDP growth was in line with economists' expectations. The economy has struggled to regain momentum since output started slowing in the last six months of 2015, which puts it in danger of stalling.

While data so far for the third quarter has been mixed, a strong labor market should continue to support consumer spending and underpin growth in the coming quarters. Output will also likely get a boost as businesses restock warehouses after liquidating inventories in the second quarter.

The government also reported that after-tax corporate profits fell at a 2.4 percent rate last quarter after increasing at an 8.1 percent pace in the first quarter. Weak profits could limit an anticipated rebound in business spending.

With profits declining, an alternative measure of growth, gross domestic income, or GDI, increased at only a 0.2 percent rate in the second quarter, the weakest since the first quarter of 2013. GDP measures the economy's performance from the income side. It increased at a 0.8 percent pace in the first quarter.

Business inventories fell \$12.4 billion in the second quarter, the first drop since the third quarter of 2011, instead of the \$8.1 billion reported last month.

As a result inventories sliced off 1.26 percentage points from GDP growth, the largest drag in more than two years, and up from the 1.16 percentage points subtraction in last month's estimate.

It was the fifth straight quarter that inventories weighed on output. Economists say some of the inventory drawdown could partially be attributed to robust consumption.

Consumer spending, which makes up more than two-thirds of U.S. economic activity, was revised up to show it increased at a 4.4 percent rate -- the fastest since the fourth quarter of 2014. Consumer spending, which was previously reported to have advanced at a 4.2 percent rate, accounted for the bulk of the rise in output last quarter.

With consumption accelerating, imports were revised to show them growing at a 0.3 percent rate instead of declining at a 0.4 percent rate. There was also a modest downward revision to export growth. As a result, trade contributed one-tenth of a percentage point to GDP growth in the second quarter instead of 0.23 percentage point as reported last month.

Business spending on equipment fell at a 3.7 percent rate and not the 3.5 percent pace reported last month. Business spending on equipment contracted for a third consecutive quarter, the longest stretch since the 2007-2009 recession, though the pace of decline slowed.

Business spending has been hurt by cheap oil, which has squeezed profits in the energy sector, forcing companies to cut capital spending budgets. There are signs that the worst of the decline is probably over, with a report on Thursday showing demand for manufactured capital goods rising in July for a second straight month.

There were also downward revisions to investment in nonresidential structures, which include oil and gas wells. Residential construction spending estimates were also trimmed.

(Source: CNBC)

# Iran's quarterly mineral exports up 48%

**ECONOMY TEHRAN** — Iran's desk exports from mining sector have risen by 48 percent year-on-year during the first quarter of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-June 20), ISNA reported on Saturday.

According to IRNA, Deputy Industry, Mines and Trade Minister in Mines and Mining Industries Jafar Sarghini said that during the mentioned period Iran has exported \$2 billion worth of mineral products to other countries.

"For the time being, there are 7,500 mines across the country from which 2,000 ones are non-operational or under preparation processes," he said.

Mentioning the recent recession in the mine and mining sector, Sarghini



noted that "low prices" for minerals around the world is one of the main factors causing the crisis.

The official also stressed that the rise of exports in this sphere occurred despite the continuous drop in mineral products' prices around the world and also given that there has not been any considerable increases in global production.

Back in June, Ministry of Industry, Mines and Trade announced that mineral products and industries accounted for 16.5 percent of the country's non-oil exports during the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19).

The value of exports from the country's mining sector exceeded \$7 billion in the past year.

## Ukrainian company sells 3,000 wagons to Iran

**ECONOMY TEHRAN** — Ukraine's desk Azovobshchemash Company, the flagship company of Ukrainian heavy engineering Azovmash Group, sold 3,000 wagons worth \$100 million to Iran, the Ukrainian Embassy in Iran reported.

As Tasnim news agency cited Ukraine's Embassy, "Since the total need of Irani-

an state-owned companies such as Pars Wagon exceeds 35,000 wagons, gondola cars and tank wagons, this would be Azovobshchemash's first cargo to the Islamic Republic and the total potential of the Ukrainian company's cooperation with Iranian enterprises is over €1 billion."

In early August, Ukrainian Amba-

sador to Iran Serhiy Burdylak said two other Ukrainian companies, Azovmash and Kriukov Car Building Works (KCBW), are holding talks with Iran on creation of joint ventures to work in the Islamic Republic. On July 13, Ukraine's Ministry of Infrastructure signed a memorandum of understanding with Iran's Transport Min-

istry, accordingly.

The Islamic Republic has reportedly asked Ukraine to build 1,000 kilometers of railroad tracks in its mainland and also to participate in modernization projects of railway infrastructure and those for development of other forms of transportation in Iran, worth \$10 billion.

## Pound's best run since Brexit vote faces data hurdles next week

The pound is set for a litmus test next week with the release of housing data and purchasing managers' surveys that might crimp the currency's best run since May versus the dollar.

Sterling climbed for the second week versus the U.S. currency, its first back-to-back gain since before the U.K. voted to leave the European Union in June, as credit and export-orders data this week proved more resilient than analysts had envisaged. Further upside surprises in economic data may extend sterling's advance, after it strengthened this week against all of its 16 major peers.

While analyst forecasts suggest reports will show consumer confidence improved and manufacturing output contracted at a slower pace in August than in previous month, housing data will indicate further signs of weakness, with mortgage approvals forecast to fall to their lowest since March 2015.

"I'm still cautious into next week," said Roberto Mialich, a senior foreign-exchange strategist at UniCredit SpA in Milan. "Despite some resilient data, we still expect



more deterioration in the U.K. economy. That in our view will become more evident in the coming months."

The pound climbed 0.7 percent this week to \$1.3164 as of 5 p.m. in London, extending last week's 1.2 percent gain. Sterling appreciated for the first time in six weeks versus the euro, climbing 1.5 percent to 85.35 pence.

"We still see more sterling weakness," UniCredit's Mialich said. The U.K. currency will fall to \$1.20 and weaken to

93 pence per euro by year-end, he predicted.

### ■ Brexit Aftermath

Britain's economy has so far shown signs of withstanding the aftermath of the Brexit vote, with fears of a recession slowly ebbing. Citigroup Incorporation's U.K. Economic Surprise Index has remained above zero since mid-June, which signals that data releases have been surpassing market forecasts. It reached its highest level since September 2013 on Aug. 18.

Options pricing signals a 28 percent chance that the Bank of England will cut interest rates by December. That's down from 66 percent on June 24, the day the results of Britain's decision to leave the EU became clear.

"We think the market is a bit too pessimistic" on U.K. data, said Carl Hammer, head of foreign-exchange strategy at SEB AB in Stockholm. "There is still some potential for recovery in the near term." In the longer run Hammer foresees more BOE stimulus that will debase the pound and said he "would still look to sell a correction higher" in sterling.

(Source: Bloomberg)

## Yellen's hint at September hike in Jackson Hole speech, markets wary

By Kristian Rouz

Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen delivered her long-anticipated speech on policy and economic outlook at the mountain resort of Jackson Hole, WY, in the early hours on Friday. The US economy, she stressed, is gaining momentum at a pace sustainable enough to possibly move base borrowing costs up as soon as in September. Yet, aside of that notion, the central bank chair's speech sent a wave of doubtful frustration across the markets and broader economy, as Yellen provided little clarity addressing the current problems such as slowing growth, declining corporate profits, underperforming inflation and volatility in select segments of domestic debt market. On Friday, representatives of many central banks from across the world, as well as academics and observers, gathered in Jackson Hole, WY, to discuss certain likely developments in the global economy and monetary and fiscal policies, as well as to try to figure out whether international trade in goods, services and capital would likely go in the light of Brexit, US elections and emerging markets' steady grind to a halt. Yellen did not explicitly say when the Fed will undertake another hike in rates, rendering market participants unsure if such a move would ever be viable. A wider specu-

lation of the Fed turning back to loosening monetary conditions is gaining prominence in many market participants' minds, expecting either negative interest rates policies (NIRP), helicopter money, or a return of zero interest policies coupled with a yet another round of monetary easing (Fed's bond-buying program, wrapped up in 2013-2014). "In light of the continued solid performance of the labor market and our outlook for economic activity and inflation, I believe the case for an increase in the federal funds rate has strengthened in recent months," Yellen stated, also remarking that the regulator is still committed to its "gradual" approach to policy adjustment. Following Yellen's speech, Goldman Sachs raised their chances of a September hike from 30 percent to the current 40 percent, whilst in the open market the odds of a September hike dropped from 32 percent to 26 percent in the light of the remarks.

Moreover, the 2-year/30-year Treasury yield curve (serving as an indicator for near-term macroeconomic developments) flattened to its December 2007 condition following Yellen's remark, narrowing the gap to 1.43 percent. The Treasury curve reflects bond market dynamics, providing evidence of the pace of capital allocation into havens, and a flatter curve indicates wider disinvestment in the real economy, typically

signaling a looming recession. That means, certain market segments have no credibility in the Fed's policies, and such a sentiment is already prevalent in the broader market, as suggested by the discrepancy in Goldman's and wider market bets of the odds of a September hike. In such an environment, the policy transmission between the Fed and the economy might be increasingly dysfunctional, meaning it does not really matter what policy moves and when the Fed undertakes. A recession is seen as "inevitable" by some market participants. "There were some people in the market who expected that she would invoke September and that was probably the wrong thing to expect," Thierry Wizman of Macquarie Group, a Sydney, Australia-based global investment bank, said. Yellen's message was "a whole lot of nothing," he added, eyeing a 60 percent chance of a hike in December, and two more hikes to follow in 2017. Yellen, however, stirred even greater confusion in the market, saying that in the timespan between now and the end of 2018 the base borrowing costs might be anywhere between zero and 4.5 percent, thus confessing the Fed's approach to policy is reactive rather than proactive. "Monetary policy is not on a preset course. Our ability to predict how the federal funds rate will evolve over time is quite limited because monetary

policy will need to respond to whatever disturbances may buffet the economy," Yellen said. However, the Federal Reserve's mission is defined as, among other things, "conducting the nation's monetary policy by influencing the monetary and credit conditions in the economy in pursuit of maximum employment, stable prices, and moderate long-term interest rates." Yellen's approach is the extremity of passive delivering on the central bank's main function. "Based on the historical accuracy of private and government forecasters, (there is) a 70 percent probability that the federal funds rate will be between 0 and 3-1/4 percent at the end of next year and between 0 and 4-1/2 percent at the end of 2018," Yellen said. Such a confession from the central bank head who does not know what their own policies are, complicates the outlook on growth and investment for the US and global economy, as costs and availability of credit are simply unknown in the short-to-medium-term, let alone longer-term projects and goals. "They're willing to be patient when the economy encounters shocks," Laura Rosner of the New York branch of BNP Paribas said. "But absent shocks, if the data are confirming their outlook, which they are right now, then they think it's appropriate to make gradual hikes."

(Source: Sputnik)



### Tokyo Metro to test parcel delivery services

Tokyo Metro Company will test the feasibility of parcel delivery services using its subway system in cooperation with other rail and transportation firms, company sources said.

Land transportation companies face a lack of truck drivers and also need to reduce carbon emissions and help relieve traffic congestion.

Other firms involved are Yamato Transport Company, Sagawa Express Co. and Japan Post Company, as well as Tobu Railway Company, operator of the Tobu Tojo Line, which connects with Tokyo Metro's Yurakucho Line.



### German Finance Ministry critical of ECB bond purchases: Spiegel

The German Finance Ministry is critical of the effects the European Central Bank's asset-purchase program is having on bond markets, magazine Der Spiegel reported on Friday, citing an internal draft from the ministry.

The ECB is buying 80 billion euros worth of assets, mainly government bonds, every month in a bid to boost inflation and economic growth in the euro zone by lowering the cost of borrowing.

Given the ECB's purchases of government bonds, "the amount of federal bonds on offer is getting ever more limited", the draft said.



### Toyota to make Automatic Emergency Braking standard

Toyota is about to start exemplifying this trend on the safety front, having recently announced that they'll make Automatic Emergency Braking, or AEB, standard across virtually their entire model range by the end of 2017.

In effect, the Toyota Safety Sense technology package, which utilizes AEB as a core offering, will be rolled out as standard equipment on the vast majority of Toyota models in the immediate future.

AEB technology started life in North America, largely, as an optional feature available on high-dollar luxury cars, some years back.



# 200 Iranian historic houses to undergo restoration by March 2017

1→

Iran embraces numerous mud-brick traditional houses mainly built by wealthy merchants during the 17th century onwards.

Tabatabaei House, Ameri House, Borujerdi House all in Kashan are prominent examples for the famous historic houses which have been restored and are open to the public.

Most of the historic houses are embellished with fine stucco panels, ostentatious stained glass as they have been set around a series of interlinked courtyards.

■ **CHTHO to generate 140,000 tourism, handicrafts jobs**

Elsewhere in his remarks, Soltanifar asserted that the CHTHO pursues an objective to create 140,000 new jobs in tourism and handicrafts sectors.

The strategy which aims at creating 70,000 jobs for each sector relies on a two-year development project that the CHTHO started implementing earlier in March, he said.

Earlier in June, Soltanifar publicized that the organization initiated over 1,700 projects in tourism sector in various parts of Iran, including building hotels and residences.

Turkish investors plan to build ten hotels in Tehran, Isfahan, Shiraz, Tabriz and Mashhad, under the terms of an agreement with Iran signed during a Turkish delegation's visit to Tehran in May.

According to another agreement signed between CHTHO and German hospitality company, Steigenberger Hotel Group in late May, the company is set to build 10 hotels in different parts of Iran over the next ten years.



A view of Tabatabaei House located in the central city of Kashan. The historic merchant house is renowned for its intricate stone reliefs, fine stucco and lavish mirror and stained-glass work.

## Family trips are on the rise

**BERLIN (Travel Daily News)** — Despite declining birth rates, family trips are on the rise.

In 2015, around 78 million Europeans went on family vacation abroad and spent a total of 640 million nights on these trips. This is the result of a special evaluation of the World Travel Monitor, conducted by IPK International and commissioned by ITB Berlin.

Over the last ten years, the annual average growth rate of holiday trips with children (aged under 15) has been around two percent, which corresponds to the growth rate for all holiday trips undertaken by Europeans.

For family trips, Europe is the preferred destination as

90 percent spend their holidays there. The most popular destination for families is Spain, where around 15 percent spend their holidays, followed by France.

In recent years, Germany has registered high growth in this segment. As in 2007 it was still ranked sixth behind Spain, France, Italy, Austria and Turkey, Germany is now ranked on the third place and the number of family tourists there has almost doubled.

Outside Europe, the most popular destinations for families are the USA, followed by Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia and Thailand. The three source markets with the highest demand for family trips are Germany, the UK

and France, which altogether account for more than one-third of European family tourists.

■ **Hotels are increasingly in demand**

More than 50 percent of families choose to stay in hotels. Over the last ten years this market has experienced steady growth, with about 25 percent of overnights spent in 4-star hotels.

Besides hotels, the second most important type of accommodation are rented holiday homes and apartments which are more popular among family holidays than in the overall holiday market. In contrast, the market for private accommodation has almost halved over the same period.

## KLM to resume service to Tehran from Oct 30

KLM Royal Dutch Airlines will resume service to Tehran from October 30, the airline said.

Tehran will be the 14th new destination KLM has added to its network in 2016.

Four weekly services will be operated between Schiphol and Tehran, supplementing the Paris-Tehran service operated by Air France since April 16, 2016, it said.

