

Iran to do utmost to restore rights of Mina crush victims: Ohadi

57% growth in IME monthly transactions yr/yr

I'd prefer to draw with Man United or Inter, sasy Jahanbakhsh

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# TEHRAN TIMES

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Tehran confirms arrest of 'spy' in nuclear negotiation team

2

## Armed forces' capabilities should be increased: Leader

**POLITICS** **TEHRAN** — Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei said on Sunday that the Iranian

armed forces should boost capabilities to the extent that nobody can even think of an invasion on Iran. "The enemy seeks to undermine the coun-

try's defense power and the armed forces should increase their readiness in a way that the enemy does not even think of aggression,"

he said during a meeting with commanders and officials of the army's Khatam Al-Anbia Air Defense Base. **→2**

### Iran thwarts hacking attempt, starts operating national information network

**POLITICS** **TEHRAN** — The head of the Information Technology Organization of Iran revealed on Sunday Iran had thwarted a hacking attempt which he described as "heavy" just two weeks before the National Information Network went online.

"Generally, all networks around the world are exposed to hacking attempts. Not being an exception, Iran's network was target to a heavy hacking attempt about two weeks ago, limiting the international interactions of two or three of our internet providers" said Nasrollah Jahangard. The official did not give details on the targets of the attack, if it had caused any losses, or the identity of the hackers. **→2**

### Iran joins countries producing stable isotopes: official



See page 2

© IRNA/Kazem Ghane

### Iraq asks Saudi Arabia to replace Saudi ambassador: Iraqi state TV

Iraq's foreign ministry has asked the House of Saud regime to replace its ambassador in Baghdad, Thamer al-Sabhan, Iraqi state TV said on Sunday.

Iraqi politicians have made persistent requests that Sabhan be expelled in reaction to comments he has made about Iran's involvement in Iraq and claims that Iranian-backed Shia militias were exacerbating tensions with Sunnis.

The Iraqi foreign ministry on Monday denied media reports of plot to kill Sabhan, the first Saudi ambassador appointed after reopening the Saudi embassy in the Iraqi capital in December. (Source: Reuters)

### Female leopard 'Hircan' back to the wild

**SOCIETY** **TEHRAN** — Hircan, a female leopard who had spent two years in captivity, was released in Golestan National Park on August 23, IRNA news agency reported on Saturday.

Two years ago two cubs who were later named Hircan and Varcan were found and delivered to the Golestan province Department of Environment (DoE), living in captivity since then.

As female leopard appeared to be more ready to live in the wild and survive the department first set her free and is keeping close tab on her.

"Using satellites to observe Hircan, we found out she has so far succeeded in recognizing the immediate environment, drinking water and taking some rests," deputy director of Golestan province DoE Mojtaba Hosseini explained.

It takes some time for all animals including leopard to mark their territories and start to hunt, Hosseini noted.

"We are planning on monitoring Hircan for a month consistently," he said, adding, "Varcan, the male leopard, is also scheduled to be released in case the female leopard shows signs of compatibility with the environment."

### Turkey-NATO ties damaged if Russia uses Incirlik to attack NATO nations: William Beeman

**INTERVIEW**  
By Javad Heirannia

**TEHRAN** — Prof. William O. Beeman, head of the anthropology department at the State University of Minnesota, believes "Turkey's partnership with NATO would only be harmed if Russia were a threat to the NATO

nations, for example, if Russia used the Turkish base to launch an attack on an Eastern European nation."

Russia move to Incirlik is "certainly the result of Iran kicking Russia out of Hamadan..." Beeman told the Tehran Times.

Following is the text of the interview:

**Turkish PM has recently announced**

**that Russia can use Incirlik air base if necessary. Do you think this will damage Turkey's strategic partnership with NATO?**

A: Actually, Turkey's partnership with NATO would only be harmed if Russia were a threat to the NATO nations, for example, if Russia used the Turkish base to launch an attack on an Eastern European nation. **→13**

### Iran, France to boost environmental co-op Iran's natural heritage is astonishing, says French minister

By Maryam Qarehgozlou

**TEHRAN** — Iran and France are seeking active environmental cooperation, the chief of the Iranian Department of Environment (DoE), Masoumeh Ebtekar, said.

"We are making arrangements for further cooperation on combatting dust storms, energy management and water efficiency," Ebtekar explained.

Ebtekar made the remarks over a joint press conference with the French Minister of the Environment, Energy and Marine Affairs, Ségolène Royal, here on Sunday.

"The French minister has come to Iran at my invitation and we have discussed bilateral and multilateral cooperation following a memoran-



dum of understanding signed over President Hassan Rouhani's trip to France," she added.

Mentioning the upcoming 16th International Environment Exhibition scheduled to be held on February 25 to 28, Ebtekar stated that through the negotiations with the minister

French companies both in private and public sector are willing to attend the event.

Moreover, she added, some companies active in the field of water and energy have accompanied the French minister to Iran and have held talks; "we will follow up on their proposals both in the private and public sector."

"Ms. Royal's trip to Iran indicates French government strong will to cooperate with Iran environmentally and pass on a message to the world of how countries can collaborate on environmental issues that concern them," Ebtekar suggested.

Royal, who is also appointed COP21 President, for her part, hailed Iran on signing Paris deal in April 22 and taking action on adopting it in the parliament. **→13**

**PIC OF THE DAY** © Tehran Times



The Tehran Times and Mehr news agency are jointly holding a training workshop on office formalities. Starting on August 15 the one-month course is revolving around hospitality, reception, and security services. The course is taught by Ms. Naheed Mazlum in collaboration with Gardeshgaran Bonyad Tourism Company.

### Iranian, world musicians to team up for performances in Germany

**ART** **TEHRAN** — Musicians from Iran and other countries will team up to perform during the 12th Morgenland Festival Osnabruck, Germany from September 2 to 11, the organizers have announced. Kamancheh virtuoso Keyhan Kalhor and Malian kora player Toumani Diabate will perform a duet in the Art of Duet section on September 4.

The organizers also plan to highlight the central Iranian city of Isfahan by arranging a program entitled "Two Trips to Isfahan: 1636 and 2013", which will be presented in two sections by Iranian and German actors and musicians on September 7. **→16**





### Rouhani approves funding of 2 new nuclear power plants

**TEHRAN** — President Hassan Rouhani has approved the funding of two power plants planned to be built by Russia in the southern Iranian port city of Bushehr, according to Atomic Energy Organization of Iran spokesman Behrooz Kamalvandi.

"In the coming weeks we will try to hold the final talks and then soon after announce a date for starting the construction of the power plants," ISNA quoted Kamalvandi as saying on Sunday.

On Iran's heavy water sale, the official said currently European countries are the biggest customers of the product, adding that talks to sell heavy water to Russia are also almost on final stages.



### Iran to do utmost to restore rights of Mina crush victims: Ohadi

**TEHRAN** — An Iranian official has said the country will spare no effort to restore the rights of the victims of a deadly crush during last year's Hajj pilgrimage in Saudi Arabia.

Head of Iran's Hajj and Pilgrimage Organization Saeed Ohadi said on Saturday that a session, attended by Deputy Foreign Minister Hassan Qashqavi and a number of other officials, was held on Wednesday to study the legal and judicial aspects of the crush, Press TV reported.

Ohadi said that it was agreed during the session that the families of the Mina victims will give their complaint papers to the Foreign Ministry and the office of the Prosecutor General within a week.



### Iranian nation biggest victim of violence, terrorism: Official

**TEHRAN** — Head of the Iranian foundation in charge of war veterans and martyrs Mohammad Ali Shahidi said Iran is the biggest victim of terrorism and violence.

In a message to mark the Day to Fight Terrorism, he said Iran has always condemned terrorism and is determined to fight it, ILNA reported on Sunday.

He said in his message that the world is now scared of the dirty acts of terrorists and is losing security while Iran kept suffering from the devil terrorists for many years in the past.



### Iranian, U.S. religious figures call for fighting terrorism

**TEHRAN** — Senior Iranian and U.S. religious scholars by issuing a joint statement called for putting an end to terrorism and production of weapons of mass destruction, IRNA reported on Monday.

"We consider terrorist acts and the production and use of weapons of mass destruction as bad and immoral; we voice our opposition to all terrorist acts, especially those which directly target the innocent civilians no matter if they are governmental, non-governmental or personal," part of the joint statement signed by some U.S. catholic leaders and the personalities of the Qom seminaries read.



**TEHRAN** — Tehran to host Iran against Terrorist, Terrorism against Iran conference

Tehran will be hosting Iran against Terrorism, Terrorism against Iran conference on Tuesday.

The conference will be held on the occasion of Iran's National Day against Terrorism, Mehr news agency reported on Sunday.



### Majlis forms Palestine Committee with 4 members

**TEHRAN** — The Majlis on Sunday formed the Committee on Palestine with four members, ICANA reported.

The four included Mostafa Kavakebian, Mohammad Ebrahim Rezaei, Mostafa Zolghadr, and Ardeshtir Nurian.

# Tehran calls for boosting economic ties with Pakistan

**TEHRAN** — Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said on Sunday that Iran and Pakistan should deepen economic relations.

Close relations between the Iranian and Pakistani government and people lay the ground for expanding economic ties, he said during a meeting with Asif Ali Khan Durrani, the new ambassador of Pakistan to Iran, receiving his credentials.

He also said that terrorist groups have nothing to do with Islam and highlighted the importance of cooperation to secure borders the two countries share.

The Pakistani army and military forces have the necessary "determination" and "power" to counter terrorists, he added.

The Pakistani ambassador, for his part, called for expansion of relations in various areas.

The Iranian president held a separate meeting with Ian David Grainge Biggs, the new Australian ambassador to Iran,



President Rouhani (L) receives credentials from Ian David Grainge Biggs (R) , new Australian ambassador to Iran

and received his credentials.

During the visit, Rouhani highlighted the importance of banking relations,

expressing hope that the two countries would expand relations in various areas.

He also pointed to the issue of asylum

seekers and said, "We hope that Australia would treat refugees based on international regulations and law and this issue is important for all of us from the humanitarian point of view."

Elsewhere, Rouhani said that "collective and international cooperation" is required to fight terrorism.

The Australian ambassador said that negotiations are being conducted with related international bodies to solve the refugees' problems.

He also said that there are good opportunities for the two countries to expand ties given the removal of sanctions.

In a separate meeting with New Ambassador of Belarus to Iran Yuri Lazarchik, Rouhani evaluated the ties between the two countries as "friendly" and "positive".

Rouhani also met with new ambassadors of Iran to Albania, Hungary, Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Ecuador, Mexico and Mauritania.

## Armed forces' capabilities should be increased: Leader



The Leader highlighted the importance of defense capabilities as the "frontline of countering any aggression," describing "determination, will and human source's capability" as important factors in removing obstacles and weaknesses.

He said that animosity towards the Iranian people and the Islamic establishment is beyond some common enmities in the world.

The "hegemonic system" and the "global Zionism" are an "evil and deceitful front with cruel ideologies" that are in enmity

with the Iranians' independence and religious beliefs, he added.

The Leader cited commotion against purchase of S300 missiles by Iran and the country's Fordow facility as examples of animosities against the Iranians.

"S300 system is for defensive not aggressive purposes, but the U.S. makes any efforts to prevent Iran from enjoying it," he said.

Elsewhere, he said that "the enemy should know that it will get a hard blow if it does aggressive acts" and Iran's defense will be retaliatory.



## Iran thwarts hacking attempt, starts operating national information network



The National Information Network which became operational on Sunday will shield the country against similar attempts and other threats in the future as it provides a more secure cyberspace for Iranian operators, the official explained.

"Security was our major focus while designing the National Information Net-

work."

A national information network specially contributes to a secure SWIFT system, among others, through which financial and monetary transactions are conducted.

"Network stability is a key component, and given that 67 percent of cybercrimes happen in the financial and monetary

sector, we have benefitted from an anti-fishing capability in the network so as to stop misuses," said Jahangard.

Iran has recently re-connected to the SWIFT system after it forged a deal with the West over its nuclear program in July 2015.

The national data cloud also helps Tehran shore up security measures at nuclear and military sites.

In 2010, a computer virus code-named Stuxnet was used, allegedly developed by the U.S. and Israel, to attack the Natanz uranium enrichment facility in Iran.

Ever since then, the country has been upgrading its cyber security capabilities, developing homegrown firewalls for its sensitive facilities, including nuclear, military, and economy sites.

## Tehran confirms arrest of 'spy' in nuclear negotiation team

**TEHRAN** — Iranian judiciary spokesman Gholamhossein Mohseni Ejei confirmed on Saturday the arrest of what a parliamentarian had called a "spy" in the Iranian nuclear team.

"The very news of arresting the person is true and he was freed after some days on bail," he told a weekly news conference in Tehran.

Last week a parliamentarian had claimed a member of the diplomatic team accompanying Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif in his formal visit to Turkey had been apprehended onboard under espionage charges.

Reportedly, the unnamed "spy" so called by the parliamentarian, had received monthly payments as high as £7,500 from Washington.



Judiciary spokesman Gholamhossein Mohseni Ejei



Asqar Zare'an senior advisor to the head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran

## Iran joins countries producing stable isotopes: official

**TEHRAN** — An official with the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) said on Sunday Iran has acquired the know-how to produce stable isotopes, a breakthrough after the country forged a deal with the West over its nuclear program.

Asqar Zare'an, a senior advisor to the head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI), made the remarks during a ceremony held to launch a semi-industrial unit to produce the raw materials for the production of stable isotopes.

"The homegrown production unit was developed in Isfahan through our young scientists' self-reliance and great efforts. In addition to our domestic needs, by April 9, 2017, the production unit will be able to produce raw material for the pro-

duction of stable isotopes, enough for exports to other countries," he added.

Only a few countries, including Russia and the U.S., have the technology to produce the isotopes, of use mainly in oil, petrochemical, and medical sectors.

Congratulating the Iranian nation and the Islamic Republic's Leader on the achievement, Zare'an said the initiative indicates that Iran is advancing its nuclear activities according to its needs and in compliance with the international law.

He went on to say that despite attempts by the world powers, led by the U.S., Iran's nuclear industry will continue to progress.

The announcement came months after the AEOI said it had made preparations for producing stable isotopes.

## Venezuela names new ambassador to Iran, announces fresh dynamism in relations

**CARACAS** — Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro named Chief General Jesus Gonzalez as the country's new ambassador to Iran on Saturday, while announcing the beginning of a new dynamic era in Caracas-Tehran bilateral relations.

Maduro made these announcements at a Caracas meeting with Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, who arrived in the country sooner than expected on the final leg of his South American tour, after having visited Cuba, Nicaragua, Ecuador, Chile and Bolivia.

"We are advancing in our bilateral cooperation as well as in matters of mutual interest for economic

development ... we are going to create a new dynamism in Venezuela-Iran relations," said the Venezuelan leader, who later announced the creation of a special commission to follow up on their bilateral deals.

Central bank authorities from the two countries also signed an agreement on financial matters and issued a joint declaration to "strengthen links," the Venezuelan Foreign Ministry said in a tweet, without revealing details.

Caracas foreign affairs chief Delcy Rodriguez said the meeting was attended by a ministerial delegation spanning different areas and added that the two

countries are working to "continue strengthening" strategic alliances.

Zarif, in turn, expressed Iran's interest in deepening and broadening cooperation with Venezuela and other Latin American countries. He said he was glad to consolidate the economic ties between Caracas and Tehran, which have enjoyed friendly relations based on the independence and resistance of their respective peoples.

In June 2015, the Venezuelan government and a high-level delegation from the Islamic Republic of Iran inked six deals on scientific, technological, economic and health cooperation.



# 35 dead as Turkish shelling, raids hit Syrian civilians

At least 35 civilians have reportedly been killed and 75 others wounded in fresh Turkish artillery fire and airstrikes on northern Syria.

The so-called Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR) said at least 20 civilians lost their lives and 50 more sustained injuries on Sunday after the Turkish attacks on the Jubb al-Kusa, a village south of the town of Jarablus in Syria's Aleppo province.

Additionally, four local militants were killed in the Turkish bombardment, Britain-based observatory added.

It further reported that another 15 civilians were dead and 25 others wounded, many seriously, in Turkish air raids near the town of Amarnah, south of Jarablus.

Amarnah witnessed clashes between Turkish-backed Syria militants and pro-Kurdish troops on Saturday.

The development comes as Turkey



presses ahead with its incursion into Syrian territory, dubbed "Euphrates Shield."

On August 24, Turkish Special Forces, tanks and jets backed by planes

from the United State-led coalition launched their first coordinated offensive in Syria. The Damascus government condemned the intervention as a

breach of its sovereignty.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said the operation is aimed at "terror groups" such as the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Daesh) and the Democratic Union Party (PYD/Partiya Yekîtiya Demokrat) - a U.S.-backed Kurdish group based in Syria.

Hours after the beginning of the operation, Turkish-backed militants seized Jarablus, with Erdogan saying that they had taken over "government and official residences" and forced ISIL out of the town.

Syria has been the scene of a foreign-backed militancy since March 2011.

Turkey is said to be among the main supporters of the militant groups active in Syria, with reports saying that Ankara actively trains and arms the Takfiri elements there and facilitates their safe passage into the violence-wracked state.

(Source: Al Jazeera)

## Saudi warplanes strike more areas in crisis-hit Yemen

The House of Saud regime military aircraft have carried out a new round of strikes against several areas across Yemen, prompting more retaliatory attacks by Yemeni armed forces.

On Sunday morning, Saudi fighter jets launched four airstrikes against the Harad district in the northwestern Yemeni province of Hajjah, located approximately 130 kilometers (80 miles) northwest of the capital, Sana'a, inflicting damage on the targeted area, Arabic-language al-Masirah satellite television network reported.

There were no immediate reports of possible casualties in the aerial assaults. Saudi warplanes also pounded Nihm district northeast of Sana'a as well as Razih and Badim districts in the mountainous northwestern province of Sa'adah. There was no information about the extent of damage caused and casualties.

Separately, Saudi jets struck a civilian car as it was travelling along a road in the Sahar district of Sa'adah Province, leaving an unspecified number of people killed and injured.

The developments came only hours after Saudi warplanes carried out airborne attacks on a naval base in Yemen's western coastal province of Hudaydah.

Saudi military aircraft also hit a

school in the Dhubab district of the southwestern Yemeni province of Ta'izz, situated 346 kilometers (214 miles) south of the capital.

Elsewhere in the al-Mahfad district of Yemen's southern province of Abyan, six militiamen loyal to the former president, Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi, were killed when al-Qaeda terrorists launched a barrage of mortar shells at the former's military camp.

Moreover, Yemeni forces, backed by fighters from allied Popular Committees, fired a number of rockets at Saudi Arabia's southern border region of Najran, leaving one person dead and four others injured.

The House of Saud regime has pounded Yemen almost daily since March 2015, with internal sources putting the death toll from the military aggression at about 10,000. The offensive was launched to restore Hadi to power and to crush the Ansarullah (Houthi) movement and their allies.

The Ansarullah movement fighters took state matters into their own hands in the wake of Hadi's resignation and escape, which threw Yemen into a state of uncertainty and threatened a total security breakdown in the country, where an al-Qaeda affiliate is present.

(Source: Press TV)

## No incursion into Kobani: Kurds warn Turkey

Kurds have staged a protest rally in the Syrian town of Kobani (Ayn al-Arab) to warn Turkey against a potential military incursion into the town.

The protest took place as reports that Turkish forces were preparing to enter Kobani were circulated by the People's Protection Units (YPG/Yekîneyên Parastina Gel), an armed Kurdish group, among residents on Saturday.

"We will not allow them to enter, we will stay here if necessary for days and months and... defend this land," said one Kobani resident.

The YPG, which is part of the United States-backed Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) coalition fighting the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Daesh) terrorist group, claimed that artillery had been fired at a village neighboring Kobani on Friday night, and that YPG positions have also been fired upon by Turkish forces.

Back in January 2015, the Kurdish forces liberated Kobani from the Takfiri terrorist group of ISIL, which had earlier also laid a siege to the town. As ISIL moved to the town, hundreds of Kurdish civilians took refuge in neighboring Turkey, where they were kept along the border.

Turkish forces deny that any of their military vehicles have entered Kobani;

rather, they say their forces are protecting construction vehicles as they dig the foundation for a border wall adjacent to the city.

On August 27, however, Turkey deployed hundreds of troops and dozens of tanks across the border into the northern Syrian town of Jarablus, which is less than 40 kilometers (24.8 miles) from Kobani, in the province of Aleppo.

The Turkish forces then launched a joint military offensive with the SDF in Jarablus in what they said was an operation against both the YPG forces and ISIL terrorists.

Turkey considers the armed Kurdish militants terrorists, too.

The Turkish-backed militants seized Jarablus from ISIL in the operation, which was backed by the U.S. and Turkish fighter jets.

Turkey says the Kurds must withdraw to the east of the nearby Euphrates River.

Since March 2011, Syria has been gripped by militancy it blames on some Western states and their regional allies. Over 400,000 people have been killed in the Syrian conflict, the United Nations Special Envoy for Syria Staffan de Mistura estimates.

The UN has stopped officially tracking the death toll in Syria.

(Source: Press TV)

## Nigeria would let Boko Haram pick NGO intermediary in talks to free Chibok girls

Nigeria would let Boko Haram choose a non-profit organization as an intermediary in any talks on the release of about 200 schoolgirls kidnapped from the northeastern village of Chibok in 2014, President Muhammadu Buhari said on Sunday.

Buhari first said last year that his government was ready to negotiate with Boko Haram terrorists over the girls, but the group has not commented on the proposal.

Nigeria's failure to find the kidnapped children prompted an outcry at home and abroad. Critics of Buhari's predecessor, Goodluck Jonathan, said his government was too slow to act.

Any negotiations would be the first publicly known talks between the government and Boko Haram, whose seven-year insurgency to create a self-interpreted Islamic State like the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Daesh) in the northeast has killed 15,000 people.

"The government which I preside over is prepared to talk to bona fide leaders of Boko Haram," Buhari told reporters at a conference on African development in Kenya's capital, Nairobi, in comments later issued in an official statement.

"If they do not want to talk to us directly, let them pick an internationally recognized non-governmental organ-

ization (NGO)," he said.

Buhari said Boko Haram could begin negotiations on a prisoner swap if they could provide evidence to the NGO that they had the girls.

Around 270 girls were taken from their school in the village of Chibok in northeastern Nigeria in April 2014. Dozens escaped in the initial melee, but more than 200 are still missing.

Earlier this month, Boko Haram published a video apparently showing recent footage of dozens of the girls and saying some were killed in air strikes.

Authorities said in May that one of the missing girls had been found and Buhari vowed to rescue the others.

Nigeria is fighting the group on the ground and with air strikes. A multi-national joint task force - comprising troops from Nigeria and neighboring Niger, Cameroon, Chad and Benin - is also battling the militants.

On Tuesday, Nigeria's air force said it had killed some senior Boko Haram militants in raids. Boko Haram pledged allegiance to the ISIL last year, but there are signs of a rift emerging.

This month ISIL announced a new leader for what it described as its West African operations but Boko Haram's hitherto Leader Abubakar Shekau appeared to lat-



er contradict this in a video message.

Buhari said that if the Nigerian extremists moved to start discussions "through the 'modified leadership' of Boko Haram or they talk with an internationally recognized NGO" then Nigeria would be prepared to discuss the release of militant leaders.

"We want those girls out and safe. The faster we can recover them and hand them over to their parents, the better for us," he said.

(Source: Reuters)

## Half of Germans against Merkel serving fourth term - poll

German Chancellor Angela Merkel's domestic popularity has declined, a poll showed on Sunday, with 50 percent of Germans against her serving a fourth term in office after a federal election next year.

A series of violent attacks on civilians in July, two of which were claimed by the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Daesh), have focused attention on Merkel's open-door migrant policy, which allowed hundreds of thousands of migrants from the Middle East, Africa and elsewhere into Germany last year.