"KLM has further strengthened its network with a new destination – the 14th to be added this year. This confirms that our strategy is starting to bear fruit. On the one hand we are improving our efficiency and productivity, while on the other we are investing in growth," said Pieter Elbers, KLM president and CEO.

The flights will be operated with a Boeing 777-200. KLM will meet passenger needs by offering three different travel classes on board: 34 seats in World Business Class, 40 seats in Economy Comfort, and 242 seats in Economy Class.

The Economy Comfort seats offer 10 cm more legroom and have double the recline of standard Economy Class seats. Economy Comfort passengers are also given priority when disembarking.

In the past, KLM operated service to Tehran from July 1991 through April 2013.

(Source: TTN Worldwide)

## Wanda to invest \$9.5 billion in China tourism park

China's richest man, Wang Jianlin, has signed an agreement to invest 63 billion yuan (\$9.45 billion) to build a tourism and sports complex in Jinan city, cinema-to-theme park developer Dalian Wanda Group said in a statement on Friday.

The project, which will have malls, sports facilities, hotels and a theme park, will raise a further challenge to fierce rival Walt Disney Co, which opened a \$5.5 billion resort in Shanghai in June.

Wanda's Wang has already taken aim at Disney saying the U.S. firm would be no match for his "wolf pack" of parks. He told Reuters in an interview this week that Wanda would look to build at least 20 such complexes in China.

The park in the eastern city of Jinan will be the first Wanda project to have an emphasis on sports, as Chinese firms look to tap into growing interest in ar-



eas from soccer and ice hockey to marathon running. Wang has already invested in soccer clubs and sports

media globally.

Wang told Reuters this week that the domestic tourism sector was growing fast - despite a slowdown in the wider economy - and that it could in the future become a ten trillion yuan market, more than double its current size.

"With the age of high-speed rail and people's incomes climbing, I think tourism in the future could become the number one industry," Wang told Reuters.

This year, Wanda broke ground on a 16 billion yuan (\$2.44 billion) tourism "city" in southwest China and opened another park in southeastern Nanchang in May.

Work on the Jinan Wanda City is expected to begin in 2017 and open its doors in 2021, Wanda said in the statement.

(\$1 = 6.6685 Chinese yuan renminbi)

(Source: Reuters)

## NOTABLES

### Al-jahiz: Muslim theologian and scholar

Al-jahiz, in full Abu Uthman Amr ibn Bahr al-jahiz (born c. 776, Basra, Iraq—died 868/869, Basra) was an Islamic theologian, intellectual, and litterateur known for his individual and masterful Arabic prose.

His family, possibly of Ethiopian origin, had only modest standing in Basra, but his intellect and wit gained him acceptance in scholarly circles and in society. During the reign of the Abbasid caliph al-Ma'mun, al-Jahiz moved to the regime's capital, Baghdad.

He did not take a position at court but supported himself, at least in part, with contributions from patrons, often of high rank, in return for the dedications of his books. When the court moved to Samarra, Al-jahiz journeyed there, but shortly before his death he retired to Basra.

Few of his treatises on theology and politics are extant; some are known only from quotations by other authors. His prose masterpieces, however, are available.

Many of these are essays on diverse topics; others are anthologies in which poetry, jokes, and anecdotes, however obscure or daring, have been introduced by Al-jahiz to illustrate his points.

His unfinished Kitab al-hayawan ("Animals"), in seven volumes, is a bestiary drawing on Aristotle and also an anthology of Arabic literature with animal themes to which theological, sociological, and linguistic discussions have been added.

(Source: Encyclopedia Britannica)

## SIGHTSEEING

### Darakeh & Darband: Lively resorts on the foothills of Alborz Mountains

On a sunny or smoggy day few things could be nicer than fleeing the traffic fumes for the foothills of the Alborz Mountains and the walking trails of Darakeh and Darband.

The trails pass waterfalls and cross streams as they head up into the hills. They are crowded on Thursday afternoon and Friday and make a great place to meet Tehranis in a relaxed, social atmosphere.

The lower reaches of both trails are lined with teahouses and stalls selling food and drinks, which are hugely popular in the evenings – some close midweek and in winter.

A dish of dizi (stew), a kabab or two, a cold drink or a huff and a puff on a qalyan by the stream will soon help you forget the Tehran traffic. Among other tasty treats to sample on the way up are dates, apricots, pickled walnuts, lavashak (sheets of pressed dried fruit), fresh mulberries and steamed lima beans.

Darband also has a ski lift, with tickets costing US\$1.50/3 one way/return. The starting point for getting to either trail is the northern side of Tajrish Sq. For Darband, either walk 2.5km uphill along Fana Khosrow St (or take a shuttle taxi), or leave the grounds of Sa'd Abad Palace from the rear, cross Meydan-e Darband and continue uphill to where you see the ski lift on the left.

The walking trail starts where the road ends. A visit to Darband can easily be combined with a visit to Sa'd Abad Palace, or you can walk all the way to Jamshidiyeh Park from a trail starting further east.

To get to Darakeh take a shuttle taxi from Tajrish Sq. At the end of Darakeh St you'll be dropped in a square; the trail leads off from the northeastern corner.

(Source: Lonely Planet)



A view of Darband during the winter time

## AT MUSEUMS

### Ancient Iranian base for ritual offering, carved with animals

This base for a ritual offering is made of bitumen. This material was plentiful throughout the Middle East, but only in Susa was it used in sculpture.

The object is carved with big cats, gazelles, and eagles. The theme of the eagle spreading its wings to protect its young was found only in Iran and also features on painted ceramics of the same period.

This object in the form of a truncated cone is a base for a ritual offering. It is carved from bituminous rock, found throughout the region but used in sculpture only in Susa.

It was used to make vases similar to this object, and later, in the early years of the 2nd millennium BC, vases carved with bas-relief decorations and an animal's head in high relief.

The shape of this object - a truncated cone - is similar to other pieces made of chlorite and dating from the same period. The mortise at the top of the cone and the unfinished lip suggest that the object originally had a second part that fitted on top of the cone. However, the precise purpose of the object remains a mystery.

(Source: louvre.fr)



PICTURE OF THE DAY IRNA/Masud Mirjalili



Prof. Mariana Correia (second from right) accompanied by several Iranian cultural officials pays a visit to the historical city of Yazd on August 23, 2016 as part of the decision-making process for inscribing the city on UNESCO World Heritage List. She is a Steering Committee Member of WHEAP – World Heritage Earthen Architecture Program of UNESCO.



FEATURE

The hypocrisy of the West’s alliance with Saudi Arabia

Probably the most noxious aspect of the nauseating hypocrisy that feeds the oft-repeated assertion that the U.S. and its western allies exist to uphold, protect and spread democracy and human rights, is the close alliance of said states and governments with Saudi Arabia. Indeed, if the religious extremism that has engulfed the Middle East in recent years is a snake, responsible for the most heinous and wanton acts of brutality and barbarity the region has experienced in modern times, its head is in Riyadh.



This is not to argue that Saudi Arabia should be lined up for invasion and occupation — surely we’ve seen enough of such invasions and occupations to know they only make the situation worse rather than better. But it does require that countries such as the U.S., UK, and France reappraise foreign policies that have long placed an emphasis on maintaining close relations with a state that has done more to destabilize the region than any other. Adding insult to injury when it comes to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Wahhabi Sunni fundamentalism that makes up its theological foundations, was the decision of the UN General Assembly in 2013 to elect Saudi Arabia as a member of the body’s 47-member Human Rights Council, whose remit is to promote human rights across the world. The term on the council is three years, which means that Saudi Arabia’s place is up for re-election this year, resulting in calls to block it serving a second consecutive term. In 2016, it is self-evident that associating human rights with a country in which public beheadings take place with alarming frequency, in which women are regarded and treated as chattel, in which migrant workers are treated so inhumanely, which embarked in 2015 on a military campaign in neighboring Yemen, and in which war crimes have been routinely committed, is both grotesque and perverse.

■ See no evil, hear no evil

For Washington, London, and Paris, however, it has long been a case of “see no evil, hear no evil” — the reason being that democracy and human rights takes second place when it comes up against strategic and economic interests. Since 2010, the Obama administration has authorized U.S. \$60 billion in arms sales to the Saudis, triple the U.S. \$16 billion in arms sales conducted under the Bush administration previously.

Meanwhile, Riyadh is the world’s biggest customer for UK arms sales, with orders amounting to 3.5 billion pounds (U.S. \$4.6 billion) since the start of 2015. According to the UK-based Campaign against the Arms Trade: “The promotion of the sales over several decades, and the financial and practical support given to them by successive UK governments, has given succor to the undemocratic government of Saudi Arabia.

This has a human rights record which makes it a ‘country of concern’ for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. It treats women as second-class citizens and its immigrant workers appallingly. Selling arms to the Saudi government sends the message that the human rights of the Saudi people are of lesser concern than the commercial interests of BAE.” Amnesty International (AI) and Human Rights Watch (HRW) are currently spearheading a campaign to have Saudi Arabia suspended from the UN Human Rights Council over the previously mentioned war crimes they allege the Saudis have been committing in Yemen. According to HRW: “Saudi Arabia, as the leader of the nine-nation coalition that began military operations against the Houthis in Yemen on March 26, 2015, has been implicated in numerous violations of international humanitarian law.”

“Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International have documented 69 unlawful airstrikes by the coalition, some of which may amount to war crimes, killing at least 913 civilians and hitting homes, markets, hospitals, schools, civilian businesses, and mosques. The two organizations have also documented 19 attacks involving internationally banned cluster munitions, including in civilian areas. “Saudi Arabia should be suspended from the Human Rights Council until it ends unlawful attacks in Yemen and conducts credible investigations that meet international standards or agrees to and cooperates with an independent international inquiry.” The burning question that has occupied many throughout the conflict in Syria is not whether groups such as al-Nusra or Daesh have received support from Saudi Arabia, but whether said support should have emanated from private individuals or from the state — or perhaps even, from the state via private individuals.

For too long there has been a marked reluctance on the part of Washington and its European allies to confront Riyadh, the main source of the chaos and mayhem that has engulfed the region in recent years and lodestar when it comes to the religious and sectarian fanaticism that has spread like a cancer. It is a reluctance and failure that exposes the rhetoric they continually espouse on confronting and defeating terrorism as empty words. Democracy and human rights are in truth optional extras that come below strategic and economic interests in the priorities of western governments and ideologues. They are words rolled out as weapons against enemies and rivals, and abandoned in the case of allies.

(Source: Sputnik)

What’s Turkey really up to in Syria?

By Metin Gurcan

Turkey’s military plunge across the Syrian border this week has all eyes focused on the Jarablus area, as observers wait for the possible fallout between Ankara and the Kurds.

It’s evident that Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan is targeting pro-PKK Kurdish party seeking to dominate the north of Syria. He admits as much publicly, though he says he is also pursuing the Islamic State (ISIL) terrorist group.

Indeed, at 4 a.m. local time Aug. 24, Turkish planes penetrated Syrian air space and began bombing IS targets in the Jarablus area. At 6 a.m., about 1,500 Free Syrian Army (FSA) fighters who had assembled at the Karkamis area of Turkey began crossing the border in an operation called Euphrates Shield.

Kurds control three separate areas in northern Syria on the Turkish border. Ankara fears that if the Kurds gain a stronghold on the west side of the Euphrates, they will be able to connect these areas and form a united territory right on Turkey’s border. Turkey has demanded the Kurds withdraw to east of the Euphrates.

■ Ankara’s reaction

The strongest reaction from the public to Euphrates Shield came from Salih Muslim, the leader of the Syrian Kurdish

es within the Syrian Democratic Forces [SDF] must withdraw to the east of the Euphrates forthwith. If not, Turkey will do what is necessary.”

On the morning of Aug. 25, YPG spokesman Redur Halil emphasized his belief that the Jarablus operation is not



against IS but rather the Kurds. He declared they would not withdraw from west of the Euphrates and nobody could force them to. Speaking to Voice of America Radio, Halil said, “Nobody can ask us to withdraw from our own land.”

These remarks signal the likelihood of a first-ever ground confrontation in northern Syria between Ankara and the PYD.

Damascus registered a low-key reaction to the operation, complaining of Turkey’s violation of its “sovereign rights.” The Russian Foreign Ministry issued a statement expressing concern over the developments.

Turkish reinforcements continued to

enter Syria. At 10 a.m. Aug. 25, 10 tanks and a lot of heavy engineering equipment crossed the border toward Jarablus. The deployment of new Turkish army units on the border and the arrival of reinforcements from other parts of the country indicate Ankara is determined to continue the operation.

A more important development came from the south of Jarablus. YPG Jarablus Military Council officials said there was a distance of only 3 kilometers (nearly 2 miles) between them and the FSA, which had entered Jarablus. Officials said the YPG would not allow FSA units to move any farther south. Local sources reported an exchange of mortar fire between the FSA and the YPG.

Sources speaking to Al-Monitor in Ankara on condition of anonymity said ISIL had been withdrawing from Jarablus for two weeks. The YPG had been preparing to move north to capture Jarablus, but Ankara pre-empted the move through Euphrates Shield. Ankara’s action is further confirmation that the true target of the operation is not ISIL, but to block YPG’s domination of northern Syria.

Naturally, the reactions of Damascus, Moscow and Washington to such a plan will be important. Nevertheless, with this ongoing operation, Ankara for the first time in two years has made a difference

that the YPG has made the decision Turkey [wants],” said the source.

Now eyes are on the south of Jarablus, awaiting the reactions of the YPG in the field and the PYD in the political arena about withdrawing to the east of the Euphrates. The Washington Post reported the morning of Aug. 25 that some but not all Kurdish forces had withdrawn. The political tension between Ankara and the PYD has for the first time created friction between the YPG and the Turkish Armed Forces (TSK). We will all watch anxiously to see how the parties will do in their crisis management on terrain that is already heating up.

■ Turkey’s military presence

The Euphrates Shield operation has symbolic significance to Turkey, presenting the opportunity to restore the TSK’s prestige, which was badly tarnished with the July 15 failed coup attempt. No doubt such image repair would contribute to the TSK’s combat confidence, morale and cohesion with the population.

Here is a partial description of the troops and hardware being used in Euphrates Shield:

In air operations, in addition to Turkish F-16s, Turkey also is using its newly acquired Bayraktar TB2 unarmed drones. U.S. A-10 tank-killer planes dropped 244 MK-84 bombs on 63 IS targets south of Jarablus.

The ground operations are being conducted by FSA fighters, whose numbers are expected to reach 5,000-strong as they are joined by perhaps a dozen armed groups such as Ahrar al-Sham.

A Turkish armored battalion of around 25 M60A3 tanks and a mechanized infantry battalion equipped with armored personnel carriers with about 300 soldiers are giving armored protection and close-fire support to FSA groups. It is most likely that the TSK base at nearby Kilis Elbeyli is coordinating close-air support, forward air control and medical evacuation with the FSA units.

An armored brigade is on reserve at nearby Karkamis, while tank and armored reinforcements from other parts of the country are still arriving, indicating that Ankara is aware of the possibility of expanding the operation depending on developments.

FSA units backed by Turkish F-16s have reached Keklice-Kivircik village, about 7 kilometers west of Jarablus, after their forward reconnaissance units

Ankara’s action is further confirmation that the true target of the operation is not ISIL, but to block YPG’s domination of northern Syria.

entered Jarablus. The casualty toll of the FSA on the first day was one killed by a roadside bomb and about 20 wounded. The news media was informed that on the first day of operations, including air attacks, about 100 ISIL militants were killed. As seen in social media messages of FSA fighters, the first day of their operation was mostly a rural trek with no ISIL resistance, and Jarablus appeared to be a ghost town with no population.