Half of the 501 people questioned in the Emnid poll for the Bild am Sonntag newspaper were against Merkel staying in office beyond after the 2017 election,

with 42 percent wanting her to remain.

In November, the last time Bild am Sonntag commissioned a survey on the issue, 45 percent had been in favor of Merkel serving a fourth term, with 48 percent against.

The head of Germany's Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF), Frank-Juergen Weise, told the newspaper that he expects a maximum of 300,000 refugees to arrive in Germany this year.

Merkel, asked about her plans for the 2017 election in an interview with regional newspapers published on Tuesday, said: "I will comment on that at the appropriate time. I'm sticking to that."

(Source: Reuters)



## Suspected Kurdish militants fire rockets at Turkey's Diyarbakir airport

Suspected Kurdish militants fired rockets at the airport in Turkey's main southeastern city of Diyarbakir, sending passengers and staff scrambling for shelter, Dogan news agency said, but there were no immediate reports of casualties.

Four rockets were fired at a police checkpoint outside the VIP lounge, and passengers and staff were taken inside the terminal building for safety, the private news agency said. The attack happened not long before midnight (2100 GMT) on Saturday.

Broadcaster NTV said the rockets landed on wasteland nearby. There were no casualties and no disruption to flights, Diyarbakir governor Huseyin Aksoy told the news channel.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility.

Diyarbakir is the main city in Turkey's largely Kurdish southeast, where Kurdish militants have waged a three-decade insurgency. The attack comes days after Turkey launched a military incursion into Syria aimed at driving back the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Daesh) terrorist group and preventing territorial gains by Kurdish fighters.

Rebels supported by Turkey fought Kurdish-backed forces in northern Syria on Saturday, and Ankara said it had launched air strikes against both Kurdish militia fighters and the ISIL.

Turkey fears Kurdish militia fighters will fill the void as ISIL is pushed back. It wants to stop Kurdish forces gaining control of a continuous stretch of Syrian territory on its frontier, which it fears could deepen the insurgency by Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK/Partiya Karkerên Kurdistanê) militants on its own soil.

Diyarbakir airport largely handles domestic flights and is served by carriers including Turkish Airlines.

The PKK, which first took up arms against the Turkish state in 1984, is considered a terrorist organization by Ankara, the United States and the European Union. A ceasefire collapsed just over a year ago, and violence has since surged.

(Source: Reuters)

## Philippine extremists stage mass jailbreak

Extremists who support the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Daesh) terrorist group staged a daring jailbreak in the southern Philippines, freeing 23 detainees in the latest in a series of mass escapes, officials said on Sunday.

About 50 heavily armed members of the Maute group raided the local jail in the southern city of Marawi on Mindanao Island on Saturday and freed eight comrades who were arrested barely a week ago, police said.

Fifteen other detainees, held for other serious offences, also escaped in the raid, said provincial jail warden Acmad Tabao.

Police earlier said that 28 inmates escaped but Tabao clarified the figure.

In a report Tabao said two women came to the prison gate, asking the guard to take delivery of some food for the detainees. When the guard opened the gate, hooded men forced their way into the compound.

They overwhelmed the guards, forcing them to their knees and taking two rifles before freeing the inmates.

At the jail, two bullet holes and a shattered television set were the only evidence of the attack.

The eight Maute group members were arrested on August 22 after soldiers manning a checkpoint found improvised bombs and pistols in the van they were driving.

The Maute group is one of several gangs in Mindanao, the ancestral homeland of the Muslim minority in the largely Catholic Philippines.

The group has carried out kidnappings and bombings and is believed to have led an attack on an army outpost in the Mindanao town of Butig in February.

The fighting there lasted a week, leaving numerous fatalities and forcing thousands to flee their homes as helicopter gunships fought off the attackers.

During the Butig fighting the group's members were seen carrying black flags of the ISIL terrorist group, and bandanas bearing the jihadists' insignia were found in their base, the military said.

Authorities said they were investigating the jailbreak and the reason why security had not been increased after high-risk suspects were brought in.

It was the latest of several mass escapes from poorly secured Philippine jails, with the incidents often involving extremists.

In 2009 more than 100 armed men raided a jail in the strife-torn southern island of Basilan, freeing 31 prisoners including several Muslim guerrillas.

The southern Philippines has been plagued by separatist insurgencies for over four decades, with the conflict leaving more than 120,000 dead.

President Rodrigo Duterte is pursuing peace talks with the largest insurgent groups, the Moro National Liberation Front and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front which have ceasefires with the government.

Smaller bands like the Maute group and the Abu Sayyaf group are not covered by the ceasefires and are not part of the peace process.

(Source: AFP)





NEWS

5 things to watch on the economic calendar this week

In the week ahead, investors will focus on U.S. economic reports to gauge if the world's largest economy is strong enough to withstand a hike in interest rates in the coming months, with Friday's nonfarm payrolls data in the spotlight.

Elsewhere, in China, market players will be looking out for data on the country's manufacturing sector, amid ongoing concerns over the health of the world's second biggest economy.



Meanwhile, in the U.K., traders will be awaiting reports on activity in the manufacturing and construction sectors for further indications on the continued effect that the Brexit decision is having on the economy.

In addition, Thursday's euro zone inflation data will be closely watched amid lingering worries over deflationary threats in the single currency region.

Market players will also be looking to Wednesday's data on Canada's gross domestic product.

Ahead of the coming week, Investing.com has compiled a list of the five biggest events on the economic calendar that are most likely to affect the markets.

1. U.S. jobs report for August

The U.S. Labor Department will release its August nonfarm payrolls report at 8:30AM ET (12:30GMT) on Friday.

The consensus forecast is that the data will show jobs growth of 180,000, following an increase of 255,000 in July, the unemployment rate is forecast to dip 0.1 percent to 4.8 percent, while average hourly earnings are expected to rise 0.2 percent after gaining 0.3 percent a month earlier.

An upbeat employment report will point to an improving economy and support the case for higher interest rates in the coming months, while a weak report would add to uncertainty over the economic outlook and push prospects of tighter monetary policy further off the table.

Besides the employment report, the U.S. is to produce data on personal spending and income, core PCE prices, consumer confidence, pending home sales, and factory orders in the week ahead. There is also ISM data on manufacturing sector activity.

2. Chinese manufacturing data

The China Federation of Logistics and Purchasing is to release data on August manufacturing sector activity at 01:00GMT on Thursday (9:00PM ET Wednesday), followed by the Caixin manufacturing index at 01:45GMT (9:45PM ET).

The official China's manufacturing purchasing managers' index is forecast to remain unchanged at 49.9 this month, while the Caixin survey is expected to slip to 50.2 from 50.6 in the preceding month.

Anything above 50.0 signals expansion, while readings below 50.0 indicate industry contraction.

3. U.K. August PMI's

The U.K. will release readings on August manufacturing sector activity on Thursday, followed by a report on the construction sector on Friday.

The manufacturing PMI is forecast to inch up to 49.0 from 48.2 a month earlier, while construction activity is expected to improve slightly to 46.1 from 45.9.

The Bank of England cut interest rates to a record-low 0.25 percent and launched fresh easing measures earlier in August in a bid to buffer the economy from a downturn following the Brexit vote.

Economic activity in the U.K. is expected to slow down sharply in the second half of the year as businesses face uncertainty over the country's future direction in wake of the U.K.'s vote to exit the European Union.

4. Euro zone flash August inflation figures

The euro zone will publish flash inflation figures for August at 09:00GMT (5:00AM ET) Wednesday. The consensus forecast is that the report will show consumer prices inched up 0.3 percent, compared to a rise of 0.2 percent in July, while core prices are expected to gain 0.9 percent, unchanged from the prior month.

Slow growth and virtually non-existent inflation will force the European Central Bank to extend and expand the scope of its asset purchase program at its policy meeting later this month, according to a recent Reuters poll of economists.

5. Canadian growth data

Canada is to release GDP figures at 8:30AM ET (12:30GMT) Wednesday. The data is expected to show that the economy expanded 0.5 percent in June, after shrinking 0.6 percent a month earlier.

(Source: Investing.com)

U.S. interest hike may batter Korea Inc. hard

The Korean economy is likely to suffer from aftershocks of a possible U.S. interest rate hike which looms large as hinted by top Federal Reserve officials last week, experts said Sunday.

They said that another U.S. rate hike is feared to prompt the outflow of foreign capital from South Korea. The Seoul administration quickly responded by agreeing to resume bilateral talks on a currency swap with Japan.

"The biggest short-term concern may be the departure of overseas funds amid worries about foreign exchange losses and the resultant shocks on the Seoul bourse," said Lee Sun-yup, an analyst at Shinhan Investment.

"If history is an indicator of future events, it would weigh on not only Korea but also the whole world. We witnessed how woes on the U.S. interest rate hit both local and global markets twice, midway through 2015 and early 2016."

According to Bank of Korea (BOK) data, international investors pulled out up to 30 trillion won (\$26.6 billion) from the country's financial markets between June 2015 and February this year.

Last Friday, Fed Chair Janet Yellen told a gathering of central bankers that the case for raising rates had strengthened because the U.S. economy is nearing its goals of maximum employment and price stability.

(Source: The Korea Times)

57% growth in IME monthly transactions yr/yr

**ECONOMY TEHRAN** — According to the latest released data, 2.7 million tons of commodities worth more than \$33 trillion rials (above \$932 million) were traded in Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME) in the fifth month of Iranian calendar year, Mordad (July 22- August 21), compared to the same time span in the previous year.

According to IIRB news, IME transactions witnessed a 57 percent growth in volume and a 26 percent rise in value in the said period, compared to the same time in the year before.

In the mentioned time, on the domestic and export industrial products and minerals pit of IME, approximately one million tons of various products worth more than \$12 trillion rials (above \$339 million) were trade, showing 52.8 percent increase in volume and 13.7



Enhanced shipping lines to give boost to Oman-Iran trade ties

Omani and Iranian businessmen have said that investments between the two countries will only get a boost through enhanced shipping lanes.

A group of 20 officials and businessmen from the South Batinah branch of Oman Chamber of Commerce and Industry (OCCI) recently visited the Iranian province of Isfahan. This was the third OCCI delegation to have visited Iran recently.

An OCCI report on the trip quoted Iranian businessmen as calling for increased shipping lines "from Musandam to Bandar

Abbas" in Iran.

It quoted Hamoud al Saadi, chairman of OCCI South Batinah's board of directors, as identifying the "lack of organized shipping" and high cost as "challenges" to investments.

The National Ferries Company last month launched service from Khasab in Musandam to Qeshm Island in Iran. In February, a shipping line from Sohar to Shahid Rajaee was also launched, operated by the Iranian company Khedri Jahan Darya.

Saadi cited issues related to money

transfers, although Western sanctions on Iran have recently been lifted.

Businessmen are hoping to increase bilateral investments and Iranian manufacturing exports to Oman.

The report said Saadi invited Iranian companies to invest in Duqm. Officials discussed joint opportunities in the fields of cement, pipes and ceramics.

During the trip, the delegation visited steel, ceramics and automotive factories. They also visited an Iranian investment center and Isfahan Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture.

Kuroda says Bank of Japan prepared for fiscal easing if necessary

Bank of Japan Governor Haruhiko Kuroda said Saturday that he won't hesitate to boost monetary stimulus if needed, reiterating a pledge during an annual policy retreat in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, at which central bankers stressed their need for backup from fiscal policy.

"There is no doubt that there is ample space for additional easing in each of the three dimensions," Kuroda said, referring to the BOJ's package of asset buying, monetary-base guidance and negative interest rates. "The bank will carefully consider how to make the best use of the policy scheme in order to achieve the price stability target," he told the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City's symposium.

Central bankers, struggling to spur persistently disappointing growth, gathered in Grand Teton National Park to debate how best to tackle low inflation despite having already cut interest rates to near zero or, in some cases, below zero. They heard Fed Chair Janet Yellen on Friday describe future potential options to jump-start the economy while saying that the case for a U.S. rate hike had strengthened.

Even though the Bank of Japan is currently engaged in a



review of its monetary-policy settings, due for completion in September, Kuroda's comments underline his stance that the exercise won't mean any reduction in stimulus despite growing doubts about its effectiveness.

"One of the key elements of our policy is to push up inflation expectations to our price stability target and anchor

them there," Kuroda said. "The Bank of Japan will continue to carefully examine risks to activity and prices at each monetary policy meeting and take additional monetary policy measures without hesitation."

The BOJ's next policy meeting is Sept. 20 and 21.

Benoit Coeure, European Central Bank executive board member, said during the same panel that his institution may also have to take further monetary measures if governments don't act to boost long-term growth. "We will fulfill the price stability mandate given to us," Coeure said. "But if other actors do not take the necessary measures in their policy domains, we may need to dive deeper into our operational framework and strategy to do so."

While slowing growth and inflation present difficulties for central banks around the industrialized world, the Frankfurt-based ECB has particular cause to urge pro-expansion measures by the 19 nations that use the euro. High unemployment, political spats and banking systems loaded with soured loans are hampering the region's recovery from a debt crisis that started six years ago.

(Source: The Japan Times)

Why does China say and do opposite things on state firms?

By Cary Huang

Reforming the country's state-owned enterprises (SOEs) has been at the centre of China's transition from a command economy to a free-market one since the launch of the capitalist reforms of the late 1970s.

And now it lies at the heart of the current leadership's strategy for reviving the world's second largest economy to restore China to greatness, which was named the government's central task at a party plenum in 2013.

In a keynote policy statement, the leadership also called for, as well as the overhaul of SOEs, market forces to become more central to – and the government less involved in – the economy.

Nearly three years later, there is little progress to speak of.

Central to the endeavor is how much freedom the government will allow free enterprise,

while restraining the state's role in the economy.

But there is a contradiction between the government's reformist rhetoric and its less reformist deeds. President Xi Jinping has made statements contradicting the party document by pledging to make SOEs "bigger, stronger and better" state champions, rather than reducing their role and influence on the national economy.

SOEs are known for being inefficient, indebted and badly run. Economists say reforming them is crucial if China is to avoid falling into a protracted period of subdued growth as decades of state-driven growth comes to an end.

Firstly, more of them should be privatized. The two rounds of SOE reform between 1997 and 2009 under the two previous administrations have saw large-scale privatization, as the number of SOEs was reduced to just 9,700 at the end of 2008, from 110,000 in 1996. There has been no major breakthrough since then.

Secondly, reform should also aim at shrink-

ing those overinflated SOEs directly under the central government. But such titanic SOEs have further expanded in past decade, as growth of their assets has far exceeded those of private sector. Equally with its expansion of assets, their liabilities have also inflated at an even faster pace, which create new challenges.

Finally, there should be major steps in the breakup of state monopolies in key industries like major infrastructure, aviation, communications and energy, to dislodge SOEs' dominant roles in their respective markets.

In past two years, the government has consolidated SOEs' positions in the economy, through mergers, to expand their size and their share in some industries.

It doesn't make any sense using mergers to make big bigger, such as the mergers of Baosteel with Wuhan Iron and Steel, the two biggest steel SOEs, and the merger of Shenhua Group, China's biggest coal producer, and China General Nuclear Power, its biggest nuclear power producer.

The government has also stepped up the party's control of SOEs with a keynote document stating the party has the final say on corporate affairs.

This retrogress is apparently a trade-off between reform and short-term growth, amid a host of challenges like near-panic-driven stock market declines, a falling currency, high and rising levels of debt, and a serious slowdown in economic growth.

But it reverses nearly two decades of attempts to remodel SOEs along the lines of those in free economies. The policy has become pretty clear now: to strengthen the state firms into more effective instruments of macro management at home, and more powerful agents of national economic, political and diplomatic aims abroad.

And as maintaining Communist Party ascendancy has prevailed and trumped the logic of reform, then it will be the party, not the market, that will play the "decisive role" in allocating resources. (Source: South China Morning Post)

NEWS IN BRIEF



General Motors recalling about 368,000 vehicles to fix windshield wipers

General Motors is recalling nearly 368,000 vehicles to fix a defective part that could prevent the windshield wipers from working.

The problem affects the 2013 models of the Chevrolet Equinox and GMC Terrain. GM says those vehicles were built with ball joints that could corrode and wear out to render the windshield wipers inoperable.

A report filed with government regulators says a GM manager in Canada spotted the potential safety hazard last December. The auto manufacturer opened an investigation in March and decided to issue a recall earlier this month.



General Electric signs 9-year extension of deal to support Central Puerto plant

General Electric Company recently announced that it has inked a 9-year extension of its maintenance services deal with Central Puerto to maintain its 760-megawatt combined-cycle power plant located in Buenos Aires. The mentioned agreement valued at \$70 million includes the first order for General Electric's advanced digital power plant solutions in Argentina. This latest deal extends the almost 2 decade partnership between GE and Central Puerto to bring dependable and efficient power to Argentina's people.

Just recently, Central Puerto bought a GE 9HA.01 gas turbine, with the turbine's installation planned for the coming years.



Mitsubishi Regional Jet flight to U.S. aborted for a second day

Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd's regional jet aircraft aborted a test flight to the U.S. for the second straight day due to problems with an air-conditioning system.

The aircraft, Japan's first passenger plane developed at home in more than a half century, landed back in Nagoya at 3:13 p.m. after taking off from the airport just before 1 p.m, according to company spokesman Kenichi Takemori.

The Mitsubishi Regional Jet, which can seat as many as 92 people, is the first of four that the firm plans to fly to U.S. for testing as the company works toward getting certification in the world's largest economy.



# Iran’s native map to be unveiled

**TECHNOLOGY TEHRAN** — The commercial version of Iran's Native Map will soon be unveiled and the designers of the project have boasted it features some advantages compared to Google map.

Khosrow Saljoughi, the executive of content production project consistent with resistance economy, had previously reported of identifying two digital content manufacturing companies to implement location-based services project (native Google Map) as a sub-project of native research motor project.

Saljoughi elaborated on the operation process of location-based services native project (online native map), claimed to be parallel to Google Map project, which allows the production of location-based information.

The so-called project will allow the creation of visual-data-based services as well as maps, according to him.

The online native-map project titled "Iran's Native Map" was inaugurated by the project designer at the 38th meeting



of Native Research Motor Project Leadership Council.

The meeting attended by the mem-

bers of the Council, was held in Communication and Information Technology Research Center and Iran's Native Map

was provided by Mohmmadreza Firouzabadi and he compared some parts of it to Google Map.

The native map is claimed to feature better details compared to Google Map, as a result, Saljoughi promised that its commercial version will soon be unveiled as a native accomplishment.

Discussing the native map, the members stressed its application in native services such as organization portals as well as research motors.

Alireza Yari, Secretary of Native Research Motor Leadership Council, stressed the importance of business and technical features of the project consistent to native research motors as well as studying its technical aspects.

Furthermore, Technology Research Center of Jihad Daneshgahi provided a report of fraud detection system of Persian scientific texts and announced the International Competition of Fraud Detection in Persian Language with the purpose of unloosing Persian database in cyberspace.

## National Information Network, a vital step to accomplish resistance economy

**TECHNOLOGY TEHRAN** — "To implement National Information Network is the most crucial program to raise resistance capability of cyberspace as well as to accomplish resistance economy in our country", Abolhassan Firouzabadi, Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Cyberspace Council, said.

He added that "the principal goals of the Network include learning e-services, improving productivity, lessening dependency on internet network, ability to apply maximum management upon its accessibility, develop-

ing Iranian-Islamic content, augmenting digital knowledge, flourishing digital business, developing ICT share in economy, increasing security as well as providing assurance capability of digital space.

Stressing the role of cyberspace in economic prosperity, Firouzabadi expressed hope that through inaugurating National Information Network as a cyberspace communication infrastructure, the goals of resistance economy will be more accomplished.



## Apple issues global iOS update after attempt to use spyware on activist’s iPhone

A botched attempt to break into the iPhone of an Arab activist using hitherto unknown espionage software has triggered a global upgrade of Apple's mobile operating system, security researchers said on Thursday.

The spyware took advantage of three previously undisclosed weaknesses in Apple's iPhone to take complete control of the devices.

It's a story worthy of a high-tech spy novel. When Ahmed Mansour opened his iPhone 6 on 10 August, he spied two suspicious text messages claiming to offer new information about dissidents being held and tortured in prisons in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Each message held a link to a website where Mansour could obtain more information.

Mansour – a decorated human rights activist who had been targeted twice before by the UAE government – knew better than to click the links. Instead, he forwarded them to security researchers at the Citizen Lab, which examined the links with the help of another security firm, Lookout Mobile.

Bounty hunters are legally hacking

Apple and the Pentagon – for big money

What they found was an extremely sophisticated piece of spyware that, when launched, would jailbreak Mansour's iPhone and take complete control of the operating system, bypassing any security controls Apple put in place.

Detailed reports issued by Lookout and Citizen Lab outlined how the technique worked, potentially compromising an iPhone with the tap of a finger – a trick so coveted in the world of cyberespionage that in November one spyware broker claimed it had paid a \$1m dollar bounty to programmers who'd found a way to do it.

When researchers found that the attack had used three separate "zero-day exploits" – attacks never before encountered by security researchers – they decided to name the attack "Trident", says Mike Murray, vice-president for security research and response at Lookout.

The first attack exploited a vulnerability in the Safari, fooling the phone into launching a browser session. The second located the core of the phone's operating system, known as the kernel. The

third exploit replaced the kernel, becoming a part of iOS. "Once you become the kernel, at that point you are the phone," Murray says. "You can load any software you want."

From that point, it would have been possible for attackers to spy on virtually anything Mansour did – phone calls, text messages, Gmail, Skype, and Facebook – as well as scan his calendar, and steal passwords and other personal information.

By tracking the domains used to launch the attack, as well as code embedded inside those sites, Citizen Lab traced it to a private Israeli security firm called NSO Group. That organization sells surveillance software called Pegasus to nation states; in 2012, NSO sold 300 licenses to the government of Panama for \$8m.

In a statement that stopped short of acknowledging that the spyware was its own, the NSO Group said its mission was to provide "authorized governments with technology that helps them combat terror and crime". The company said it had no knowledge of any particular incidents.

Citizen Lab also uncovered links between NSO and a group known to have

launched attacks on other UAE citizens known as Stealth Falcon. The hacking group shared a handful of Internet servers with NSO. "So the link we suspect between Stealth Falcon and NSO is that Stealth Falcon is an NSO customer," says Bill Marczak, senior researcher for Citizen Lab.

Stealth Falcon, in turn, had targeted other UAE dissidents in the past who were later imprisoned or convicted in absentia, Marczak adds. In addition, the material Stealth Falcon used as bait to lure victims into clicking the fatal link "was overwhelmingly geared towards the UAE", he says.

"The high cost of iPhone zero-days, the apparent use of NSO Group's government-exclusive Pegasus product, and prior known targeting of Mansoor by the UAE government provide indicators that point to the UAE government as the likely operator behind the targeting," Citizen Labs' report concludes.

While nation states targeting individuals is nothing new, this attack was something no one has ever seen before, says Lookout's Murray.

(Source:Guardian)

## Iran reaches 564 Gbps broadband internet capacity



Iran has reached 564 Gbps broadband internet capacity and more than 57000 km of optical fiber was installed nationwide by the end of June, according to the latest statistics.

Technical-Economic Studies Office Deputy of Strategic Planning and Control in the Communications and Information Technology Ministry announced the latest condition of network and communication infrastructure of our country by the end of June, Mehr reported.

Some 57936 km of optical fiber has been installed between various cities and the intranet capacity (internal IP) has far reached to 4000 Gbps, According to the report.

Studies show that international Internet bandwidth capacity is 564 Gbps and distance-capacity transmission network in our country is estimated to be 13 million and 327000 Gbps.

Communications and Information Technology Ministry had previously announced that the international Internet bandwidth network capacity has risen more than six-fold.

The studies measured the level of network access during the measurement process of transmission network as 99.96 percent as well as 98.49 percent availability during the measurement process of data communication network.

## New reading mode for news in Bing for iOS



The Bing app for iOS has been updated to version 6.7.2. With the update, you now have the option of using the map app that you prefer. If you select Google Maps and directions are called for, Bing will automatically turn to Google Maps for them.