(Source: Al Monitor)

Sarkozy’s campaign of fear



py identity), aims to transcend the deepening divisions within French society, Sarkozy seems poised to capitalize on them. Given the current popular mood – soured by recent terrorist attacks, from the murder of 86 people in a truck attack in Nice in July to the savage slaughter of a priest in Normandy later that month – Sarkozy’s ap-

Now, emboldened by Hollande’s unpopularity, Sarkozy seems to think that the French are ready to welcome him back.

Former French President Nicolas Sarkozy’s announcement that he will seek the presidency again in 2017 should come as no surprise. Indeed, it was hard to take seriously his declaration, following his loss to the Socialist Party’s François Hollande in the 2012 race, that he was done with politics. Whatever you think about Sarkozy, there is no denying that he has never been one to stay out of the spotlight for long.

The truth is that Sarkozy never really accepted his defeat. Like Germany after World War I, he instead became consumed with a desire for revenge, compounded by his long-held and poorly hidden lust for power.

Now, emboldened by Hollande’s unpopularity, Sarkozy seems to think that the French are ready to welcome him back. Instead of fretting about his own bad reputation, still reflected in public-opinion polls, he seems to be fantasizing about a repeat of the 2007 election, when he triumphed easily over the Socialist candidate Ségolène Royal, Hollande’s former partner.

That may not be so unreasonable. Whether people like Sarkozy or not, the fact is that, during Hollande’s tenure, France’s social, economic, and security situation has deteriorated – and many are holding Hollande directly accountable.

■ Sarkozy’s rivals

Current conditions may also hurt Sarkozy’s rivals within the Republican Party. In particular, Alain Juppé – Sarkozy’s main competition for his party’s nomination – could find that his moderate approach becomes a liability, especially now that Sarkozy is involved.

Both campaigns focus on French identity. But whereas Juppé, who coined the term l’identité heureuse (the hap-

proach may just work.

Sarkozy has read the popular mood well. He knows that the French are feeling defensive and angry, and he wants to use those feelings to win support – including by attracting votes from the far-right National Front’s Marine Le Pen. In this sense, Sarkozy resembles U.S. presidential candidate Donald Trump, who has won the support of a swath of angry voters by portraying himself as the savior of a once-great country in decline.

But Sarkozy could well find that the very fears he is stoking make people afraid to choose him. With his buzzy energy and nervous tics, he may not seem like the kind of reliable and steadfast leader that a nervous country so desperately needs.

We shall soon know the answer. New public opinion polls will provide a strong indication of how the French perceive the newly resurfaced Sarkozy. Do the reasons voters ended his presidency four years ago still hold? Or is the new context enough to make him seem like France’s best option?

More telling, of course, will be the party primary in November. Given Hollande’s rock-bottom approval ratings, it is widely believed that the winning Republican will be France’s next president. And though Juppé remains far ahead in the opinion polls so far, the French could reject his happy version of French identity, in favor of Sarkozy’s much darker one.

Juppé is most likely to emerge as France’s next president. In terms of age and profile, he resembles a French version of Hillary Clinton, more practiced in the exercise than the conquest of power. But fear is a powerful weapon, and Sarkozy, like Trump, is eager to wield it.

(Source: project.syndicat.org)



# Iran needs \$100b for upstream oil, gas projects by 2021

1→

He went on to mention some of the programs of NIOC to achieve objectives of the sixth plan as completing all first development phases of West Karoun oil fields (five oilfields in the western part of Iran's southwestern region of Karoun, straddling borders with Iraq), and also South Pars gas field (which Iran shares with Qatar in the Persian Gulf), and starting the second phases of development as well as making definite decision on all other joint fields of the country.

Saying that for the moment about 30 million cubic meters of flare gases are burnt each day in the country, the official pointed to recovery of flare gases as one of the other programs of his company regarding the sixth plan.

He also announced that 130 drilling rigs will be applied by NIOC in the discovery and production projects during the sixth development plan.

NIOC has planned to implement 30-35 development projects on average in each year of the sixth plan, Delparish further announced.

■ **'2 or 3 deals to be signed based on IPC by Mar. 2017'**

Addressing the same conference, Gholamreza Manouchehri, the deputy



Abdolmohammad Delparish (1st R), deputy managing director of NIOC for corporate planning, Gholamreza Manouchehri (2nd R), deputy managing director of NIOC for development and engineering affairs, Ali-Akbar Sha'banpour (1st L), managing director of Pars Oil and Gas Company, Ali-Akbar Mahrokhzad (2nd L), director for legal affairs of NIOC, in a press conference on Saturday

(Photo: Hasan Hosseini/SHANA)

managing director of NIOC for development and engineering affairs, said that Iran will sign two or three deals based on the new model of oil contracts, known as IPC, by the end of the

current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2017).

IPC, which will replace buy-back contracts, is expected to offer more flexible terms on oil price fluctuations

and investment risks to make the sector more financially attractive.

Manouchehri expressed hope that the modified draft of IPC will be approved by the cabinet in this week and then it will be sent to the Majlis.

■ **'South Pars drilling, platform & refinery building by Iranians'**

Ali-Akbar Sha'banpour, the managing director of Pars Oil and Gas Company which is the operator of implementing development phases of South Pars gas field, for his part said that all projects related to drilling, platform building and construction of refineries in Pars Special Economic Energy Zone (PSEEZ) have been conducted wholly by the Iranian expertise and manpower.

Construction of refineries will be finished by the end of the next Iranian calendar year (March 2018), the official announced.

He said, "We have also achieved high technology for the power plant section of the South Pars projects."

While emphasizing the necessity of applying modern technology in development of joint fields, the official said that the oil industry requires investment and technology for preserving its share of South Pars and other joint fields.

## Saudi Oil Minister Al-Falih sees output freeze as 'positive'

Iran's oil minister became the latest OPEC member to say he will attend a meeting of producers in Algiers next month to discuss market conditions, including the possibility of keeping crude production at current levels. Saudi Arabia rejected an earlier attempt by some in the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries to freeze output at an April meeting in Doha.

"We will be willing to listen to our colleagues, what they have to offer in that area," Khalid Al-Falih, who became

Saudi energy minister in May, said in an interview Thursday in Los Angeles. "I don't believe that an intervention of significance is required. I certainly don't advocate a cut."

Crude oil has gained about 13 percent since OPEC said it would meet informally to discuss prices and supply, on speculation that the group could agree to freeze output levels. Benchmark Brent crude settled at \$49.67 a barrel on Thursday in London.

Producers from OPEC will meet on

the sidelines of an energy policy group. The meeting of OPEC and other producing countries in April ended without agreement in Doha when Saudi Arabia demanded that Iran be part of any deal to limit output. Iran had ruled out a ceiling on its production until it recovered the output levels it had before the sanctions.

■ **Iran output**

Iran's production has risen to 3.85 million barrels a day since sanctions were eased in January, Zanganeh said

this month, still less than its target for the end of this year of 4 million barrels a day. OPEC as a whole has boosted output to record levels since adopting a Saudi-led decision in 2014 to protect the group's global market share by forcing out higher-cost producers.

The International Energy Forum, comprising 73 countries that account for about 90 percent of the global supply and demand for oil and natural gas, will meet in Algiers on Sept. 26-28.

(Source: Bloomberg)

## NEWS

### OPEC's Barkindo: Oil producers show realization action needed on output

OPEC Secretary-General Mohammed Barkindo sees a growing understanding inside and outside the oil producers' group that action is needed to manage crude production in order to support prices, he said in remarks published in London-based newspaper Al-Hayat.

He told the newspaper: "There is growing realization within OPEC and outside that producers inside and outside must take more proactive stands in relation to production management in order to complement traditional market forces."

"We have seen where the approach of non-intervention in prices since 2014 has led," he said in remarks published in Arabic.

Members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries will meet on the sidelines of the International Energy Forum (IEF), which groups producers and consumers, in Algeria on September 26-28.

Asked about the possibility of an agreement on freezing production levels, he said: "Nothing is impossible in the current situation, and I know that no country in OPEC is immune to low prices."

(Source: Reuters)

### Iraq plans to sell oil through Iran if talks with Kurds fail

Iraq's government would consider selling crude through Iran should talks with the autonomous Kurdish region on an oil revenue-sharing agreement fail, a senior oil ministry official in Baghdad told Reuters.

Iraq's State Oil Marketing Organization (SOMO) plans to hold talks with the Kurdish Regional Government (KRG), possibly next week, about Iraqi oil exported through Turkey, Deputy Oil Minister Fayadh al-Nema said in an interview on Friday evening.

The Kurdistan region exports its oil via Turkey. Baghdad would not be able to reroute the oil produced in this region to Iran but could order shipments of some 150,000 bpd via Iran that are being produced in the nearby province of Kirkuk.

An agreement between Iran and Iraq could function in a similar fashion as oil-swap deals Tehran has had with Caspian Sea nations, according to an oil official who asked not to be identified.

Iran would import Iraqi oil to its refineries and export an equivalent amount of its own crude on behalf of Baghdad from Iranian ports on the Persian Gulf.

(Source: Reuters)

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# How humility won Colombia's peace deal

As Colombians prepare to vote on a carefully crafted peace proposal that would end a long war, they must remember how each side in the talks had to learn humility, helped along by a focus on those who suffered most in the war.

Colombia, which has suffered a half-century of brutal civil war, now has a proposed peace deal that, in essence, calls on the opposing sides to admit the other side has interests worth pursuing. If the deal is approved in an October 2 plebiscite, Colombians will have learned, collectively, how to redefine themselves.

They will have recognized the mutual suffering during the war, especially the loss of an estimated 175,000 innocent civilians. Instead of seeking retaliation, they will try to balance justice and forgiveness as necessary steps for peace. And they will work toward many of the goals held dear by the other side that they once opposed.

They will, in other words, have moved toward national reconciliation, perhaps even set a model of healing for other postwar societies.

Humility is often missing in difficult negotiations. Yet it was made real during the four years of talks between Colombia's government and leaders of the Marxist rebel group FARC (the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia).

## ■ Military campaign

The talks would not have begun without an effective military campaign that greatly diminished FARC forces after 2002 and helped revive the economy. But to get the remaining 7,000 guerrillas to give up their arms required delicate negotiations (held in Cuba and guided by Norway) that achieved remarkable levels of trust and respect.

FARC, for example, renounced kidnapping, use of child soldiers, and drug trafficking, thus admitting it had relied on those practices.

The government, meanwhile, confessed that FARC was right about many of the root causes of the war – social injustice and lack of effective local democracy.

President Juan Manuel Santos has already begun a program to restore land to

the displaced and to compensate war victims. As the talks came to a successful close in August, the two parties of negotiators stood and sang their national anthem together.

Even if Colombians approve the deal, the hardest part may be implementation. The “sustainability of Colombia's peace agreement lies in each one of us,” wrote social entrepreneur Mariángela Ramírez in June. Yet the same humility can be maintained if both sides keep a focus on the war's victims.

## ■ Victims' group

During the talks, victims' groups were at the table and were key to setting a tone of contrition on both sides, and then advocating for a method of justice. To the surprise of the government, the victims were more interested in ending the war, learning the truth about their lost family members, and obtaining reparations than in imposing harsh penalties on those involved in violence.

As a result, the deal calls for those who confess to war crimes and participate in reparations to be given up to eight years



of “restriction of liberty.” They will also be eventually allowed to participate in politics. Those who deny their war acts and are proven guilty could be sentenced to 20 years of prison. These crucial details are designed to abide by Colombia's Constitution as well as its obligations under international law.

For many Colombians, such leniency toward those who committed atrocities and now confess is a necessary step to disarming the rebels and getting them out of the

jungle. For the rebels, admitting their crimes and then accepting a penalty is a necessary step to further their goals of helping the poor – through democracy.

“There is no room for winners or losers when you achieve peace through negotiations,” tweeted FARC negotiator Rodrigo Granda, known as Ricardo Tellez. “Colombia wins, death loses.”

And, he might add, humility triumphs.  
(Source: The CSM)

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# Senna is an herb

## What does Senna do to the body?

The leaves and the fruit of the plant are used to make medicine. Senna is an FDA-approved nonprescription laxative. It is used to treat constipation and also to clear the bowel before diagnostic tests such as colonoscopy. Senna is also used for irritable bowel syndrome (IBS), hemorrhoids, and weight loss.

## What is Senna laxative used for?

Senna is used on a short-term basis to treat constipation. It also is used to empty the bowels before surgery and certain medical procedures such as colonoscopy. Senna is in a class of medications called stimulant laxatives. It works by increasing activity of the intestines to cause a bowel movement.

The amount of time it takes senna to begin working depends on the form of senna you are taking. Typically, you will take the laxative before bed and a bowel movement will result within six to

12 hours. If you are still constipated after taking senna for three days, make an appointment to speak with your doctor. Eating a healthy diet, drinking plenty of water, and getting regular gentle exercise can all help prevent constipation.

## Senna fruit vs. leaf

Senna fruit seems to be gentler than senna leaf. This has led the American Herbal Products Association (AHPA) to warn against long-term use of senna leaf, but not senna fruit. The AHPA recommends that senna leaf products be labeled, "Do not use this product if you have abdominal pain or diarrhea. Consult a healthcare provider prior to use if you are pregnant or nursing. Discontinue use in the event of diarrhea or watery stools. Do not exceed recommended dose. Not for long-term use."

## How does it work?

Senna contains many chemicals called sennosides, which irritates the lining of the bowel and causes a laxative effect.



## Reasons why you should practice yoga

Here's how routine stretching and breathing can enhance your life, from stress reduction to injury prevention

### 1. Relieve stress

We all find ways to deal with stress. But Terrence Monte, a managing teacher at Pure Yoga, says, "going to amped up gyms or punching a punching bag can make you more aggressive or more tired." Yoga, on the other hand, employs a number of relaxation techniques, which, with regular practice, can make you calmer overall. Sadie Nardini, host of "Rock Your Yoga," adds, "Along with training your body, yoga trains your mind to see the bigger picture and act from integrity instead of freaking out. If you want to be more James Bond than Charlie Sheen, get yourself on the mat." Being forced to unplug from text, calls, and email for 60 to 90 minutes doesn't hurt either.

### 2. Get flexible

Most series of yoga asanas (physical postures) include one or more spinal twists to loosen the many joints that make up your spine. This can improve your tennis game and golf swing, as well as promote detoxification and good digestion. Yogi Cameron Alborizan, Ayurvedic healer, yoga guru, and author of The One Plan, says, "Think of the body as a sponge filled with dirty sink water.

Gentle twists help to wring the sponge out and purge toxins."

### 3. Sculpt muscles

Yoga uses the weight of your own body to build mass and strength. Don't believe it? Think about how many clunky free-weights it takes to bench press your body-weight (150–200 lbs.)—yoga allows you to get the same muscle-building benefits by performing long, extended pushups, squats, and leg lifts. The results are well-worked muscle groups, which get stronger with each class.

### 4. Prevent workout injuries

Most yoga classes begin with a reminder to honor your body's particular needs and limits on that particular day. This basic ability to scan and assess yourself as you practice will help reduce the incidence of injury when running or playing other sports. Plus, flexible, well-stretched yoga muscles will heal and recover more quickly after working out or getting strained.

### 5. Push your limits

There are many types of yoga classes, some gentler than others. But when you find the class that matches your abilities—and pushes them? "Watch out!" says Nardini. "With long holds and often continual movements,

you'll amp up cardio at the same time you're building whole-body lean muscle mass. Find a class with 'Power,' 'Vinyasa,' or 'Flow' in the title, and you can skip the gym that day."

### 6. Calm your mind

In the midst of a jam-packed schedule, committing to the relaxed space of a yoga class might be the only way for some guys to slow down and breathe right. Scott Rodwin, founder of Radiance Yoga, explains that breathing exercises, called pranayama, have been developed over thousands of years to calm and tame that endless stream of thoughts. This, he says, leads to greater concentration as you work your way through each pose—and, in most cases, a calmness that lasts the rest of the day.

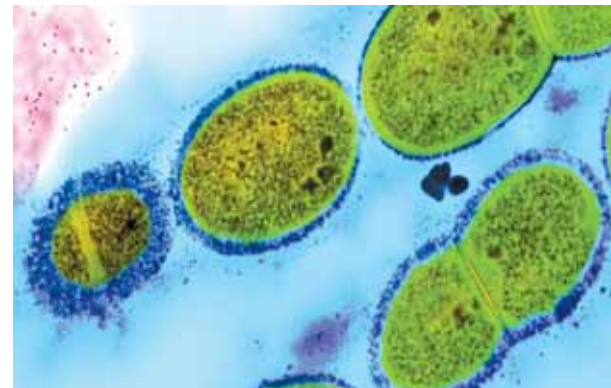
### 7. Smell better

Seriously. Michael Hewitt, founder of Sarva Yoga Academy says yoga is very much about waste removal. "Pheromonally, regular practice is more effective than cologne," he says. Exhaling and sweating help get rid of toxins during class, so that afterward, your sweat really will smell sweeter. "After a class," says Hewitt, "[your body is] cleaner, more confident and focused than when you walked in."

(Source: mensfitness.com)

## NEWS

### 'Iran to localize promising microbial toxins in cancer therapy'



**MEDICINE TEHRAN** – Iran has announced plans to acquire the know-how to produce microbial toxins with applications in cancer treatment, according to an Iranian microbiologist on Saturday.

Abbas Ali Imanfouladi, who was also the executive secretary of Iran's 17th international congress of microbiology, called the technique one of the latest findings in the field of microbiology in Iran.

"There used to be a time when microbes and their toxins were considered harmful, but today, the same substance is used for its medicinal properties for treating a wide scope of diseases."

Very lower doses of microbial toxins are of use mainly in treating cancers such as breast, ovaries, intestines, colon, etc.

The studies on the microbial toxins launched between 7 to 8 years ago, he noted, and a team of microbiology researchers have been at it since 5 years ago.

Imanfouladi hoped the research plan paves the way for researchers to take major steps in the development of new drugs in cancer treatment.

The scientist added no medicine has hit the market in Iran using microbial toxins yet, though international researchers have introduced two to three drugs to cancer patients through the same technique.

Microbial toxins are toxins produced by micro-organisms, including bacteria and fungi. They promote infection and disease by directly damaging host tissues and by disabling the immune system. Some bacterial toxins, such as Botulinum neurotoxins, are the most potent natural toxins known.



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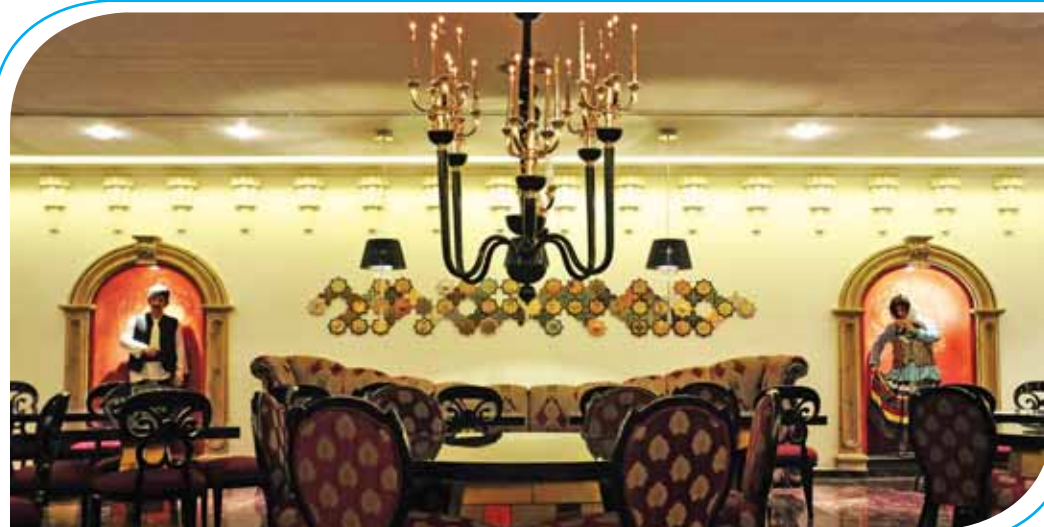
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### TAJ MAHAL ANNOUNCES ITS SECOND RESTAURANT MAHI – MAHI



## Renewal of Tehran-Ankara relations

By Maryam Azish

Since July 15 failed coup in Turkey, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif embarked on a visit to Ankara to hold close consultation with Turkish officials on the Syrian crisis since its outbreak some five years ago.

The visit was made after Turkey reviewed its stance on the humanitarian crises in the region, Syria in particular which has been gripped by a foreign-backed militancy since March 2011.

Currently, some evidences showing that Turkey's foreign policy on the humanitarian crisis in Syria have undergone major change.

Although observers believe that such changes are



fragile, political and temporary, the move indicates that Ankara has made some changes in its relations with Tehran and Moscow.

Now it seems that Ankara has reached to the point that Syrian crisis should be settled through peaceful means and has no military solution.

Since the outset of the Syrian crisis, the Islamic Republic of Iran has emphasized on the political settlement of this crisis and has repeatedly declared that the Syrian problem has no military solution.

While in Turkey, Zarif, who was the first Iranian top-ranking official to visit Turkey after the failed coup, held separate meetings with his counterpart Mevlut Cavusoglu and President Recep Teyyip Erdogan.

Iran that was the first country to condemn the coup in the very first hour, believes that coup has no place in our region and the vote and will of the people cannot be suppressed with the measures of a military group.

Such Tehran's immediate and rational behavior convinced Turkey to change its manner towards the Iranian stance.

Despite Tehran's disagreement with Ankara on the humanitarian crises in the region, Iran assured Turkey that it would support the Turkish legitimate government to administer the repercussions by the abortive military coup in that country.

Talking to reporters in Ankara, Zarif pointed to some differences between Iran and Turkey about some regional issues, noting that Iran, Turkey and Russia are three key regional countries that need to cooperate with each other.

### ■ Deep mutual understanding

Yildirim believes that Tehran and Ankara have deep understanding of the regional developments and will recommend the best ways to resolve the humanitarian crisis in Syria.

Speaking in Turkish parliament, he said that Turkish government reached settlement with Russia and decided to adopt the same approach with regards to Iraq and Syria.

The Turkish government has sense of responsibility to help resolve the regional crises and spares no efforts to maintain the territorial integrity of Syria, he said, adding

Iran and Turkey have full knowledge about situation in the region; therefore there is no doubt that the two governments would put forward the best options to resolve regional issues.

### ■ Call for fostering ties

Meanwhile, Zarif and Erdogan in a three-hour-long meeting discussed regional issues, particularly the crisis in Syria, fostering Iran-Turkey cooperation and agreed to expand mutual ties energy, transport and environment sectors, and to raise the volume of bilateral trade to USD 30 billion.

### ■ Counter-terrorism efforts

During his joint presser with Cavusoglu, Zarif said Tehran and Ankara have a common goal to improve cooperation on counter-terrorism efforts and tackle extremism despite their differences on some issues.

Zarif believes that Iran and Turkey have a common opinion and goal to jointly fight terrorism, extremism and sectarianism, and despite the existence of different views on some issues and both share a common stance on [protecting] Syria's territorial integrity, fighting Daesh and Jabhat Fath al-Sham terrorists.

Hailing the improvement of Russia-Turkey relations and their new efforts to stem the conflict in Syria, Zarif said: "We also have great ties with Russia on the [Syrian] issue and we believe that all parties must cooperate to provide security and peace and stop the conflicts in the region.

In the end, it is worth mentioning that as Turkey is the main road of terrorists to enter Syria, Ankara can handle traffic of terrorists and their equipment to this Arabic country.

Without doubt, establishment of new relations between Iran, Russian and Turkey can be promising in line with finding a diplomatic solution to the Syrian crisis and acceleration of the process of international peace talks on Syrian.

Zarif's Ankara visit follows historical meeting of Turkish and Russian presidents in Saint Petersburg, which has had wide-scale reflection in the news and diplomatic circles in Ankara.

# Nojeh airbase; climax of Iran-Russia defense cooperation

By Parnaz Talebi

It was on August 16 that Britain and US, in an attempt to undermine and halt the advancement of Syrian army forces in Aleppo, leaked the information that Russia would use an air base in western Iran to operate sorties against terrorists, according to anonymous sources. It was just a week after President Rouhani's visit with Vladimir Putin where he reaffirmed that Iran and Russia cooperation would continue until full restoration of security and stability to Syria and the whole region. And it was Russia Defense Ministry who put an end to all speculations of officially announcing the presence of Russian jets in Iran; "Russian long-range bombers have deployed and would take off from the air base in Hamedan and destroy terrorists' positions in Syria."

US didn't hesitate to call the act "unfortunate, not surprising or unexpected" the same day during a press briefing session by State Department spokesperson Mark Toner. He also confirmed US Secretary of State John Kerry's telephone conversation with Russian Foreign Ministry Sergei Lavrov, adding "the United States is looking into whether Russia has violated a UN Security Council resolution by deploying Tu-22M3 bombers and Su-34 strike fighters to an Iranian air base," Toner said. It was no surprise as, reportedly, Iran had admitted to provide an airbase for Russian jets under the condition that Russian fighters hit the terrorist targets specified by Iranian field forces, among which there were positions Russia has been asked by US to ignore.

Iranian side, however, kept silent till the next day when Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani touched upon the issue as the controversies reached high on the legitimacy of the issue; "Iran is cooperating with Russia as one of its allies in regional issues, particularly in regard to Syria. This cooperation by no means entails that our military base is under their control," Larijani told the Parliament assuring that the use of Iran's air base by Russia is not violating article 146 of Iran's constitution, which bans establishment of foreign military bases on its territory for any peaceful reason.

The following day, August 17, Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council Ali Shamkhani underlined that sharing facilities is a part of Iran-Russia's strategic cooperation in combating terrorism predicting very difficult situation for terrorists in Syria due to "constructive and expansive cooperation among Iran, Russia, Syria and the Resistance Front."

Alaeddin Boroujerdi, Head of Iran's Parliament National Security and Foreign Policy Commission, reacted to the disputes on legitimacy of the issue announcing that the deployment had been approved by Supreme National Security Council and is in line with Iran-Russia-Iraq-Syria quadrilateral agreement on fighting terrorism. Yet, he noted that the "temporary use" of the airbase is merely for fueling.

"Iran would provide a second airbase to Russia if situation demands," announced Iran's Minister of Defense, Hossein Dehghan, underlining once again that the act dose not undermine the constitution; "Contrary to claims,



no Russian plane and or fleet has been deployed in the airbase and they use it for fueling and taking off toward Syria," he told reporters on August 20, announcing that no deadline would be set for the activity in the airbase.

Deploying Hamedan airbase for anti-terrorist airstrikes had logistic reasons behind. According to Russian experts using the Nojeh airbase aimed at cutting flight times, increasing bomb capacity and improving response capabilities of its aircraft. It was estimated that missions launched from Iranian airbase would increase the bomb capacity of fighters by three times. On the other hand, Russia was planning to provide cover for heavy Tu-22M3s bombers deployed to Iran by bombers that take off from Hmeymim base in Syria.

And it worked. On August 16, Russian and Syrian media reported heavy losses by terrorists. Russian airstrikes destroyed five large ammunition depots with weapons, munitions and fuel, as well as militant training camps near the cities of Serakab, Al-Ghab, Aleppo and Deir ez-Zor cities. In addition, Russian bombers destroyed three command and control centers near the cities of Jafra and Deir ez-Zor. A "significant number of militants" were killed in what the Russian Defense Ministry described as a "concentrated airstrike." "The Russian Armed Forces have never carried out such a major and well-coordinated operation in terms of timing, multiple fronts and targets," the media outlet reported.

Russian media also pointed out that the Tu-22M3 deployment was part of a larger change in the strategic landscape regarding the Syrian battlefield. On August 12, Syria dispatched eight Kalibr-NK cruise missiles to Syrian shores. Meanwhile, a surface action group, comprising the Tatarstan and Dagestan frigates, as well as the Grad Sviyazhsk and Velikiy Ustyug corvettes, was deployed to the Caspian Sea. These ships were carrying a total of 24 Kalibr-NK cruise missiles.

However, the main target being liberation of Aleppo, didn't advance at the expected pace as the released footage of a 5-year-old Syrian child, Omran Dagneesh, who was reportedly rescued in Aleppo after an airstrike raised strong international reactions bringing the military operations in Aleppo to a cease, somehow.

Meanwhile, an abrupt stop in using the Nojeh airbase was announced by Spokesman of Russia's Defense Ministry on August 22, just a week after the start of deployment.

"The Russian military aircraft involved in launching air-

**Deploying Iran's airbase by Russia Air Force to attack terrorist positions in Syria has been proved highly controversial, however, it indicates the close ties Iran and Russia hold countering terrorism in the region.**

## Impotent rage of Washington

By Said Al-Khalaki

The US and its allies have once again demonstrated that their foreign policy is not aimed at resolving the long-term Syrian crisis but boosting their own interests in the region. Washington not only provides military assistance to so-called moderate Syrian opposition, that has been repeatedly condemned for war crimes, but also launched information offensive against its geopolitical rivals in the Middle East, Russia and Iran, who successfully fight against terrorism in Syria.

Some quality American press presented the withdrawal of Russian aircraft from Hamedan airbase in Iran as the evidence of the cooling in relations between Moscow and Tehran which had recently moved to the unprecedented new level. According to the statements made by some local liberal politicians, close and fruitful cooperation between Iran and Russia annoy pro-American part of the Iranian political elite.

Besides the US intelligence data, that some authors often refer to, can't be considered as a serious argument because



nowadays the American intelligence services have already become a source of disinformation so much useful to the White House in order to justify its foreign policy and to discredit its opponents. The US intelligence once again proved its incompetence when they informed Washington about the allegedly sharp

contradictions that have arisen as a result of Russians using the Iranian military infrastructure. This news item was then immediately spread by Western mainstream media.

However, according to our source at the Iranian Ministry of Defense, Russia and Iran have no contradictions concern-

strikes from the Iranian Hamadan base against terrorist sites in Syria successfully accomplished the tasks they had set out to complete," Maj. Gen. Igor Konashenkov said in a statement. "All aircraft involved in this operation are now on Russian territory."

"Continued use of the Hamadan air base in the Islamic Republic of Iran by the Russian Aerospace Forces will be carried out on the basis of mutual agreements to combat terrorism and depending on the unfolding situation in Syria," he detailed.