Another new feature added to Bing will now give you information about trending musical artists and songs.

You can also add movies to your Netflix/ Amazon Prime watchlist, and access the list directly from the movies page.

A new reading mode is available on news pages which eliminates photos and makes it easier to read certain stories.

And with the update, you can now sign into your Microsoft account to view your search history from other devices where you signed in.

You can wait for the update to hit your Bing app, or you can go to the App Store and see if version 6.7.2 of Bing has the update pending. If so, click on the update box and the new features should be at your fingertips.

(Source:MSPoweruser)

## Google hires Airbnb executive to commercialize self-driving cars



Google is gearing up to bring its self-driving vehicles to the marketplace with its latest hire, former Airbnb executive Shaun Stewart.

Stewart will serve as a director of the self-driving car project and report to the project's CEO John Krafcik, Reuters reports. The hire follows the departure of CTO Chris Urmson, who stepped down after more than seven years with the unit.

Google's self-driving cars are still in development, but autonomous vehicles are expected to hit the road in the US in just a few short years. Urmson himself predicted last year that Google's autonomous vehicles would be ready to go on the market by 2020.

Stewart's experience building Airbnb, a marketplace for short-term rentals, could help Google find its footing in the emerging mobility-as-a-service ecosystem that both traditional automakers and tech firms are jumping into. The autonomous vehicle software startup nuTonomy is now running self-driving taxis in Singapore, while Uber is now going to be picking up customers in Pittsburgh with self-driving cars from Volvo and Ford (albeit with two Uber employees sitting in the front of the vehicle).

(Source: zdnet)

### NEWS

## Tim Cook sells \$35.8 million in Apple Stock after 1.26 million RSUs vest

Apple CEO Tim Cook enjoyed a huge pay day this week, when Apple's CEO sold a third of his Apple shares for \$35.8 million. The executive entered the sell order after 980,000 Restrictive Stock Units based on his longevity as CEO, and another 280,000 RSUs based on Apple's stock performance, had vested on August 24th. The total amount came to 1.26 million RSUs.

Cook's contract required that for the total performance based 280,000 RSUs to vest, Apple had to finish in the top third of the S&P 500 in stock performance for the period from Aug. 25, 2013 to Aug. 24, 2016. Had Apple finished in the middle third, Cook's award would have dropped to 140,000 RSUs. And had the stock finished in the bottom third, the performance award would have disappeared completely. With a total shareholder return of 67.55% over the three years, Apple's shares finished in the top 78th percentile of the S&P 500, allowing Cook to be credited with the 280,000 performance RSUs.

This past Wednesday, when the award vested, was the fifth anniversary of Cook's second and last promotion to Apple CEO. Back in 2009, Cook was temporarily given the CEO title as Steve Jobs took a leave of absence related to his cancer treatment.

The SEC has certain rules for CEOs selling off restricted shares, which Cook had to follow. We do know that the 990,117 shares were sold at prices ranging from \$106.69 to \$107.92. The executive still owns 1,309,692 Apple shares in his trust, which has a value of \$140 million based on Friday's closing stock price of \$106.94. Five more performance based RSU awards are due annually over the next five years ended 2021. Also that year, Cook will be owed a huge award of 700,000 RSUs.



(Source: AppleInsider)

## Facebook plans on adding larger vertical videos to its mobile news feed

Studies done by Facebook show that people have a tendency to watch videos longer on the site when they are presented in a vertical format. In addition, users are more likely to enable the sound while watching a Facebook video in the vertical orientation. As a result, the social-media app will send out an update that will allow Facebook to display a larger portion of each vertical video shown on a user's mobile news feed.

Before the update, vertical videos were seen in a series of squares which the user would have to click on to see in a vertical format. Videos, ads and live broadcasts that have been made to be viewed in a vertical orientation will now appear this way on iOS and Android devices.

Once iOS and Android devices receive the update, vertical videos will be seen in a 2:3 aspect ratio (as opposed to 1:1) without the user having to expand the size of the video on the screen. But that means that the vertical videos won't take up the entire screen the way they do in Snapchat. There is a way to view a full-screen vertical video in Facebook. Click on the video in your feed, and then click on the expanded video; lastly, click on the arrows on the upper right corner of the screen and you should be viewing a full-screen vertical video.

(Source: mashable)

## Google Wallet will now automatically send funds to your bank or your debit card

An update to Google Wallet adds a new time saving feature. Now, when money is sent to your Google Wallet account, you can have the funds sent automatically to your bank account or debit card. This way, as soon as money hits your Google Wallet account, it is enroute to a place where it can be spent easily.

If you're familiar with PayPal, then you probably have an idea how Google Wallet works. Send money to anyone in the U.S. using their email address or phone number. Request payments from others and be notified when you are paid. And if you take advantage of the new feature that we told you about in the first paragraph, those funds will soon be nestled safely in your bank account, or on the verge of being spent on your debit card.

It takes about 2 to 3 business days for funds to be transferred from Google Wallet to your bank account. Transfers to your debit card shouldn't take longer than one business day. In some cases, those transfers will arrive instantaneously.

Besides the new automatic transfer option, the update includes bug fixes and visual improvements. If you haven't received the update and want to hurry up the process, open the Google Play Store, tap on the hamburger menu in the upper left, and click on My apps & games. Scroll to Google Wallet, and if the update is listed, click on it.

(Source: AndroidAuthority)





COMMENT

Immigration is not the 'top problem'

Candidates ignore mounting debt at their peril

By Donald Lambro

The chief problems in our country that voters worry about most are jobs, the economy, healthcare and the government's mismanagement.

When Donald Trump announced his candidacy for the presidency last year, the first problem he raised and made his dominant issue was illegal immigrants from Mexico.



But that wasn't a major public concern at the time, not even close, according to the Gallup Poll, and it still isn't.

Gallup regularly polls the issues that are among the voters' greatest concerns, and soon after the real estate tycoon pushed immigration into the forefront of the news media's attention on June 16, 2015, Frank Newport, the polling firm's editor-in-chief, wrote an analysis that said this:

"For one thing, we know that immigration is not seen as the top problem facing the nation today by most Americans, but it is perceived as an important issue."

Just "Seven percent of Americans say immigration is the most important problem facing the country today," he added.

■ 'Illegal immigration'

In March, he said, "we gave Americans a list of 15 problems and asked how much they personally worry about each. 'Illegal immigration' was ninth on the list, with 39 percent saying they worried about it 'a great deal.'"

"That contrasts with the top problems — healthcare and the economy — about which 54 percent and 53 percent, respectively, of the public said they worried about a great deal," he wrote.

Since then, for the most part, the Gallup poll has shown that the economy, jobs and government still remain the big issues facing our country, with immigration further down on the list.

If anything, Trump's focus on illegal immigration and his plan to deport an estimated 11 million illegal Hispanics has become a problem for his own campaign. Polls show that he's losing the lion's share of the Hispanic vote, the largest ethnic voting bloc in the U.S. electorate.

And it has become an issue for many American voters who think his proposed mass deportation of millions of Hispanics and their families who have lived and worked here for 10, 20, 30 years or more, have never committed a crime and contributed to our economy, is a bit extreme.

Apparently Trump and some of his new advisers, think so, too, because he has begun signaling that he may be open to "softening" his deportation plan.

The candidate began his presidential bid last year by saying that all illegal immigrants "have to go," and that he would establish a nationwide, police-style, "deportation force" to round them up and send them back to their native countries.

But at a town hall gathering last Tuesday hosted by Fox News in Austin, Trump said he was open to "softening" the immigration laws for illegals who have established roots here and lived law-abiding lives.

"Did he use the word 'soften'?" An incredulous Sen. Jeff Sessions, Alabama Republican, a Trump backer, asked reporters who sought his reaction to the candidate's unexpected remark.

Trump appears to be playing down or avoiding any mention of deportations lately, notably during a rally on the Florida State Fairgrounds last Wednesday. And touched on it only briefly in terms of protecting jobs and focusing only on those who have criminal records.

His new campaign manager, Kellyanne Conway, may be influencing his shift. When asked last Sunday if Trump was going to readjust his position on mass deportations, she coyly replied, "To be determined."

"What he supports is to make sure we enforce the law and that we are fair and humane for those who live among us in this country," Ms. Conway said.

Trump told Fox News that he was "not flip-flopping on the issue, but added, "We want to come up with a really fair but firm answer."

What brought about the change in tone? The answer can be found in half a dozen major, head-to-head polls on the Real Clear Politics website, showing Hillary Clinton leading Trump by margins of five to eight percent.

While we wait for Trump and his curious crew to figure out just where they stand on this issue, the voters remain far more focused on what's important to them.

CBO projects that the budget deficit will rise to \$1.2 trillion by 2026, unless fiscal policies are changed.

Economic growth has slowed to a crawl in President Obama's last year in office, coming in at little more than 1 percent in the first and second quarters.

CBO estimates that the economy will grow by just 1.7 percent, at best, over the next two years under present policies.

In his new book, "Full Faith and Credit: The National Debt, Taxes, Spending and the Bankruptcy of America," historian Alan Axelrod paints a gloomy portrait of our country's future. (Source: The Washington Post)

# Can Saudi Arabia escape the trap of endless war in Yemen?

Riyadh can't bomb its way out of this one

By Thomas W. Lippman

It took only two days after the collapse of Yemen peace talks in early August for the Saudi-led coalition to resume its intense bombing of the capital, Sanaa. With it resumed the dismal chronicle of destruction, civilian casualties and humanitarian crisis afflicting the Arab world's poorest country, and no end is in sight.

To what end? What do the Saudis and their coalition partners hope to gain from this latest escalation of an increasingly pointless conflict? They find themselves locked into a war with no realistic military objective and no achievable definition of victory—a war that is costing them billions of dollars that they don't have in this time of low oil prices, and which by UN estimates is inflicting an average of 113 civilian casualties per day.

If the Saudis are having second thoughts or reevaluating its strategy, there is no sign of it. At an international security conference in Brussels last month, Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir delivered a two-thousand-word summary of Saudi foreign and security policy in which he mentioned Yemen only as one of several countries where the kingdom faces "tensions."

■ Legitimate government

When the Saudis began the bombing campaign more than a year ago, their stated objective was the restoration to power in Sanaa of what they called the

"legitimate government" of ousted president Abdu Rabbu Mansour Hadi. The Saudis have also said they seek implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 2216, which calls for an end to the fighting and the return of Hadi to authority in the capital, where he would preside over a conference to form a consensus on Yemen's political future.

The problem the Saudis face is that those objectives are not achievable by bombing, and they are probably not achievable at all.

Yemen has always been difficult to govern, and now it is effectively partitioned into areas controlled by the Houthis, by pro-government forces and by Al Qaeda's Arabian Peninsula affiliate, known as AQAP. Even if the stalemate ended, it is unlikely that any government could establish uncontested authority over the entire country.

The Security Council demanded that the Houthis pull back from all the territory they have seized since the war began, including Sanaa, but they have refused to do that.

**In April, Jubeir said the priority in Yemen was no longer to wage a war against the Houthis, whom he described as "our neighbors," but to fight AQAP, which has entrenched itself in southeastern Yemen.**

In April, Jubeir said the priority in Yemen was no longer to wage a war against the Houthis, whom he described as "our neighbors," but to fight AQAP, which has entrenched itself in southeastern Yemen. If that is the goal in Yemen, it has had few successes, and the bombing campaign does little to promote it, in part because it has destroyed equipment and facilities of the government's army.

Adding to the policy confusion, when the Saudi defense minister, Prince Mohammed bin Salman, was in Washington in June, one of his closest advisers told

address urgent humanitarian needs and rebuild the country." But that was before UN-brokered peace negotiations in Kuwait failed; and the prospect of "rebuilding the country" now seems more remote than ever.

Meanwhile, according to a recent report by the International Institute for Strategic Studies, Saudi Arabia is spending \$82 billion a year on defense, which is the third-largest defense budget in the world behind the United States and China and represents about 13 percent of GDP, a far greater share than the countries of NATO.



guests at a dinner that the Saudi objective was not to restore Hadi's government or fight Al Qaeda, but simply to prevent the emergence in Yemen of "another Libya"—a violent, ungoverned expanse where militias rule in different areas.