Once again the issue attracted the attentions among media hype with the most common speculations circulating around remarks made by Iran's defense minister the day before Russia stops operations. Dehghan accused Russia of publicizing the deal excessively, calling it a "betrayal of trust" and "ungentlemanly."

Dehghan went further to say that "Russians are keen on showing that they are a superpower and can greatly impact security trends. They also wish to appear as an effective agent in the scene of operations in Syria so that they will be able to negotiate with the Americans and guarantee their own part in Syria's political future."

Iranian minister, noting that Russia's use of Hamedan airbase was due to need for a stronger confrontation with terrorists in Syria, underlined that "under no circumstances will we ever provide Russians with a military base. They have not come here to stay."

Iran's Foreign Ministry also officially announced the departure of Russian jets after Russian Defense Ministry statement. Bahram Ghasemi, Foreign Ministry Spokesman told reporters that the Russian airstrikes on militants in Syria were "temporary, based on a Russian request, but that is finished for now."

US reacted immediately; "I'd have to refer you frankly to the governments of Russia and Iran to speak to what happened, we're monitoring it closely, we continue to, it's not clear to us other than what we've seen in various press and public statements whether (Russia) their use of this airbase has definitively stopped, but we'll continue to watch it closely," State Department Spokesman Mark Toner said.

Some analysts believed that the annulment of the permission was reflecting the deep and historical mistrust Iranian had of Russia and signaled lack of adequate cooperation. Still, the deal was a historical one for Russia, as Iran had not allowed any foreign power to have military bases or deploy any since World War II. The deal helped Russia feel again as a super power, analysts say, noting that the symbolism of the agreement was important for Moscow.

Despite all media hype, it should be noted that Iran and Russia's alliance to fight terrorism has never been doubted neither by Iranian party nor by Russian side. Iran and Russia, though via different approaches, share major goals in region; preventing ouster of President Bashar Assad by force and fighting terrorism, as a threat for their own national security. Russia's priority, however, seems to be confronting the US-led regime change in Syria while Iran is playing a key role as a regional power in supporting Assad and Syrian integrity.

ing their fight against terrorism. "Russians have once again accepted a kind invitation from the Iranian side, which provided them with the airbase to attack terrorist positions in Syria", he stressed. "Our countries have a long experience of cooperation. Hamedan airbase has been regularly used by the Russian Air Force, and we can definitely state that our cooperation will continue in future".

This claim was officially confirmed by the Iranian Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani who said that Russian fighter jets' flights from Hamedan are not halted and that Russia will keep using the airbase as long as it is needed.

Today it is evident that the USA are disappointed and frustrated by the fact that Moscow manages to achieve its Middle East goals, as well as pick up new allies and expand the sphere of its influence. As for the USA and its allies, their anti-terrorist efforts can't be called successful, and their originally stated goals are now as far from being fulfilled as a year ago. That's why Washington will carry on an information war and attempt to discredit joint operation conducted by Tehran and Moscow against terrorists.



NEWS

First great white shark nursery discovered by Ocearch team

A team of fishermen and scientists working for an ocean research organization has reportedly discovered the first known birthing site for great white sharks on the North Atlantic Coast. Ocearch founder and leader of the expedition, Chris Fischer, has termed this development as "probably the most significant discovery we've ever made on the ocean," according to CBS.

Great white sharks are tracked by Ocearch by putting tags on their dorsal fins. When these sharks rise to the surface, a satellite is pinged. On other expeditions, the team had gone days without finding even one shark but this summer was different with the organization tagging and releasing nine great white sharks within a week.

Finding this nursery off the coast of Long Island was a significant step for the researchers as it can lead to better protection policies for the species. The discovery is also important for extending the scope of scientific knowledge in the field.

One of the sharks tagged was a female named Gratitude. CBS News correspondent Jeff Glor said, "She was anxious to get off"

Others tagged include Hampton — a 42-pound male — and Montauk — a 4-foot, 50-pound female. Most of these are immature and expected to stay in the region until they turn 20, or reach adulthood. The scientists collect blood and tissue samples from the sharks in under 15 minutes to determine their sex and gain more knowledge about the species.

"These whites sharks, they pick good places to drop off their pups," WABC-TV reported Fischer as saying. "It means you are living in a very special place, critical habitat for the entire abundance of the north Atlantic." (Source: ibtimes.com)



Fern-inspired 'Nanofur' can soak up oil spills without absorbing water

You only need to think back to the BP oil spill of 2010 to realize what an enormous potential problem such spillages are.

That's why researchers at Germany's Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, in conjunction with colleagues from Bonn University, have been exploring new materials capable of mopping up large quantities of oil — and they've turned to nature to help them.

"We — and other scientists worldwide — would like to increase the absorption capacity of artificial oil absorbers as this is a serious problem for the environment," Hendrik Hölscher, one of the researchers involved with the study, told Digital Trends.

"Our solution is 'nanofur', already invented and patented at KIT. Fabrication of nanofur is a comparably simple process: it can be produced by pressing a hot rough steel plate into a polymer foil. The surface of the polymer melts and, when the steel plate is retracted, micro and nano-scaled hairs are pulled from the surface. Nanofur is superhydrophobic and superoleophilic. Therefore, it can selectively absorb oil while repelling water."

Nanofur took its inspiration from water ferns, which are capable of absorbing oil while remaining water-repellent, due to the hairy microstructure of their leaves. This water-repellent aspect is important for this task, since the majority of materials which can absorb oil (like sawdust) also absorb water. This makes them impractical for dealing with sea-based oil spills.

The "most important lesson we learned from our experiments is that hairy absorbent materials are generally better than non-hairy," Hölscher continued. "Interestingly, not only the hair length but also the shape of the hairs plays a significant role." (Source: Digital Trends)

Buried tectonic plate reveals hidden dinosaur-era sea

Using images constructed from earthquake data, geoscientists have developed a method for resurrecting a "slab graveyard" of tectonic plate segments buried deep within the Earth, unfolding the deformed rock into what it may have looked like up to 52 million years ago. This helped the researchers identify the previously unknown East Asian Sea Plate, where an ancient sea once existed in the region shortly after dinosaurs went extinct.

The Philippine Sea lies at the juncture of several major tectonic plates. The Pacific, Indo-Australian and Eurasian plates frame several smaller plates, including the Philippine Sea Plate, which researchers say has been migrating northwest since its formation roughly 55 million years ago.

In the process, the Philippine Sea Plate collided with the northern edge of the East Asian Sea Plate, driving it into the Earth's mantle. The southern area of the East Asian Sea Plate was eventually subducted by, or forced beneath, other neighboring plates, the researchers said.

Geologists attempting to reconstruct the past were once limited to visible evidence of slow-moving changes, such as mountains, volcanoes or the echoes of ancient waterways. But with new imaging technologies, scientists can now glean information from hundreds of miles within the Earth's interior to map distant history.

(Source: Live Science)

Biofuels might be worse for climate than gasoline, study finds

Years of number crunching that had seemed to corroborate the climate benefits of American biofuels were starkly challenged in a science journal on Thursday, with a team of scientists using a new approach to conclude that the climate would be better off without them.

Based largely on comparisons of tail-pipe pollution and crop growth linked to biofuels, University of Michigan Energy Institute scientists estimated that powering an American vehicle with ethanol made from corn would have caused more carbon pollution than using gasoline during the eight years studied.

Most gasoline sold in the United States contains some ethanol, and the findings, published in Climatic Change, were controversial. They rejected years of work by other scientists who have relied on a more traditional approach to judging climate impacts from bioenergy — an approach called life-cycle analysis.

Following the hottest month on record globally, and with temperatures nearly 2°F warmer and tides more half a foot higher than they were in the 1800s, the implications of biofuels causing more harm to the climate than good would be sweeping.

The research was financially supported by the American Petroleum Institute,



which represents fossil fuel industry companies and has sued the federal government over its biofuel rules.

Life-cycle analysis

"I'm bluntly telling the life-cycle analysis community, 'Your method is inappropriate,'" said Professor John DeCicco, who led the work. "I evaluated to what extent have we increased the rate at which the

carbon dioxide is being removed from the atmosphere?"

Lifecycle analyses assume that all carbon pollution from biofuels is eventually absorbed by growing crops.

DeCicco's analysis found that energy crops were responsible for additional plant growth that absorbed just 37 percent of biofuel pollution from 2005 to 2013, leaving most of it in the atmosphere, where it traps heat.

DeCicco's analysis found that energy crops were responsible for additional plant growth that absorbed just 37 percent of biofuel pollution from 2005 to 2013, leaving most of it in the atmosphere, where it traps heat.

How might a 'little smudge' change our perceptions of the universe?

A group of astronomers at Yale University and the University of Toronto were peering through a telescope they had built from camera parts when they saw something that could change the universe.

"We planned to study the outskirts of galaxies to see what exists around them, but by accident we saw all these little smudges," Pieter van Dokkum of Yale University told The Washington Post.

No, their scrappy, self-made Dragonfly Telephoto Array telescope wasn't defective. It had picked up on what could represent an entirely new class of massive objects: a galaxy 320 million light-years away that is 99.99 percent dark matter.

To confirm their discovery, Dr. van Dokkum and his colleagues turned to more conventional telescopes: the W.M. Keck Observatory and the Gemini North telescope in Hawaii. And they found that the dark galaxy, dubbed Dragonfly 44, was surprisingly massive.

The scientists measured the velocities of the stars in the newfound galaxy to determine Dragonfly 44's mass, as speedier stars mean a more massive galaxy. Their findings are described in a paper published Thursday in Astrophysical Journal Letters.

Dim galaxy

"Amazingly, the stars move at velocities that are far greater than expected for such a dim galaxy. It means that Dragonfly 44 has a huge amount of

unseen mass," study co-author Roberto Abraham of the University of Toronto said in a press release.

The scientists estimate that Dragonfly 44 has a mass about 1 trillion times the mass of the sun, which is equivalent to 2 tredecillion kilograms (a 2 followed by 42 zeros, so a lot of mass).

That means Dragonfly 44 is as massive as our own star-filled galaxy, although it only has 0.01 percent of the stars and "normal" matter that fills the Milky Way. The remaining 99.99 percent of Dragonfly 44's mass must, therefore, be dark matter, the researchers concluded.

Dark matter has yet to be directly detected, but scientists have hypothesized that it makes up as much as 90 percent of the mass of the universe. The idea is that dark matter provides the extra mass necessary to hold the universe together with its gravitational pull.

"Ultimately what we really want to learn is what dark matter is. The race is on to find massive dark galaxies that are even closer to us than Dragonfly 44, so we can look for feeble signals that may reveal a dark matter particle," van Dokkum said in the press release.

Dragonfly 44 is not the first dark galaxy to be discovered, but it stands out because its mass is so similar to the Milky Way. We have no idea how galaxies like Dragonfly 44 could have formed," said Dr. Abraham.

(Source: The CSM)

New strategy to fight mosquitoes in a more efficient and sustainable way

Mosquitoes continue to build resistance to existing pesticides. Research has now shown that the chemical substances emitted by one of the mosquito's natural enemies - the backswimmer - makes the biological pesticide Bti more deadly. These so-called predator cues also impair the mosquito's immune system.

Scientists at KU Leuven (University of Leuven), Belgium, argue that a cocktail of biological pesticides and synthetic predator cues very well be the future of mosquito control.

Mosquitoes transmit quite a few deadly diseases, including West Nile Virus. Around the world, therefore, the fight against these insects is high on the agenda. Existing strategies for mosquito control often involve the use of pesticides that harm the environment. These pesticides are increasingly less effective as well, as insects can become resistant to existing products relatively quickly.

Biopesticides are a possible alternative. The most commonly used biological pesticide is the Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis (Bti) bacteria.

Developing resistance

Unfortunately, mosquitoes are already developing a resistance to this pesticide as well. This means we have to keep increasing the dose of Bti to kill mosquitoes, so that this biological substance, too, is beginning to harm the environment.

Under the supervision of Professor Robby Stoks, KU Leuven doctoral student Lin Op de Beek set out to find a

new strategy in the fight against mosquitoes. "We already knew that chemical substances emitted by the backswimmer - a natural enemy of mosquito larvae in the water - trigger a stress response in mosquitoes. This stress response, in turn, suppresses the mosquito's immune system," says Op de Beek.

"Scientists have recently found a way to produce a synthetic version of these chemical substances known as predator cues. We discovered that this synthetic version triggers a stress response in the mosquitoes and impairs their immune system, just like the natural predator cues."

This gave the researchers the idea to combine these synthetic predator cues with the biological pesticide Bti. "We developed a cocktail of predator cues and a low, non-lethal dose of Bti," Lin Op de Beek continues. The "predator cues trigger extra stress, so that the Bti had a strong impact despite its lower dose. As a result, the mortality rates among mosquitoes were high."

As the predator cues of the backswimmer also have an impact on their targets' immune system, the cocktail weakens the mosquitoes and larvae that it fails to kill. The "surviving mosquitoes and mosquito larvae will probably have a shorter lifespan, so that the parasites they transmit don't have the time to complete their incubation period," says Op de Beek. "As a result, the mosquitoes will transmit less diseases."

(Source: EurekAlert)

AYANDEH Bank to Pay Totally 626b Rials Marriage Loan by Yearend

**ECONOMY**desk In line with expansion and dissemination of auspicious culture of interest-free loan and enforcement of usury-free banking law, AYANDEH Bank will pay more than 626.2 billion rials worth of marriage loan to the young couples for provision of dowry via

95 branches in the current Iranian calendar year in 1395 (started March 20, 2016).

The bank will pay marriage loan to the couples via 95 of its total 165 branches across the country, the Public Relations Department of the bank revealed.

The stages of granting the loan is underway at the bank within the framework of rules and regulations of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI), the report added.

Concurrent with the notification of Note 29 of 2016 Budget Bill, marriage loan has increased from 30 million rials to 100 million rials special of ordinary couples, the rate of

which stands at 200 million rials special of war-veteran families and disabled ones. Rendering quality services to the applicants of the loan and respected couples, especially young strata of society, have been put atop agenda of management of the bank, the report ended.

IKCO in Moscow International Automobile Salon (MIAS)

**ECONOMY**desk Presenting three new cars in Moscow International Automobile Salon (MIAS), Iran Khodro Industrial Group is on its way back to Russia.

The show will be open for 12 days starting on the 3rd of August, providing the opportunity for IKCO to showcase its latest products aside other global carmakers.

During past years IKCO could dispatch 12 thousand sets of cars to Russia. Receiving the required standard certificates, IKCO can get back to this market now. However, the company is determined to gain a noticeable share of the car market in Russia and CIS countries and prove its technological capabilities with showcasing Dena, Runna and Soren (turbocharged) sedans in this MIAS.

Studying global markets, cooperating with international carmakers,

focusing on environmental issues in production process and producing cars that meet environmental standards have all caused this Iranian carmaker to take a big leap to enter international markets.

Besides producing high quality cars as a professional commitment, IKCO has targeted its customer satisfaction with providing world-wide after sales service in its target markets, which is considered as the company's strong point.

Moscow International Automobile Salon is held in three saloons. Carmakers as LADA, Volvo, Hyundai and Chinese carmakers have also participated in this show.

MIAS can be compared with major international motor shows as Geneva and Frankfurt when it comes to its history, quality and quantity.

AIC Pays over 38,000b Rials Worth of Compensation in 3 Yrs.

**ECONOMY**desk Totally, Asia Insurance Company (AIC) paid more than 38,000 billion rials worth of compensations to the insured in the past three years in 1392 (March 20, 2013-March 19, 2014), 1393 (March 20, 2014-March 19, 2015) and 1394 (March 20, 2015-March 19, 2016).

Public Relations Dept. Manager of the company announced the above statement and commemorated the Government Week and stated: "Asian Insurance Company has focused on paying logical compensations in the shortest time possible."

Separately, the company paid 10,000 billion rials worth of compensation to the insured in 1392 (March 20, 2013-March 19, 2014), he said, adding: "13,000 and 15,000 billion rials worth of compensation were paid to the insured in 1393 (March 20, 2014-March 19,

2015) and 1394 (March 20, 2015-March 19, 2016) respectively."

Moreover, the company paid totally 27,000 billion rials worth of compensation to the properties insurance coverage including fire, vehicle, transport and engineering, he said, adding: "11,000 billion rials worth of compensation was paid to the insured in the insurance field of healthcare and treatment, life, liability, saving and accident."

In the end, Public Relations Dept. Manager of Asian Insurance Company pointed to the paying billions rials worth of compensation by the company as the largest private insurance company in the country and said: "Considering the widespread sales services across the country, the company managed to compensate the damages incurred to the insured industrial and production units in the shortest possible time."



## NEWS IN BRIEF



## Iranian coast guard saves 1,408 from drowning in Caspian Sea

**T T SOCIETY TEHRAN** — Some 1,408 individuals **d e s k** have been rescued from drowning in the Caspian Sea since May 21, the Mazandaran province coast guard commandant has said.

The vigilant coast guards have saved 1,408 tourists who were drowning while swimming in the sea, Houshang Hosseini said, Mehr news agency reported.

He also warned those who ignore the no swimming signs and swim in the prohibited areas, stating, swimming in the sea is totally different from swimming in the pool and can easily claim lives in many cases.

He called on all tourists to use swimming areas where coast guards are available to help when necessary.

## LEARN ENGLISH

## Showing Signs of Age

Julian: What is that, another gray hair?! My hair is already **thinning** on top. I don't need more gray hairs.

Vera: I think **salt and pepper hair** looks great on men. It makes them look **distinguished**.

Julian: It makes them look old. Thank God I don't have a **receding hairline** – yet.

Vera: When you get to be my age, you won't worry so much about graying hair. There are a lot of other things to worry about.

Julian: Like what?

Vera: Forget I mentioned it. **Showing signs of age** isn't something to be **lamented**. It's natural and part of maturing as a person. It gives you **character**.

Julian: Stop being **evasive**. Like what?

Vera: Okay, like **wrinkles** and **age spots**, **deafness** and **memory loss**.

Julian: Gee, thanks. If I ever need **to talk someone off a ledge**, I'll give you a call!

(Source: eslpod.com)

### Words & phrases

**thin**: to become fewer in number, especially when there were many before

**salt and pepper hair**: color of a mix together blend of a person's natural hair color along with gray

**distinguished**: used to describe a person, especially an older person, who looks formal, stylish, or wise

**receding hairline**: if your hair recedes, you gradually lose the hair at the front of your head

**show signs of age**: things that indicate someone's getting old

**lament**: to express feelings of great sadness about something

**mature**: someone who is mature behaves in a sensible and reasonable way

**character**: a quality that makes someone or something special and interesting

**evasive**: not willing to answer questions directly

**wrinkle**: wrinkles are lines on your face and skin that you get when you are old

**age spot**: uniformly colored areas of brown or grayish pigment that generally show up on the hands, face, neck, and chest

**deafness**: inability to understand speech through hearing even when sound is amplified

**memory loss**: unusual forgetfulness; you may not be able to remember new events, recall one or more memories of the past, or both

**talk someone off a ledge**: to try to make someone calm and stop them from doing something dangerous such as committing suicide

## ENGLISH IDIOM

## All in your head

■ **Explanation**: if something is all in your head, it is not real. It is in your imagination

■ **For example**: Don't be silly. Nobody is trying to harm you. It's all in your head!

## PHRASAL VERB

## Balls something up

■ **Meaning**: to interfere with someone or something; to mess someone or something up

■ **For example**: Who balled this television up? Someone balled up the television.

## ENGLISH PROVERB

## Little strokes fell great oaks

■ **Explanation**: you can complete a large, intimidating task by steadily doing small parts of it

■ **For example**: Jill: How can I possibly write a fifty-page report in two months? Jane: Just write a little bit every day. Little strokes fell great oaks.

# Iran, Sweden discuss health co-op

**T T SOCIETY TEHRAN** — An Iranian **d e s k** delegation led by Taqi Nourbakhsh, the CEO of Social Security Organization, met Swedish officials, discussing ways to promote health cooperation between the two countries, IRNA news agency reported on Saturday.

Over a meeting with Swedish Minister of Health and Social Affairs Gabriel Wikström and Swedish Minister for Social Security Annika Strandhäll, the Iranian delegation briefed the Swedish on the services of Social Security Organization of Iran and heard about the health system in Sweden to exchange ideas for future cooperation.

The two sides also exchanged views on e-health as Sweden has practiced the system for 12 years old.

The Iranian officials also held meetings with the officials of the Swecare Foundation and Swedish National Export Credits Guarantee Board.



Swedish National Export Credits Guarantee Board representatives who had been to Iran recently to weigh up investment opportunities in Iran expressed hope to start cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Paying a visit to the new Karolinska Solna (NKS) Hospital which is under construction in Solna the Iranian and Swedish officials agreed to consider the possibility of constructing a joint hospital by Iran and Sweden.

Moreover, Nourbakhsh had a meeting with representatives of 10 Swedish Companies active in the field of medical equipment, pharmaceutical industries, and hospital construction to talk over the ways to expand cooperation in those areas.

According to another agreement made during the visit to Sweden, a Swedish delegation is due to travel to Iran in near future to follow up on the agreements made during this visit.

## Florida man survives lightning strike, spider, snake bites

**LAKELAND, Fla. (AP)** — Kyle Cook can't decide whether he's really unlucky or incredibly fortunate.

Over the past four years, the 31-year-old Florida man has survived a lightning strike, a bite by a venomous spider and — most recently — an attack by a rattlesnake in his backyard in Lakeland, southwest of Orlando.

"I need to get a (protective) bubble," Cook told The Ledger.

His father, Mike Cook, sees it another way. "He's a walking Murphy's law," the elder Cook said. "I walk on the other side of the mall."

On Aug. 11, the younger Cook was almost finished cutting the grass at his family's rented house when he heard a loud rattling sound. First he thought it was the buzzing of cicadas. Then, he thought the push mower might be making the noise so he shut it off. That's when he saw the snake coiled about 3 feet from his right foot. He estimated it was about 5 feet long and had a girth

the size of a soda can.

"The doctor said the tissue saved my life because it didn't allow (the venom) to go into the bloodstream," he said. He said he spent one night in the hospital and received one dose of antivenin.

He's still experiencing soreness and walks with a slight limp.

On Aug. 12, 2012, he was driving a sweeper truck for a construction crew. A storm approached, and the truck's sweeper got stuck. He left the cab to free it as lightning struck about 10 feet away. Cook said the electricity moved through a puddle, up the sweeper's metal bristles and reached his left hand. He said he was knocked backward about 6 feet and rendered unconscious for up to a minute.

Doctors said he had a mild heart attack. He said he still suffers a combination of nerve pain and loss of sensation on his left side.

**IN FOCUS** IRNA/ Rasoul Shojaei



On a hot summer day children are playing in spraying pools in the city of Isfahan.



## Three charged with selling horsemeat as beef in Britain



**LONDON (Reuters)** — Three men have been charged with fraud for allegedly selling horsemeat as beef in Britain in 2012, prosecutors said on Friday.

Eating horsemeat is culturally taboo in Britain and in 2013 the country's food industry was rocked by scandal when it emerged that horsemeat was being sold in some imported beef products.

Investigations at the time found that companies including Britain's biggest supermarket Tesco and fast-food chain Burger King were selling beef products that contained horsemeat.

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) said Ulrik Nielsen, Alex Ostler-Beech and Andronicos Sideras are accused of conspiring together and with others to sell as beef a mixture of what was in fact horsemeat and beef.

The charges relate to activities between January and October of 2012 and follow an investigation by City of London Police.

"After carefully considering evidence from the UK and overseas, the CPS has decided that there is sufficient evidence to provide a realistic prospect of conviction and it is in the public interest to charge these three men," the CPS said a statement.

They will appear at City of London Magistrates Court on Sept. 27.



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AND TO SUBMIT THEIR SEALED AND STAMPED ENVELOPES CONTAINING OFFERS LATEST ON WEDNESDAY DATED 08/10/2016 (TILL THE END OF OFFICIAL HOURS) TO OUR SECURITY OFFICE LOCATED ON 8<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR. MEANWHILE THE MEETING FOR THE OPENING OF ENVELOPS WILL BE ON SATURDAY DATED 09/10/2016 AT 14:00 P.M. WITH THE PRESENCE OF BIDDER'S REPRESENTATIVES IN OUR PURCHASING COMMITTEE (9<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR, NO. 1, FOURTH ALLEY, GANDHI ST., TEHRAN, IRAN).

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Public & International Relations Department  
Agricultural Support Services Company (ASSC)



A group allied to Kurdish-backed Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) said it was bombed by Turkish warplanes on Saturday, after Turkey's military launched an incursion this week into northern Syria against both the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Daesh) terrorist group and Kurdish forces.

Turkish military sources said planes had hit an ammunition store south of Jarablus, but they did not give details.

If the jets struck targets linked to the Kurdish-aligned group, it would signal Turkey's action against Kurdish-backed forces in Syria was being ratcheted up a notch.

The Jarablus Military Council, a group that is part of the Kurdish-backed SDF, said the jets hit a village south of the strategic town of Jarablus, causing civilian casualties. It called the action "a dangerous escalation".

A Reuters witness in Karkamis, a Turkish town on the other side of the border from Syria's Jarablus, saw warplanes flying from Turkish air space early on Saturday into Syria and then heard several blasts. The identity of the planes was not clear.

Syrian rebels backed by Turkish Special Forces, tanks and warplanes entered Jarablus this week, seizing the frontier town that had been an ISIL stronghold. The rebel force backed by Turkey were largely Arab and Turkmen.

The Turkish campaign pre-empted action by Kurdish-backed forces which had sought to get to Jarablus first.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and other senior officials have made clear that the incursion is as much about pushing away the ISIL as it is about preventing Kurdish forces filling the void left as the extremists withdraw.

## Kurdish-aligned group in north Syria says targeted by Turkish warplanes



venting Kurdish forces filling the void left as the extremists withdraw.

Turkey wants to stop Kurdish forces gaining control of a continuous stretch of territory along its southern border, which Ankara fears could be used to support the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK/Partiya Karkerên Kurdistanê) group that is fighting an insurgency on Turkish soil.

Turkish-backed Syrian rebels have extended their control beyond Jarablus, seizing five nearby villages from ISIL, Turkish security sources said. The Turkish Red Crescent has distributed food in Jarablus since Friday, the sources said.

### ■ Rivalries and alliances

The Jarablus Military Council said the village of al-Amarna, which lies a few kilometers south of Jarablus, was hit by the warplanes. In response to the Turkish strike, it said: "If they do not attack our forces, then we will keep the border strip secure."

The newly formed Jarablus Military Council has said it was made up of people from the area with the aim of capturing the town and the surrounding region from the ISIL terrorists. However, the Turkish-backed rebels seized Jarablus first.

## N. Korea threatens to fire at U.S., S. Korean troops near its border

North Korea has threatened to fire at lighting equipment being used by the United States and South Korean militaries at a village inside the Demilitarized Zone.

An official statement by the North's Korean People's Army accuses U.S. and South Korean troops of initiating "deliberate provocations" by targeting North Korean posts with the lights. The accusations were cited by AP.

The statement comes just a few hours after the United Nations Security Council slammed North Korea for launching four missiles over the last two months.

In addition, the U.S.-headed UN Command in the South has accused Pyongyang of planting land mines in the vicinity of Panmunjom, the village where the truce between North and South Korea was signed in 1953. On Wednesday, a North Korean submarine test-launched a ballistic missile in the East China Sea.

The launch was performed amid joint drills held by South Korea and the U.S. The yearly two-week Ulchi Freedom Guardian (UFG) drills began on Monday, with 50,000 Korean and 30,000 U.S. soldiers taking part.

Pyongyang branded the exercises a rehearsal for an actual attack on the country, describing the drills as "a clear manifestation of a vicious plot" to "enslave" North Korea.

Tensions in the region have been running high since

the start of the year, when Pyongyang carried out nuclear and ballistic missile tests.

Recently, the U.S. decided to deploy cutting-edge nuclear-capable bombers to its base in Guam, located in the Western Pacific, announced the deployment of Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) missile systems to South Korea, causing even more heated and angry rhetoric from the North.

### ■ UN Security Council condemns North Korea

Elsewhere, the UN Security Council late on Friday condemned a series of missile launches by North Korea after failing to do so earlier this month when China had wanted a statement also to oppose the planned deployment of a U.S. anti-missile system in South Korea.

"The members of the Security Council deplore all Democratic People's Republic of Korea ballistic missile activities," the statement said, referring to North Korea by its formal name.

The statement referred to Wednesday's launch as well as other North Korean ballistic missile launches since July 9.

"Such activities contribute to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's development of nuclear weapons delivery systems and increase tension," it said.

As in past statements, the Council went on to say that it "would continue to closely monitor the situation and take further significant measures in line with the Council's previously expressed determination."

Earlier this month, the 15-member council had been unable to agree on a U.S.-drafted statement to condemn North Korea's Aug. 3 launch of a ballistic missile that landed in or near Japanese-controlled waters.

China had wanted the statement to oppose deploying "any new anti-ballistic missile stronghold in North-east Asia with an excuse of dealing with threats of the DPRK nuclear and missile programs."

Friday's statement did not include such language.

China strongly opposes the planned basing of a U.S. THAAD anti-missile system in South Korea, which it says would worsen tension on the Korean peninsula.

Beijing worries that THAAD's radar system has a range that could extend into China. The United States says the system is defensive and intended to counter North Korea's missile threat.

North Korea has been under UN sanctions since 2006. In March, the Security Council imposed harsh new sanctions in response to North Korea's fourth nuclear test in January and the launch of a long-range rocket in February.

(Source: agencies)

## Italy grieves as state funeral held for victims of powerful quake

Weeping relatives hugged each other and reached out to touch the simple wooden coffins at a state funeral held on Saturday for some of the 290 people killed in an earthquake this week.

Amongst the 35 coffins laid out in a sports hall were small caskets holding the bodies of an 18-month-old baby and a nine-year-old girl, two of the 21 children who are known to have died when the quake hit central Italy early on Wednesday.

Even as the funeral Mass was being held, rescuers kept searching through the rubble of the worst hit town, Amatrice, although they acknowledged they had little hope of finding any more survivors from Italy's worst earthquake in seven years.

Nine more bodies were recovered from the town on Saturday, including three corpses that were pulled overnight from the crumpled Hotel Roma, bringing the death toll in Amatrice alone to 230 residents and tourists.

One of the last people to be plucked alive from the debris was a girl called Giorgia, who turned four on Saturday. Her sister Giulia's small coffin lay in the center of the sports hall for the funeral Mass.

Relatives of the dead sat on chairs next to the coffins or knelt on the floor, their arms resting on the varnished wood caskets, which were covered in flowers. Some of the mourners clutched framed photos of their loved ones.