When Prince Mohammed, a son of King Salman, met with President Barack Obama during that visit, the White House said that "with regard to Yemen, the president welcomed Saudi Arabia's commitment to concluding a political settlement of the conflict and of PGCC support to

With oil prices less than half what they were when the Yemen conflict began, the Saudis are feeling the pinch, sending unemployed construction workers back to their home countries, reducing some subsidies and even increasing visa fees.

There has been little sign so far of domestic dissent among the Saudi people about the devastation of Yemen. With the exception of those on the border, the Saudis have been insulated from it, and Saudi casualties have been light. As Bruce Riedel of the Brookings Institution wrote in Al-Monitor earlier this month, "The easiest choice for the kingdom is to muddle along and make no decision." But sooner or later the Saudis will have to decide—whether to escalate the conflict, or resign themselves to a de facto partition that would leave a large swath of a neighboring country in the hands of their enemies. (Source: National Interest)

## Center-Right Dispute: Merkel to delay announcement of chancellery candidacy

Angela Merkel's decision as to whether to run for a fourth term as German chancellor next year likely won't be announced until early 2017, DER SPIEGEL has learned. The delay is necessary because Horst Seehofer, head of the Christian Social Union (CSU), will only decide then whether or not to continue supporting Merkel, say sources within Merkel's Christian Democratic Union (CDU). The CSU is the CDU's Bavarian sister party.

Initially, Merkel had planned announce her intentions in spring 2016. But then came the refugee crisis and the ensuing bitter dispute with Seehofer and the CSU as to how best to confront the challenge. At the time, the chancellor decided to delay her announcement until this fall.

The dispute with Seehofer has not yet been adequately resolved and the Bavarian party is considering the possibility of nominating its own candidate for the Chancellery. The renewed delay, however, is much more problematic for Merkel than the initial deferral in the spring. In December, the CDU convention is to take place and Merkel intends to run for a further two years as CDU party head.

Doing so, however, only makes sense if she plans to run for a further term as chancellor. Election year conventions are vital for demonstrating CDU party solidarity with its chancellor candidate. Should it not yet be clear if Merkel will be that candidate, such a message of solidarity becomes impossible to send.



■ Politically Dangerous

From Merkel's perspective, however, the alternative -- announcing her candidacy without Seehofer's backing -- would be even riskier. While it may be possible for a CDU candidate to win the election even without CSU support -- particularly with support for the center-left

**From Merkel's perspective, however, the alternative -- announcing her candidacy without Seehofer's backing -- would be even riskier.**

## Can Assange and Denton revive the Wikileaks-Gawker revolution?

Two of journalism's most radical figures are now silenced, or shunned. Nick Denton, the Brit whose Gawker website has whipped away the lace curtains that covered (mainly) sexual privacy since 2002, has been bankrupted by vengeful and wealthy men.

Julian Assange, the Australian whose Wikileaks organization has revealed (mainly) U.S. secrets, has been left alone and friendless — dropped even by one-time allies after dumping troves of unredacted information taken from the files of U.S. and Turkish political parties.

Both men tried to create new standards for investigative journalism; both have failed so far. They've failed in their efforts to emulate the paper that sees itself, with some justification, as fashioning the model for that brand of reporting

-- the New York Times. The Times has, for more than a century, stated its guiding principle on the top left-hand corner of its front page. "All the News That's Fit to Print" was chosen as the paper's slogan by Arthur Ochs in 1896, the year he bought the publication.

It was meant to differentiate the Times from the popular "yellow press" that, like Gawker, specialized in gossip, if way less racy. Ochs wanted to attract, by a display of ethical propriety, the burgeoning, respectable bourgeoisie of the city.

■ Mainstream journalist

**Snowden thinks Assange's release of uncured personal information — the Turkish files include a database of female voters -- broke the unwritten code of the new journalism.**

Assange was never a mainstream journalist, and has always scorned the tribe. Denton was a journalist. We worked together in December 1989, in Bucharest, after the fall and subsequent murder of the Romanian dictator Nicolae Ceaucescu. Denton allowed me to join him at an interview he had arranged with Silviu Brucan, a figure high in the Communist Party who had turned against Ceaucescu, and which landed me a huge scoop. Denton lacked the feral quality that reporters tend to develop: His was an act of surprising generosity. In the way of human nature, I have ever since been well dis-

posed to him.

As the former Gawker staffer Jia Tolentino wrote recently, Denton's managing style was to create no hierarchy, to encourage his staff to dig without inhibition and to follow their own path. When "fit to read" news people came to see him, he was politely dismissive of them, telling James Fallows of The Atlantic that he was catering to those "who don't want to eat the boring vegetables."

But Denton's self-starting staff crossed two rich and angry men. One was the wrestler Hulk Hogan, incensed when Gawker published part of a video showing him having sex with a friend's wife. Hogan took Gawker Media to court and won a total of \$140 million in March. Hogan's suit was bankrolled by Peter Thiel, a billionaire whom Gawker had outed as gay in 2007. (Source: Reuters)



# Russian company signs \$1b deal to build jack-up rigs in Iran

**ECONOMY TEHRAN** — Iran's desk Tasdid Offshore and Onshore Development Company and Russia's OJSC Krasnye Barrikady Shipyard signed a deal worth \$1 billion to cooperate in building jack-up rigs in Iran, Tasnim news agency reported on Saturday.

According to the report, signing this agreement Iran has stepped toward indigenizing the manufacturing of such rigs for the first time.

In the signing ceremony, Tasdid's Managing Director Ehsan Allah Mousavi said that the agreement covers building of five jack-up rigs.

Mousavi also noted that the marine structures will be built in Khorramshahr Yard (in southwest of Iran) and each rig will take two years to be completed.



According to Tasnim, based on the agreement for the first rig, 58 percent of the work will be executed by Iranian side and as the project proceeds, technology transfer and brainstorming of Iranian shipping engineers will increase this figure gradually.

In the event Mousavi also underscored a tripartite cooperation between Iran, China and Russia in overhaul for repairing of drilling rigs and said, "In cooperation with a reputable Chinese enterprise, an offshore and onshore drilling rig repair center will be opened in Khorramshahr soon."

"The project will be financed by Russians and renting the rigs for oil and gas projects it is expected that the fund will be repaid with interest in 5 years," he added.

## IP gas pipeline the most viable project: former Pakistani fin. min.

Renowned economist and former finance minister Hafiz Pasha considers Iran-Pakistan (IP) gas pipeline as the most viable and feasible project for Pakistan that needs to be completed at the earliest.

In an interview with Iranian News Agency (IRNA), Pasha suggested that the IP gas pipeline should be the top priority in Iran-Pakistan relations. "This project has to be revived at the earliest because it is the most viable and feasible one for Pakistan," he said.

Comparing with other energy projects including the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (Tapi) gas pipeline, Central Asia South Asia (Casa)-1,000 power supply and Qatar liquefied natural gas (LNG) import, Pasha called IP the most suitable for Pakistan.

"The price of gas to be supplied by the IP pipeline is very attractive and it should be the top priority for Pakistan,"

he stressed. "I again insist the IP gas pipeline should be the top priority in Iran-Pakistan ties; we are importing LNG from Qatar, which is quite far away and provides expensive energy," he said.

The IP pipeline, once known as the peace pipeline, will cover a distance of 1,900 kilometers and bring natural gas from Iran to Pakistan. According to plans, initially it will bring 750 million cubic feet of gas per day, which will later be enhanced to one billion cubic feet per day.

Apart from the gas pipeline, the economist suggested, Pakistan should also try to sign a trade agreement with Iran with special focus on the export of rice and textile products and import of petroleum products and other goods.

"So far we don't have any such agreement; we should take immediate steps to enhance trade with Iran after the removal of sanctions from Tehran,"



he said. "Now new opportunities are emerging in Iran and being the neighbor, Pakistan should capitalize on the situation." Saying that strong economic and trade ties were in the interest of

both Iran and Pakistan, Pasha pointed out that the current bilateral trade volume stood less than the potential and capacity of the two countries.

(Source: The Express Tribune)

## NEWS

### 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.

"If the negotiations come to a close" without an agreement "we will start to find a way in order to sell our oil because we need money, either to Iran or other countries", he said by telephone.

The Kurdistan region produces around 500,000 barrels per day (bpd) on its territory and exports those volumes via Turkey. Baghdad would not be able to reroute those volumes 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. (Source: Reuters)

### Venezuela, Iran seeking consensus to stabilize oil markets

Venezuela and Iran continue to seek consensus on ways to stabilize oil markets and strengthen OPEC, Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro said on Saturday, following a meeting with Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif.

"We continue to build common ground and a new consensus on stabilizing oil markets, strengthening industries, strengthening OPEC," Maduro said in a ceremony broadcast on state television.

He said Venezuela's oil minister and foreign minister would make announcements in the coming weeks, but did not provide details on concrete actions.

Zarif arrived in Venezuela after visiting other Latin American nations including Bolivia and Ecuador.

Venezuela since the collapse of oil prices in 2014 has sought to rally support among OPEC and non-OPEC nations to boost crude prices by limiting production.

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, however, has remained more focused on retaining market share, with heavyweight Saudi Arabia showing little interest in backing output cuts. (Source: Reuters)



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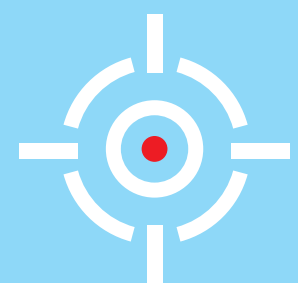
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# Is it better to lift heavier weights or do more reps?

Anyone who hits the weight room regularly will inevitably face the question: Should you add more weight and do less repetitions or use a lighter weight and do more reps?

The debate has raged on for as long as people have argued over cake versus pie (the answer is pie, obviously), but it's not quite that simple.

The truth behind weight versus reps lies somewhere in between, but to paint a clearer picture, you have to understand why we ask this question in the first place.

■ **A worthy villain: the fitness plateau**

Once you've been following a fitness program for a while, you'll eventually hit a fitness plateau—that dreaded no-man's land where your body adapts to your routine, and you no longer make progress. It sucks, but it's normal, and it happens to everyone.

One way to bust through the plateau is simply to change things up. This is where lifting heavier weights, adding more reps, or doing both (called a double progression) can shake up sleepy progress.

■ **The case for heavier weights**

When you pile on the pounds, you typically lift on the lower end of reps (as few as 1-5 for some people). That doesn't sound like much, but by doing so, you're increasing your overall maximum strength and greatly improving your ability to lift heavier weights.

Most of that newfound superhero strength is because you're improving your efficiency at a given exercise. Think of how your bank account grows when you minimize unnecessary spending. It's like that, and the more you practice restraint with a budget, the easier it is to save.

Lifting heavy weights feels awesome, but it's easy to get sucked into chasing the numbers and running into a wall.

Eventually, you'll reach a point where you simply can't add any more weight, and if you push it, you could compromise your form and put yourself at risk for injury.

"If you've increased your weight and now your form is breaking down, it's best to drop the weight and then increase the number of reps you're performing," says Tanner Baze, a certified personal trainer.

■ **The case for more reps**

When you lift lighter weights for more reps, you are still getting stronger, just in a different way. You're developing "muscular endurance," or your ability to exert a certain amount of effort before you fatigue. Sure enough, doing more work (more sets and reps, more workouts), will help you get stronger in the long run. Busting out more reps is also a challenging workout at a high-intensity level, which burns major calories and has a greater after burn effect.

Plus, when you hit a plateau, adding reps instead of having more weight allows you to focus on proper technique and form and still leaves room for additional changes to your program, if necessary.

The upside of maintaining tip-top form is you end up really working the muscle as intended, not relying on a bunch of compensatory patterns (for example, letting your quads do all the work when your glutes are too weak) or potentially hurting yourself. One downside to this technique is that it may make your workouts slightly longer, as you'll spend more time doing more reps.