## Israeli forces fire tear gas at Palestinians watching football match

Dozens of Palestinian football players and soccer fans have suffered tear gas inhalation after Israeli forces raided a stadium northeast of al-Quds (Jerusalem) on Friday.

Palestinian sources said some 1,200 people were watching a match between two clubs on Friday afternoon, when Israeli troops stormed the Faisal al-Husseini stadium in the town of al-Ram.

The Israeli forces fired tear gas canisters to disperse the crowd, leaving dozen of people in need of medical attention. The motive behind the Israeli attack was not immediately clear.

Separately, five young Palestinian men were shot and injured in the town of Silwad northeast of Ramallah after clashes erupted at the funeral of the 38-year-old Iyad Zakariya Hamed.

The Israeli military said they shot dead the man at the entrance to Silwad after they suspected him of running towards an army post.

Israeli media outlets initially said the slain Palestinian had opened fire from inside a car, and that a woman might have accompanied him.

They further alleged that the man was shot and critically injured inside his vehicle, and later succumbed to his gunshot wounds.

It was later revealed that the Palestinian man, who is survived by three children, was unarmed.

Meanwhile, three Palestinian youths suffered injuries from live fire during skirmishes with Israeli troops in the eastern Shuja'iyya neighborhood of the Gaza City.

Gaza's Health Ministry spokesman Ashraf al-Qudra said the trio sustained moderate gunshot wounds, and were transferred to hospital.

Israeli troops also clashed with Palestinian youths in the Ras al-Ein village in northern Israel, the Baita village near Nablus as well as Jalazone refugee camp north of Ramallah late on Friday, with no immediate word on casualties.

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.

At least 236 Palestinians have lost their lives at the hands of Israeli forces in the tensions since the beginning of last October.

(Source: Press TV)

### JUMP

## Tunisia's new government wins parliamentary approval

➔ Labor unions and other groups have resisted attempts to reform pensions and introduce more taxes while at 13.5 percent of gross domestic product, Tunisia's public sector wage bill is proportionately one of the highest in the world.

Chahed was appointed prime minister-designate by President Essebsi early this month after parliamentarians passed a vote of no confidence in then-Prime Minister Habib Essid's government following just 18 months in office.

Chahed is Tunisia's seventh premier in less than six years following the toppling of the country's longtime dictator Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

Tunisia is considered a rare success story of the Islamic Awakening (Arab Spring), though authorities have failed to resolve the issues of poverty, unemployment, regional disparities and corruption that preceded Ben Ali's fall.

(Source: Al Jazeera)

## U.S. drone attack kills 22 Afghan soldiers: Helmand council

A United States drone attack has killed 22 Afghan soldiers held by Taliban militants in the southern Helmand province, while Taliban have overrun a strategic district elsewhere.

Provincial officials announced the fatalities on Saturday. Taliban also confirmed the death toll, saying the airstrike had killed three of the group's members in the Nad-e-Ali district on Thursday.

Helmand is a strategically important province for both the Afghan government and the Taliban militants, who control or contest 10 of the 14 districts in the opium-rich province.

On Saturday, Taliban militants seized a strategic district in the eastern province of Paktia, from which they can surge towards several other provinces.

Officials said dozens of police and soldiers were killed as the militants captured the Jani Khel district after five days of siege.

Local governor Abdul Rahman Solamal said hundreds of militants attacked police check posts overnight, prompting security forces to flee the district.

Jani Khel sits at an intersection linking eight districts. It also connects Paktia with neighboring Khost province and Pakistan.

"If we do not retake it (Jani Khel) soon then Taliban can easily move from one province to another and can undermine security in at least three provinces," Solamal warned.

More than 20 soldiers and police were killed and another 20 wounded in the fighting overnight, while some 200 Taliban insurgents were killed, he said.

In a statement, Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said large amounts of equipment had been captured, including armored vehicles, light and heavy weapons and ammunition.

Taliban have regrouped since the death of former leader Mullah Akhtar Mansour earlier in the year and are reported to be currently in control of more than 65 percent of the country.

Fierce fighting is currently ongoing against the militants across the country, notably in Helmand and around the northern city of Kunduz, which they briefly seized last year.

Late last month, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) said it had recorded 1,601 civilian deaths and 3,565 injuries in Afghanistan in the first six months of 2016.

The mission warned that civilian casualties had hit a record high this year, describing them as "alarming and shameful."

(Source: Press TV)

## Bahrain starts sentencing top cleric supporters to prison

Bahraini authorities have started handing down prison sentences to those holding sit-ins in protest at the regime's decision to revoke the citizenship of prominent Shia Muslim cleric Sheikh Isa Qassim.

Two protesters were sentenced to one year of imprisonment each last week for attending protests in the restive Diraz village, the Bahrain Center for Human Rights (BCHR) said on Friday.

The first verdict was pronounced on August 19, when Shia cleric Sheikh Ali Humeidan was sentenced to jail. The second verdict was issued three days later when Shia eulogist Abdullah Subah was convicted on charges of "holding unlawful gatherings" in Diraz.

The center said Shia clerics Sheikh Ali Naji also known as al-Himli, Sheikh Mounir al-Maatouk, and Sheikh Imad al-Shaala, together with eulogist Mullah Habib al-Dirazi are facing trial on similar charges.

The center strongly condemned the persecution of peaceful protesters in Diraz, and the House of Khalifah regime's violation of public right to peaceful gathering.

The BCHR further expressed concerns over the safety of demonstrators protesting the regime's decision to strip Sheikh Qassim of citizenship.

The BCHR called upon the ruling House of Khalifah regime to immediately release all those detained for holding peaceful gatherings and drop charges brought against them.

It also urged Bahraini rulers to end restrictions on holding peaceful demonstrations, and allow protesters to rally without any fear of interrogation, arrest or any form of reprisal.

Bahraini authorities revoked Sheikh Qassim's citizenship in late June. They later dissolved the main opposition bloc al-Wefaq National Islamic Society, as well as the Islamic Enlightenment Institution, founded by the 79-year-old cleric, besides another opposition movement, the al-Risala Islamic Association.

Since February 14, 2011, thousands of anti-regime protesters have held numerous demonstrations in Bahrain on an almost daily basis, calling on the House of Khalifah to relinquish power. Troops from Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates have been deployed to the country to assist the Bahraini government in its crackdown on peaceful protests.

(Source: Press TV)



TENNIS

Challenging early foes for Djokovic, Williams

Top seeds Novak Djokovic and Serena Williams face challenging early tests at the U.S. Open following Friday's draws for the year's last grand slam starting on Monday.

Djokovic, who has been bothered by a wrist injury, faces towering Jerzy Janowicz of Poland in his opening match at Flushing Meadows, and is likely to meet 48th-ranked Jiri Vesely of the Czech Republic in the second round.

Vesely beat the Serbian world number one earlier this season on clay in Monte Carlo.

"I'm doing everything in my power ... to make sure that I'm as close to 100 percent as possible," Djokovic told reporters, saying he hurt his wrist in Rio a few days before the start of the Olympic tournament, where he lost in the first round.

Williams, recovering from a shoulder injury that contributed to her third-round exit in Rio, drew Russian lefthander Ekaterina Makarova as her first opponent.

The 34-year-old American, seeking to break her tie with Steffi Graf for most grand slam singles titles in the Open era on 22, has a 4-1 career record against Makarova, but lost to the Russian in the fourth round at the 2012 Australian Open.

Williams is in a strong quarter that also includes fifth seed Simona Halep of Romania and 16th-seeded Australian Sam Stosur, who beat the American in the 2011 U.S. Open final.

Djokovic is seeded to face either Frenchman Richard Gasquet or big-serving American John Isner in the fourth round, with France's Jo-Wilfried Tsonga or 2014 champion Marin Cilic, who ended Andy Murray's win streak in the Cincinnati final, as possible quarter-final opponents.

Men's second seed Murray, who ran off 22 wins in a row including his second Wimbledon title and successful defense of his Olympics crown, appeared to get a more favorable draw.

The Scotsman opens against Czech Lukas Rosol, has Grigor Dimitrov of Bulgaria or Feliciano Lopez of Spain as potential fourth-round foes with Japan's sixth-seeded Kei Nishikori possibly waiting for him in the quarters.

Third seed Stan Wawrinka, who is in Murray's half of the draw, begins against Spanish veteran Fernando Verdasco, and may have to deal with a young Australian, Bernard Tomic or Nick Kyrgios, in the fourth round.

The dangerous Juan Martin del Potro of Argentina, the 2009 champion who showed in claiming Olympic silver that he is regaining form after a long recovery from an injured wrist, could be there to oppose the Swiss double slam winner in the quarter-finals.

Fourth-seeded Rafa Nadal, winner of 14 slams, and fifth seed Milos Raonic of Canada could clash in the quarters for a possible semi-finals showdown with Djokovic.

Rounding out the women's draw, second seed Angelique Kerber, who nearly unseated Williams as world number one but lost in the Cincinnati final, appears to have a comfortable early path.

Kerber, who opens against Polona Hercog of Slovenia, is seeded for a quarters clash against seventh seed Roberta Vinci of Italy, who shocked Williams in last year's Open semi-finals.

The German's potential semi-final opponent comes from a more impressive quarter that includes third-seeded French Open champion Garbine Muguruzza, Olympic champion Monica Puig, Briton Johanna Konta and big-hitting American Madison Keys, the eighth seed.

In the other quarter in Serena's side of the draw, the leading seeds are Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland (4) and Venus Williams (6), who will aim for a semi-finals encounter with her sister.

(Source: Reuters)

Palermo make Mario Balotelli offer, waiting to hear from Liverpool

Serie A club Palermo have made an offer to Liverpool for Mario Balotelli and are now waiting to hear if their bid has been accepted, according to their vice-president Guglielmo Micciche.

Balotelli is out of favour on Merseyside and almost certain to leave before the transfer window closes next week. He has been linked with several clubs in Italy, including Crotone and Sassuolo, but Palermo have emerged as strong candidates to bring the Italian back to his birth city.

"It's a very fascinating proposition," Micciche told La Gazzetta dello Sport. "It's a very difficult operation, but we're trying. It would be a great coup for president [Maurizio] Zamparini, a gift for all of the fans.

"We've made an offer and now the ball is in Liverpool and the player's court. His salary is high and he has a pool of sponsors, so it's not an easy solution, but Palermo could be just the right place for him.

"He was born in Palermo and we consider him a citizen of Palermo. This city would welcome him with open arms -- he would be adored here. A player like him would be a dream for Palermo and he could be the leader of this team."

Balotelli -- whose family name is Barwuah -- spent only the first months of his life in Sicily before moving to Brescia, where he was adopted and brought up away from his biological parents by the Balotelli family.

The 26-year-old has played for Inter Milan and AC Milan in Italy and Manchester City and Liverpool in England, with Palermo bidding to become his third address in Serie A, and bidding to bring him back home.

(Source: Soccernet)

Dejagah and Iran not underestimating Qatar threat

Tehran: Iran vice-captain Ashkan Dejagah believes his side will have to be at their very best when they meet Qatar in the upcoming 2018 FIFA World Cup qualifiers.

The two teams will face off in their opening Group A third round clash in Tehran's iconic Azadi Stadium on September 1.

Al Arabi midfielder Dejagah, who is one of the very few current Asian internationals with a top European league title under his belt, exclusively told www.sc.qa that 'Al Annabi' have improved enormously and can challenge his team for a direct entry to Russia.

"The Qatar national team has improved so much over the last four years since we played them in the 2014 qualifiers. They now pose a threat to all other Asian sides. They have a number of good players almost all of whom play in the Qatar Stars League. Football in Qatar is more competitive and a lot different now," said the 2008-09 Bundesliga winner with Wolfsburg.

In April, when the third round draw was made, Queiroz had tipped opposite number José Carreño's side along with continental heavyweights Korea Republic as the main Group A challengers blocking Iran's progress to their second successive FIFA World Cup.

Dejagah, who plied his trade in the English Premier League for two seasons with Fulham before joining Al Arabi in 2014, gave further credence to his coach's analysis. He added: "Qatar have the ability to qualify for Russia. South Korea are the frontrunners. China can be a tough side at their home. Uzbekistan can be tricky. So there will not be any easy matches for us in the group."

The latest edition will add to Dejagah's indelible memories of previous Iran vs Qatar contests. Iran's best ever left-winger, who usually plays on the right for Al Arabi,



made his international debut in February 2012 at the Azadi Stadium against Qatar in a third round qualifier for the 2014 FIFA World Cup which ended in a 2-2 draw.

"Though we could not win, it was a memorable occasion for me as I scored both our goals in my first international game," continued Dejagah. "It will be a great feeling to face Qatar again in front of our home crowd."

Four months after his debut, Qatar again came calling to the iconic Azadi this time for a fourth round 2014 qualifier. "Team

Melli' were held to a goalless draw in front of 100,000 people with Dejagah coming on as a second half substitute.

"I have put that game to the back of my mind," he said. "I am now focusing on the 2018 qualifier. Qatar are a tough team and will give us a fight again. However, this time they will also be under pressure as they will be looking at three points. We are confident we can do our best to make our people happy."

Standing in the way of that mission are a few familiar faces, none more so than Dejagah's Al Arabi teammate and fellow wing-

er Boualem Khoukhi, who has found the net four times for Qatar during their second round qualifying campaign.

"I know Boualem well as a person," said Dejagah. "We have been teasing each other about this game from the time the draw was made and I am glad I will be facing him. I wish him the best. He is a great talent, a very clever player. I will update my coach and teammates about his strengths, especially the danger he poses from set-pieces and free-kicks."

(Source: AFC)

Teenage goalie Donnarumma named in Ventura's first Italy squad



New Italy coach Giampiero Ventura has handed a first international call-up to AC Milan's 17-year-old goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma who could become Italy's youngest player since 1911.

Ventura, who took over from Antonio Conte after Euro 2016, named several new faces in his 26-man squad, with AC Milan defender Alessio Romagnoli, Torino forward Andrea Belotti and Leonardo Pavoletti of Genoa all included for the first time.

Paris St Germain midfielder Marco Verratti, who missed the European Championship due to injury, has been recalled.

Donnarumma saved a penalty on his Milan debut in October, 2015 when he became Serie A's youngest keeper at the age of 16. Now 17 years and six months he could become the youngest senior Italy international since Rodolfo Gavinelli 105 years ago.

Italy, who reached the European Championship quarter-finals before losing on penalties to Germany, meet France in a friendly on Sept. 1 in Bari before a World Cup quali-

er against Israel in Haifa on Sept. 5.

Italy squad

Goalkeepers: Gianluigi Buffon (Juventus), Gianluigi Donnarumma (AC Milan), Federico Marchetti (Lazio)

Defenders: Luca Antonelli (AC Milan), Davide Astori (Fiorentina), Andrea Barzagli (Juventus), Leonardo Bonucci (Juventus), Giorgio Chiellini (Juventus), Mattia De Sciglio (AC Milan), Angelo Obinze Ogbonna (West Ham), Alessio Romagnoli (Milan), Daniele Rugani (Juventus)

Midfielders: Federico Bernardeschi (Fiorentina), Giacomo Bonaventura (AC Milan), Antonio Candreva (Inter Milan), Daniele De Rossi (Roma), Alessandro Florenzi (Roma), Riccardo Montolivo (AC Milan), Marco Parolo (Lazio), Marco Verratti (Paris St Germain)

Forwards: Andrea Belotti (Torino), Eder Citadin Martins (Inter Milan), Manolo Gabbiadini (Napoli), Ciro Immobile (Lazio), Leonardo Pavoletti (Genoa), Graziano Pelle (Shandong Luneng).