■ **Why not just do both?**

Confusion about lifting heavier weights or doing more reps still lingers in the weight room because weightlifting and its effects on our bodies are often misunderstood, Baze says. Hint: It involves a lot more than lifting super-heavy weight or



banging out more reps in isolation.

You need a combination of muscle damage (that hurts-so-good soreness after a great workout), mechanical tension (the sheer strain of lifting something heavy), and metabolic stress (that "burn" you feel from your muscle really working). Both heavy-weight and high-rep training check those three boxes and will ultimately build strength. Plus, both methods require proper form, because without good technique, it doesn't matter how much weight or how many reps you do, you could be risking injury.

"If your goal is just to generally get stronger and more fit, choose one or the other," says Nathan Jones, a doctor of physical therapy student and strongman competitor.

For long-term progress and to keep things interesting, you can incorporate

both heavy-weight, low-rep training and light-weight, high-rep training by switching up the sets and reps on different days or weeks (a technique known as periodization). "If you've been doing 5 sets of 5 squats and can't add weight or get an extra rep, drop the weight and go to 5 sets of 8, or add weight and go to 3 sets of 5," Jones says. Basically, imagine your sets and reps as a wavelength continuously going up and down.

There's nothing inherently magical about changing things up this way. "Personally, I think it's more psychological than anything," Jones says. "Doing the same rep range every single time you lift gets boring. So doing something different helps you maintain motivation, and subsequently, keeps your effort high."

(Source: greatist.com)

## Should you disclose your ADHD in your college applications?

The decision to disclose is an individual one

By Keath Low

The question of whether or not to disclose attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) is one that frequently comes up for students with ADHD during the college planning and application process. For these students the underlying concern is often -- will disclosure hurt my chances of getting in?

The decision to disclose can be a very individual one.

There are legal protections in place that prohibit colleges and universities from discriminating against a qualified applicant and denying admission because of a disability, including ADHD.

■ **The importance of supports in college**

The transition to college life and college level academics can be a challenging one for a teenager with ADHD. In college, students face increased demands, responsibilities, and distractions -- all without the built in support system of home. Understanding the way ADHD affects you academically, socially, and emotionally and getting supports in place early on can be critical to success.

Symptoms of ADHD can affect a person in varying ways and the levels of support needed in college will vary from person to person. Having insight into your ADHD and seeking the necessary resources you need to be successful in college is strength and demonstrates a high level of self-awareness and maturity.

The benefits of disclosing your ADHD early on in the application process can include orientation accommodations such as extended time on placement examinations, support in the registration process, and access to the school's academic support services.

If you chose to disclose, it is often helpful to write about your experiences with ADHD in your college essay giving a clear picture of the ways you have dealt with areas of weakness, as well as sharing about your strengths and interests. Set up interviews with the admissions officers at your top choice colleges, so that you can connect personally and explain more about your past performances -- especially if you need to provide context into an



uneven academic profile.

The most important issue is finding a college that meets your individual needs. When you can correctly assess your abilities and the level of supports you need to manage impairments and match those needs with an appropriate college setting, your chances for success increase exponentially!

(Source: verywell.com)

## Could the paleo diet benefit heart health?

The popular Paleo diet is based on eating foods thought to be available to our ancestors during the Paleolithic era, before the advent of dairy or processed grains. Findings from a small study suggest that people who followed the Paleo diet for only eight weeks experienced positive effects on heart health. Preliminary findings from this research will be presented at the American Physiological Society's Inflammation, Immunity and Cardiovascular Disease conference.

"Very few studies have examined the Paleo diet in seemingly healthy participants, despite the prevalence of this dietary practice in health and fitness enthusiasts," said study author Chad Dolan, a graduate student researcher at Univer-

sity of Houston Laboratory of Integrative Physiology.

The researchers asked eight healthy people who normally consumed a traditional Western diet high in processed foods to switch to the Paleo diet -- which consists of minimally processed foods -- for eight weeks. The participants received a sample Paleo diet menu and recipe guide, as well as initial counseling on how to incorporate the Paleo diet into their everyday lives. They were told to eat as much food as they wanted while following the diet.

The researchers found that the study participants experienced a 35 percent increase in levels of interleukin-10 (IL-10), a signaling molecule secreted by

immune cells. A low IL-10 value can predict increased heart attack risk in people who also have high levels of inflammation. Scientist think that high IL-10 levels may counteract inflammation, providing a protective effect for blood vessels.

Although the researchers have not yet analyzed inflammation levels in the study participants, the increase in IL-10 could suggest a lower risk for cardiovascular disease after following the Paleo diet. The researchers also observed changes in other biomarkers of inflammation, but further investigation is needed to understand whether these changes indicate increased inflammation or a protective mechanism at work.

Even though the study was not designed to promote weight loss, the participants did drop some pounds during the eight-week trial. Compared with what they regularly ate before the study, participants reported consuming around 22 percent fewer calories and 44 percent fewer grams of carbohydrates on the Paleo diet.

This preliminary feasibility study did not include a control group of people not following the diet, making it difficult to determine if the changes observed in inflammation biomarkers resulted from specific food choices, reduced calories, fewer carbohydrates or weight loss.

(Source: Science Daily)

## MedEye medicine verification tech gets \$5.6M to target new markets

Dutch hardware startup Mint Solutions has closed a €5 million (~\$5.6M) Series B funding round for its medicine-scanning tech, MedEye, a system that's designed to reduce errors when medicines are given to patients, such as the wrong tablets or dosage.

The scanning device uses computer vision algorithms to identify pills that are about to be given to a patient, integrating with a hospital's existing workflow and IT infrastructure to cross-reference that scan data with a patient's prescription information — such as a wristband barcode system. Pills are placed into the scanning drawer on the device for identification.

The MedEye system can also use external cameras and barcode scanners for verifying non-solid medicines, such as liquids, or other medicines not in its pill database.

Mint Solutions last closed a €4.425M Series A funding round in July 2014. Since then it's rolled out the system to four Dutch hospitals, with three more implementations "in progress," according to CEO Gauti Reynisson. The new funding will be used to accelerate its rollout in the Netherlands, and also eye customers further afield.

Reynisson says Belgium and the UK are possible markets for expansion outside its home territory. It's also looking at moving into "adjacent markets," such as care homes, where its tech would also have obvious application.

While it started with a pure hardware business model, Mint has since expanded to offer a SaaS model with MedEye — for example offering analytics to help hospitals spot internal problems with administration or dispensing

of medicines.

"In hospitals where MedEye goes live we typically see about 200 medication errors stopped in the first few weeks, and that rate continuing as the implementation expands," says Reynisson.

"MedEye has grown from being a tool to check and verify all solid oral medications, into becoming a complete medication verification system that handles all medications and various different workflows for e.g. double verification of high risk medications. MedEye is a turn key solution to stop and prevent medication errors, and at the same time improving quality of documentation and saving nurses time in the complete medication process," he adds.

(Source: techcrunch.com)

### EAT YOUR FRUIT

#### Mango

Mangoes are one of the most popular fruits all over the world. Loved for its taste, mango also has immense health benefits.



- Fight cancer
- Lower cholesterol
- Cleanse skin
- Improve eye health
- Alkalize whole body
- Improve digestion
- Help fight heat stroke
- Bone health
- Regulate diabetes
- Promote digestion
- Heart disease
- Asthma prevention
- Help weight loss
- Prevent heat stroke
- Strengthen your immune
- Body scrub
- Aid concentration and memory
- High iron for women
- Reduces kidney stones

### NEWS

#### Many companies to partake in national festival on herbal medicine

**TIMEDISK** **MEDICINE TEHRAN** – Over 500 companies, producing natural herbal plants, will participate in the 3rd National Festival on Herbal Medicine in Tehran, an informed source with the event announced on Sunday.

Mohammad Hassan Osareh said that during the four-day festival, various companies will showcase their products to public, according to IRNA.

The festival is due to start on September 5.

Given that Iran is home to a wealth of natural herbal remedies, the festival is expected to attract a flood of visitors.



#### Living like a European might lower your risk of depression



By Jeff Cattel

We already know eating a Mediterranean diet comes with a ton of health benefits, but a new study suggests that following the way people in countries like France, Spain, Italy, and Greece live can lower your risk of developing depression.

The so-called Mediterranean lifestyle involves three components: following the well-known diet, plus high levels of socializing and exercising. Researchers followed nearly 12,000 university graduates in Spain for more than eight years. Participants whose day-to-day habits closely mirrored the lifestyle were half as likely to be at risk for depression as the people who didn't follow the behaviors closely.

To be fair, the findings raise a chicken-or-egg question. People who struggle with depression often feel anxious, fatigued, or isolated. That means they may be less social and less active, two key parts of the Mediterranean lifestyle.

That being said, those of us who are susceptible to depression can make a few key changes in our lives and see if they have an impact. We can try to prioritize seeing friends and family; keeping physically active (or at least not sedentary); and eating foods like fresh fruits and vegetables, legumes, nuts, and olive oil instead of processed foods that are staples of the typical American diet.

(Source: greatist.com)



# To cycle or not to cycle: Controversy of female cyclists in Iran

By Marjohn Sheikhi

Women in Iran are still not sure if cycling in public for their daily commute is legal or conforms to Sharia law. Now with more and more people wanting to join the environmental campaign 'Tuesdays without Cars', the question has once again taken center stage in media outlets and daily conversations.

Google 'bicycle laws' and the search results will be, without fail, about whether wearing helmets is mandatory in a particular country or not. Now type 'cycling' in Persian. Among others, Google will also suggest to you 'female cycling'. You may be wondering why 'female cycling' would need to be a 'thing', to be a specific topic for discussion, and in fact you are not alone in wondering about that. Female cyclists have long been a subject of controversy in Iran, and once in a while, the topic will come up in discussion in media outlets and social networks.

Iran's legal code does not ban women from riding a bicycle, but the old, religious cultural texture does, in some parts of the country where the idea of women on a bicycle is so unusual that people may find it at conflict with their deep-seated religious values.

The controversy reared its ugly head a month ago in Marivan, the naturally beautiful county in Kurdistan province, western Iran,

where a number of women were stopped by the police on charges of cycling. Reportedly, the police officers at the scene had deemed women's cycling 'Haram' and 'illegal', but there is no law in the Iranian legal system that would ban women from taking part in this sport activity. And that is the very heart of the controversy. Religious figures in this small city with a population of about 100,000 have been very sensitive on this issue. Mamousta Mostafa Shirzadi, Marivan's Friday Prayer Imam, reacted to the news on women's cycling on the streets three days after the incident on July 29, saying "cycling in public is a sin for women and therefore, officials at the Sport and Youth Organization need to provide them with an appropriate indoor space [to do their cycling]."

Although women in Marivan will soon have their own exclusive space to ride bicycles and use other sports equipment provided for them at a 'women-only' park, that does not seem to have addressed the actual issue, which is the fact that women, as much as men, need to use bicycles, instead of cars or other means of transport, to commute. It is all well and good to have a special place to ride bicycles as a form of exercise, but the women who were stopped by the police had not come out to the streets with their bicycles in support of keeping fit and healthy – they were there as part of an environmental cam-

paign, dubbed 'Tuesdays without Cars'.

The idea of 'Tuesdays without Cars', or more generally 'Clean Tuesdays', which invites people to leave their cars at home on every Tuesday and instead commute on bicycles, was first introduced in November 2015 by environmental activities in Arak, a city where industrial pollution has for long harmed the activity and balance of citizens' lives and brought many to the streets demanding that authorities take immediate action to reduce environmental pollution. The campaign soon gained popularity in other cities across the country to the point where less than a year after its tentative execution in a number of cities, all provinces joined in to bring the campaign on the verge of becoming a national event.

Mohammad Pouyesh, Director of Public Participation of Department of Environment, said the simple message of 'Tuesdays without Cars' is that each one of us should be the change in order to be worthy of living in a land of diverse plant and animal species. If the change needs to first happen within us and then spread to our surroundings and the planet on which we live, then every one of us, including all men and women, need to work

together in order to make this world a better place.