(Source: Reuters)

Zaza set to join West Ham, confirms Bilic



Simone Zaza's move from Juventus to West Ham should be official by the end of Friday, according to Slaven Bilic.

Juventus striker Simone Zaza is on the brink of signing for West Ham, manager Slaven Bilic has confirmed.

The Italy international saw a move to Wolfsburg break down earlier this month, but is now set for the Premier League after the clubs agreed a fee, which reports suggest will be worth £24million.

West Ham have been hunting for a big-name attacker in the transfer market and hope Zaza will fit the bill, with forwards Andy Carroll, Diafra Sakho and Andre Ayew struggling with injury.

"With the Zaza situation, it looks very likely to happen and should happen today," Bilic said on Friday at his pre-match media conference ahead of the game at Manchester City on Sunday.

"As far as I know the deal is agreed between the clubs.

"The personal terms are also agreed and he is due in London today, so we

hope it will be done.

"It's very positive and is a boost. We've been trying for a long time now to get a top-quality striker and he was always mentioned.

"With strikers, we are short now because of injuries but those players will come back - some of them very soon."

Zaza spent last season at Juventus after signing from Sassuolo, but only started five Serie A matches.

The 25-year-old has won 14 caps for his country and played three times at Euro 2016, infamously missing a penalty in their quarter-final shoot-out defeat to Germany after a bizarre run-up.

Following West Ham's Europa League exit at the hands of Astra on Thursday, Bilic praised Zaza and revealed he had tried to sign him prior to him joining Juve.

Bilic said: "He's a top player and I like him. I was here last year so it tells you everything and we were in contact with him last year, but it didn't happen then."

(Source: OmniSport)

Arsenal's Arsene Wenger tips Prem transfer spend to rise above £1bn

Arsene Wenger is set to take Arsenal's summer spending close to £100 million and he believes every Premier League club remains open for business.

Defender Shkodran Mustafi and forward Lucas Perez arrived in London for medicals on Friday as the Gunners looked to strengthen their squad before the transfer window closes next week.

Wenger has endured a tough summer, with the early signing of midfielder Granit Xhaka from Borussia Monchengladbach only complemented by Rob Holding's arrival from Bolton.

Arsenal suffered a setback when Jamie Vardy snubbed a move away from Leicester, but it appears Wenger is closing in on a double signing after fans called for more of the club's cash reserves to be invested in playing staff.

Wenger joked that he is "scared" of the total sum that Arsenal seem certain to spend and predicts the Premier League clubs will easily top £1 billion in summer transfer



spending.

"I always told you it's not a question of numbers. It's 'Do you have the money to spend it?'" he said.

"That is the first question. And after, 'Do you make sure that you spend it well?'"

"And I think when I told you the transfer is linked of course

with talent, the expected strength, but as well with resale.

"When you buy a player of 24 you can always get your money back."

Asked whether he thought spending would go over the £1bn mark, as it nudged the £900m mark with five days to go, Wenger replied by pointing upwards and adding: "I don't know [by how much] but I'm convinced [it will be more]."

"There are many, many clubs in England who have a big amount of money available and haven't spent yet -- you could say all of them.

"Who has finished in the market? Nobody. Everybody is waiting, I think, to get the deals done.

"The clubs who want to sell to English clubs, today they fetch a huge amount of money so it takes a long time to settle and then the clubs resist, resist and maybe in the next three days everybody will find agreements."

(Source: ESPN)



# Playing against Bayern and Atletico could be a launching pad, says Ezatollahi

**I****S P O R T S** Rostov Iranian midfielder Saeid Ezatollahi, who has spent a year in Atletico Madrid C, is quite excited after the Russian side was drawn in Group D of the UEFA Champions League alongside his former team Atletico Madrid, giant Bayern Munich and Dutch champion PSV Eindhoven.

"When I moved here in Rostov from Atletico Madrid, a lot of people said that it was a mistake but in fact I worked hard and now we're in the UEFA Champions League group stage," Ezatollahi said.

"I'm so happy that we've been drawn alongside the biggest teams in Europe. Bayern Munich has been in the semifinals in the recent years while Atletico is a big club and has reached the final twice in the last two years. We will play against players whom we wished to take selfie with before," he added.

"Xabi Alonso is my favorite player and I could play against him at Allianz Arena. These games against Bayern, Atletico and PSV would teach us important lessons while could be considered as a launching pad for any of us at Rostov. We will make every effort to have the best performance against them maybe this could change our future," Iranian international added.

Rostov, who has not qualified for the Champions League group stage before, will take on Bayern Munich at the Allianz Arena on September 13.



## Iran to participate at Asian Wushu Championship



**I****S P O R T S** The Iranian men's and women's teams will leave Tehran on Sunday to take part at the 9th Asian Wushu Championship in Taiwan.

Mehdi Mohammadi in -56kg, Erfan Ahangarian in -60kg, Saeid Fazeli in -70kg, Yazdan Mirzaei in -80kg, Moein Taghavi in -85kg, Ashkan Delfani in -90kg and Morteza Azimi in +90kg consisted the Iranian men's Sanda team.

Talou team consists of Farshad Arabi, Mohsen Ahmadi, Reza Khalafzadeh, Taher Ghasemi, Amir Mohammadrezaei and Mehdi Mokhtarpour.

The team will be headed by Hossein Ojaghi.

Soheila Mansourian in -52kg, Elaheh Mansourian in -56kg, Sedigheh Daryaei in -60kg, Shahrbanoo Mansourian in -65kg, and Maryam Hashemi in -70kg will represent Iran women's Sanda team.

Zahra Kiani, Hanieh Rajabi, Hamideh Barkhor, and Fetemeh Heydari are in the women's Talou team.

The competitions will be held in Taoyuan, Taiwan from September 1 to 5.

At least 38 countries led by powerhouse China will be fielding their elite wushu athletes in the tournament that is expected to draw thousands of fighters and coaches.

## Iran futsal team to play friendlies with Uzbekistan



**I****S P O R T S** Iranian futsal team will play two friendly matches with Uzbekistan in Mashhad, Iran as part of preparation for the 2016 FIFA Futsal World Cup.

Mohammad Nazemosharia's team has been scheduled to face Uzbekistan on Sunday and Monday.

Iran has recently finished in third place in the Thailand tournament.

"We took part in the Thailand tournament without some key players but in two friendly matches against Uzbekistan we will field our main team. I think Uzbekistan is a right team for our preparation since it has played some warm up matches so far and

is fully ready," Nazemosharia said.

"I think Iran national futsal team needs more friendly matches. We've only participated at the Thailand tournament and will play Uzbekistan and they are not enough for our team," he added.

Iran has been drawn with Spain, Morocco and Azerbaijan in Group F of the World Cup.

The 2016 FIFA Futsal World Cup will be the 8th edition of the FIFA Futsal World Cup, the quadrennial international futsal championship contested by the men's national teams of the member associations of FIFA.

The tournament will be held in Colombia from 10 September to 1 October 2016.

## Mourinho: Schweinsteiger can stay at Manchester United but he won't play

Jose Mourinho has warned Bastian Schweinsteiger he is unlikely to play again for Manchester United if he insists on seeing out the remainder of his contract at Old Trafford.

Despite being frozen out by Mourinho and made to train with the reserves, Schweinsteiger has indicated he has no intention of leaving with two years left on his £160,000-a-week deal.

Mourinho conceded the former Germany captain is within his rights to stick to the terms of his contract. But he warned there is no room for him in United's 23-man squad of outfield players, and said he would rather promote youngsters from the academy than play the 32-year-old World Cup winner.

"He (Schweinsteiger) has spoken to me," said Mourinho. "I cannot answer for him. It's his life, his career."

"He has a contract with Man United and a right to make that decision and stay. So that's not a problem for us."

"Football is made of decisions. I knew that all my career, not just me, everyone does."

"Some players react in a different way and have different kinds of decisions."

"To be honest, Bastian is not speaking a lot. He gave his last statement which he is completely free to do in an objective and polite way."

"But I think it is very difficult for him (to play). I'm not saying it's impossible. I'm saying it's very difficult."

"We have a decision completely made about (Paul) Pogba, (Ander) Herrera, (Morgan) Schneiderlin, (Marouane) Fellaini, Michael Carrick. We have five players for two positions. It's very, very difficult



that an opportunity will arise.

"I have 23 players in the squad and in principle nobody is leaving because I don't want anybody to leave and nobody is coming – 23 players is more than enough."

"If you have any kind of problem or opportunity I have a few young players in the academy that I will be more than happy to give them an acceleration in their process."

Mourinho has been accused of showing Schweinsteiger a lack of respect by the player's brother and his former Bayern Munich coach Ottmar Hitzfeld.

Bayern chief executive Karl-Heinz Rummenigge also warned that Schweinsteiger's treatment might ward off other players from joining United.

But Mourinho responded to his critics by saying: "I thought after I read some quotes from people at Bayern Munich they would run to Manchester to bring him back."

"But, no, that didn't happen. I'm surprised Mr Rummenigge is not here now."

(Source: DailyMail)

## Rose equaliser denies Liverpool victory at Tottenham

Danny Rose scored a second-half equaliser to cancel out James Milner's penalty as Tottenham Hotspur were fortunate to come from behind to draw 1-1 with Liverpool at White Hart Lane on Saturday.

Erik Lamela nodded Eric Dier's cross into the path of Rose in the 72nd minute and the England left back controlled the ball and slammed it past Simon Mignolet to extend Spurs' unbeaten start to the season.

Milner beat Michel Vorm from the spot in the 43rd minute after Erik Lamela had tripped Roberto Firmino in the box, as Spurs struggled to deal with Liverpool's firepower.

"A draw's probably the fair result," Rose told Sky Sports. "In the first half, Vorm was our man of the match but I thought we played much better in the second."

Tottenham missed the presence of suspended Mousa Dembele as Liverpool, who had been toothless in a 2-0 loss at Burnley last weekend, ran riot during the first 45 minutes.

The hosts suffered a setback in the 28th minute Kyle Walker was replaced by new signing Vincent Janssen, although it was Liverpool's Mane, a 34 million euro (\$38 million) signing from Southampton, who dazzled in the first half.

Stand-in goalkeeper Vorm was twice called out of his area to tackle the outstanding Mane and made an excellent save to deny Philippe Coutinho from close range as the visitors created chance after chance during the first half and Spurs' re-



sistance ended when Lamela clipped Firmino.

"Philippe had a brilliant chance," Liverpool defender Dejan Lovren told Sky Sports. "I think if we went 2-0 up it's a different result."

"We always want to win so we're not satisfied. We're just missing a few goals more."

Tottenham started slowly last term and looked set for their first defeat of season when Mane tapped in at the back post from Adam Lallana cross, only for the effort to be ruled out for offside.

Simon Mignolet produced two excellent saves to thwart Lamela and Toby Alderweireld as Spurs sought an equaliser before Rose's decisive intervention, although Harry Kane was again off the pace and his goalless start to the season continued.

"Ultimately, we're disappointed," Milner said. "We didn't do enough in the second half so it was probably a fair result in the end."

(Source: Reuters)

## FOOTBALL

### Hong: We can't afford to underestimate China

Korea Republic will enter Thursday's opening game in Asia's third qualifying round for the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ against China PR with cause for optimism. The Taeguk Warriors enjoy a superior head-to-head record against the neighbours with 19 wins and only two defeats from 34 previous meetings. And, of course, they are the continent's most successful World Cup side. They also have far more players based in Europe than their rivals.

While few question the home team's chances of building on their proud record at home with another victory, defender Hong Jeongho prefers a more cautious tone. The 27-year-old joined Chinese Super League side Jiangsu Suning in July in a high-profile move from Augsburg, ending a three-season spell with the German Bundesliga club.

"I would like to say that the level of the Chinese Super League is good," Hong told FIFA.com in an exclusive interview. "The Chinese players proved to be good when I played against them. This is something beyond my expectations. No team is easy in this qualifying stage. After all, these are Asia's top 12 teams. We should prepare ourselves carefully and work hard for each game."

#### ■ Stielike-backed move

The home supporters can count on Hong's experience and knowledge of China as they seek a positive start against their neighbours. But when the centre-back decided to leave FC Augsburg for Jiangsu last month, his move sparked media criticism who questioned the wisdom of giving up on a Bundesliga career to play in the Chinese Super League. Now a month after his transfer to Jiangsu, Hong believes that his decision has been proven to be the right one.

"There is a gap in pace and competition between (the Chinese Super League and Bundesliga)," he explained. "But I won't lose my form and shape just because I play here (in China). As a foreign player, I want to play a key role and prove myself through my performances. There are quite a few star-imports in the league and I can learn and improve by rubbing shoulders with them."

Notable among those supporting his move is Korea Republic coach Uli Stielike, who has called up as many as five Chinese Super League-based players, including Hong, into the squad for the opening game against China and the next outing against Syria in neutral Macau five days later.

"As early as last winter I learned that Hong was chased by a Chinese club," the German said. "But the move isn't a bad thing, is it? The Chinese Super league is attracting world-class stars so Korean players are lucky if they receive an offer."

#### ■ Bundesliga hardened

An all-round defender, Hong first made his name representing Korea Republic at the 2009 FIFA U-20 World Cup in Egypt, where he appeared in all five matches as the side reached the last eight. The next year saw his emergence on the domestic scene as he helped Jeju United to an unexpected runners-up finish in the K League, performances which earned him a place in the season's best eleven.

His defensive talents didn't go unnoticed by clubs from beyond the K League with Augsburg swooping three years ago. It was with the German side that Hong made further progress in terms of technique and mentality, a fact which the player was quick to acknowledge.

"The Bundesliga experiences were important for me," reflected Hong, who made 61 outings for the Bavarian club, including scoring three times. "Although I didn't play each match, I am glad that I have played and scored in both league and European competitions. I learned new things during my training and playing in Germany, all of which enriched my understanding of football. There are plenty of outstanding players in Bundesliga, who possess pace, strength and superb skills. You can certainly improve yourself by training and playing together with them."

Having started all three matches at Brazil 2014 on his World Cup debut where Korea Republic failed to progress beyond the group phase, Hong is relishing the chance of a second appearance for the global extravaganza. "There is little to say but to train hard and do my best for the national team. I hope I can continue to provide any help to team-mates and that we have a smooth qualifying campaign for Russia 2018."

(Source: FIFA)

## Hebei China Fortune name Pellegrini as manager

Chinese Super League club Hebei China Fortune have appointed former Manchester City coach Manuel Pellegrini as their new manager, Chinese and British media reported on Saturday.

Pellegrini guided City to their first Champions League semi-final last season, but announced in February that he would leave the Etihad Stadium on June 30. The Premier League club immediately named former Barcelona boss Pep Guardiola as his successor.

The 62-year-old Chilean, who won the Premier League and two League Cups with City after taking over in 2013, joins big-name coaches Sven-Goran Eriksson of Shanghai SIPG and Guangzhou Evergrande's Luis Felipe Scolari in China.

Hebei, who are fifth in the Chinese Super League standings, face leaders Guangzhou on Sept. 10.

(Source: Reuters)



"A Moment" directed by Naqi Nemati will compete in the fiction film section, while "Painting of Water" and "Refugee Camp" by Saeid Naqavian will be screened in the experimental film section.