Being one of the oldest civilizations in the world with its cultural roots going centuries upon centuries back to ancient traditions, Iran is home to unique and remarkably diverse ethnic and religious customs. In some parts of the country, such as Marivan, women are making far slower progress for being an active participant in the social sphere, but the progress is happening, slowly but surely, and their efforts are supported from the rest of the country where modernity has already found a comfortable place in people's lives for a peaceful coexistence with tradition.

One such example of this civil support came last Tuesday, Aug. 23, from a number of young male and female cyclists in Tehran who were both promoting 'Tuesdays without Cars' and also the women's rights to cycling. They had a piece of paper sticking to their bicycles with a picture of Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Khamenei, and beneath it, a quote attributed to him as saying 'women's cycling is both legal and conforms to Sharia law'. There was no report of any confrontations between officers and the cyclists in Tehran, although a few number of media outlets

voiced their objections over the move.

Interestingly, three days later on Aug. 26, Vice President for Women and Family Affairs, Shahindokht Molaverdi, posted a tweet on her official Twitter account in which she quoted Ayatollah Khamenei as saying 'Women's cycling is permissible on the condition that religious customs are observed,' and finished the post with a 'Clean Tuesdays' hashtag. It appears that it is not the actual act of cycling that seems problematic for women, but rather the sensitivities are focused on the observance of the Islamic dress code and other religious customs. Therefore, as long as there is no violation of the dress code, women should be free to ride bicycles on the streets, without being worried that they are breaking a law in doing so. According to Article 2 of the Islamic Penal Code, "any conduct, including action or omission, for which punishment is provided by law, constitutes an offense." And since there is no law against women's cycling, the act by itself should not be considered an offense. In a similar vein, opinion No. 5152/7 of the Legal Department of Iran's Judiciary dated 26.08.2000, maintains that "due to the legality of offences and punishments, since no punishment has been defined for wearing neckties, women's cycling on main streets and men's hairstyles, these acts are not legally an offence."

On the other hand, a number of officials have voiced their support for female cyclists, including Mohammadreza Mahmoudi, then deputy head of civil affairs for Governor of Tehran, who said in 2012, "based on our investigations, there is no ban on the use of bicycles by women and one cannot confront them solely for cycling."

Despite official and civil supports, the controversy of female cyclists is not settled yet. The 'Houses of Bicycles' which were set up by the Municipality of Tehran in the capital in 2009 still refuse to allow women to use the bicycles. A number of religious figures believe that female cyclists should be restricted to women-only spaces. In certain cities where tradition is still strongly observed, such as Yazd, women who decide to commute around the town on bicycles may run the risk of being stopped by officers. But the general consensus is that as long as women fully observe the dress code, there should be no objection to their cycling on the streets. 'Tuesdays without Cars' is already campaigned by men and women alike in many cities across the country and officials have promised to settle the remaining issues in other cities as well.



**The general consensus is that as long as women fully observe the dress code, there should be no objection to their cycling on the streets.**

## Water and Wastewater Projects, Costing over 3,147b Rials, Inaugurated in Isfahan Province during Government Week



**Water and wastewater projects, costing over 3,147 billion rials, were put into operation during the current year's Government Week.**

Announcing the above in an interview with our reporter, Managing Director of Isfahan Province Water and Wastewater Company Eng. Hashem Amini pointed to the highlights of projects commissioned in this province during the Government Week as follows: water supply projects to Golpayegan, Khansar and industrial parks, construction of water reservoir and tank in Mobarakeh, water supply project to Gaz, West Road and Isfahan (Shahid Fahmideh), commissioning water desalination unit in Farrokhi, project for replacement of water and wastewater installations in Esteghlal Square, as well as eight other projects, etc.

Chairman of Board of Directors and Managing Director of Isfahan Province Water and Wastewater Company also referred to the other projects which will be inaugurated during this auspicious week as follows: water supply project to Toudeshak, construction of water conveyance pipeline to Golshahr of Golpayegan, water supply project to Shahrak-e Bargh and Electronics in Khomeinishahr, construction of 2,000-cubic meter water tank and pumping station in Ardestan, digging and equipping water wells in Nasrabad, Sin and Khorzough, costing over 182 billion rials.

He put the cost spent for commissioning the aforementioned water projects in this province at over 182 billion rials.

The senior official of the company also put the cost spent for water supply project to Golpayegan as long as 49 km pipe laying operation, construction of wastewater treatment plant, pumping station and water reservoir

tank at over 249 billion rials.

Project for conveyance of water to west road and center of Isfahan (Shahid Fahmideh) with the construction pipe laying operation as long as 11 km, costing over 167 billion rials, has been put atop agenda of the company, he said, adding: "This giant project was put into operation with the aim of removing water pressure drop for residents in west and northwest Isfahan and also Khomeinishahr."

Removing water pressure drop problem and resolving water shortage problem have been cited as the main objective behind construction of water supply project in this province, he maintained.

It should be noted that water-supply project to Gaz, with the construction of pipe- laying operation as long as 11.7 km, will be put into operation in this province, costing over 156 billion rials, the managing director maintained.

The senior official of the company termed water-supply project to the industrial parks as "significant and constructive" and said: "Water-supply project to Mobarakeh and Dehsorkh Industrial townships will be inaugurated during the Government Week."



Once this project is put into operation, all industrial units stationed in industrial parks will benefit from potable and hygienic drinking water, he said, adding: "This project was put into operation, costing over 80 billion rials."

Also, one 1,000 cubic meter water tank and two 2,000-cubic meter waste reservoirs along with installing filter press for Safae'eh Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant would be put into operation in the cities of Mobarakeh, Talkhouncheh and Dizicheh, costing over 123 billion rials, he observed.

In the end, Managing Director of Isfahan Province Water and Wastewater Company Eng. Hashem Amini pointed to the significance of construction operation of project in Esteghlal Square and said: "Esteghlal Square will be put into operation during the Government Week. This project will become operational in Isfahan in northwest entry gate of Isfahan with the aim of preparing, constructing and upgrading Esteghlal Square, as long as more than 6 km costing 140 billion rials."



### Yearlong Performance of Isfahan Province Water and Wastewater Co.

Project Title	Spent Amount (Billion Rials)
Water pipe-laying operation	432
Wastewater pipe-laying operation	1480
Water-supply project to Golpayegan	249
Water-supply project to Khansar	202
Water-supply project to industrial parks and construction of Mobarakeh water tank	123.5
Water-supply project to Gaz	156
Water-supply project to west road and center of Isfahan (Shahid Fahmideh)	167
Farrokhi Water Desalination Project	15
Esteghlal Square Project	140
Other eight projects constructed by provincial Water and Wastewater Company at cities of the province	182.6
Grand Total	3147.1

Project Title	Integrated Contract Amount
Conclusion of buyback contract for the construction operation of wastewater projects in the cities of Najafabad, Dastgerd, Khorough, Dowlatabad and Gorgah	1,530 billion rials

Amount of yearlong water pipe- laying operation during 12-month period ending current year's Government Week	258 km
Amount of yearlong wastewater pipe- laying operation during 12-month period ending current year's Government Week	372 km
Amount of water pipe- laying operation during three years in the 11 <sup>th</sup> government dubbed "Hope and Prudence"	965 km
Amount of wastewater pipe- laying operation during three years in the 11 <sup>th</sup> government dubbed "Hope and Prudence"	1,061 km

Public Relations Dept. of Isfahan Water and Wastewater Company



# Juno's first Jupiter close approach successful, best JunoCam images yet to come

NASA's Juno mission successfully executed its first of 36 orbital flybys of Jupiter On Saturday. The time of closest approach with the gas-giant world was 06:44 A.M. PDT (09:44 A.M. EDT, 13:44 UTC) when Juno passed about 2,600 miles (4,200 kilometers) above Jupiter's swirling clouds.

At the time, Juno was traveling at 130,000 mph (208,000 kilometers per hour) with respect to the planet. This flyby was the closest Juno will get to Jupiter during its prime mission.

"Early post-flyby telemetry indicates that everything worked as planned and Juno is firing on all cylinders," said Rick Nybakken, Juno project manager.

While results from the spacecraft's suite of instruments will be released down the road, a handful of images from Juno's visible light imager -- JunoCam -- are expected to be released the next couple of weeks. Those images will include the highest-resolution views of the Jovian atmosphere and the first glimpse of Jupiter's north and south poles.

## Processed image

They released one processed image from JunoCam, taken on approach to perijove, from a distance of 703,000 kilometers. I checked JPL's Horizons web tool and determined that the photo was captured two hours before closest approach,



roughly an hour before the spacecraft would have passed over the North Pole.

So it's just a taste of the awesome imaging to come -- there should be much better stuff in the future. For now,

though, just pause and appreciate what an unusual view this is -- a crescent Jupiter, tipping over to show its north pole to us.

I don't know what other images have

been planned, because the mission has inexplicably chosen not to share information with the public about those plans.

This is really weird, because Cassini and New Horizons were both very open about their plans for imaging with their science cameras.

Juno's JunoCam is an instrument intended specifically for public outreach, and yet they're keeping information about it close to the vest.

Apart from the types of imaging mentioned in the press release, there has been discussion of attempting 3D imaging of clouds by taking images closely spaced in time as the spacecraft passes from north to south.

Late last week the Juno team did release more frames from the "Marble Movie," teeny snapshots of Jupiter taken through August 22. I've posted all that data to my JunoCam data page. Gerald Eichstaedt made thumbnails of all the images, and I assembled them into this movie montage.

The Juno space probe was launched from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station on August 5, 2011, as part of the New Frontiers program,(7) and ranged into Jupiter's orbit on July 4, 2016.

(Source: The Planetary Society)

## This weird galaxy is 99.99 percent dark matter



Astronomers have discovered a galaxy as big as the Milky Way that consists almost entirely of dark matter, a mysterious and invisible substance that scientists have been trying to figure out for decades. Only one-hundredth of one percent of the galaxy is ordinary, visible matter like stars and planets. The other 99.99 percent of the stuff in this galaxy can't be seen.

No one really knows what dark matter is made of, but scientists believe it exists because they can see the effects of its gravity on other things in space. Whatever it may be, about 80 percent of the mass in the universe is dark matter.

This dark galaxy, named Dragonfly 44, was first detected in 2015, through the use of the Dragonfly Telephoto Array in New Mexico. With a combination of eight telephoto lenses and cameras, the array is designed to look at objects in space that aren't bright enough to see with other telescopes.

## Dragon 44

Dragonfly 44 is one of 47 ultradiffuse, or "fluffy" galaxies that Pieter van Dokkum of Yale University and colleagues found in the Coma Cluster, a group of at least 1,000 galaxies around 300 million light-years from Earth. This distance is easily close enough for a telescope to see; the Hubble Space Telescope can see billions of light-years away. But no one had noticed these galaxies hiding in the dark before. Dragonfly 44 was one of the largest and brightest galaxies they found. While it's as big as

the Milky Way, it only emits about 1 percent as much light.

Van Dokkum and his team later realized that there was something very odd about Dragonfly 44: a galaxy that big couldn't possibly hold itself together with so few stars. There wouldn't be enough gravity, and the stars would drift apart. They suspected that dark matter was responsible for holding the galaxy together, and this particular galaxy seemed like it contained a ton of it, so they set out to determine exactly how much.

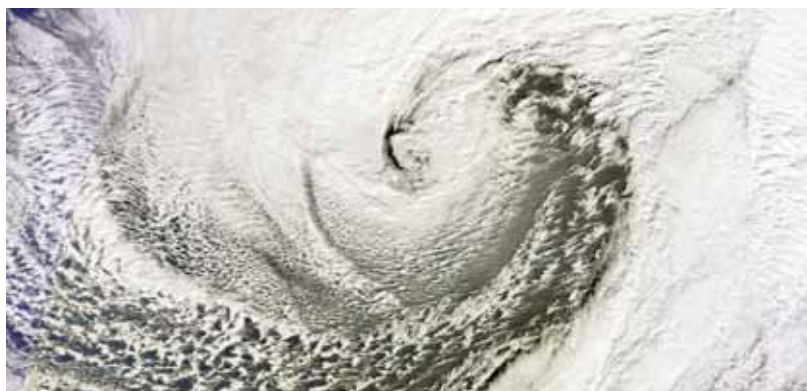
To investigate the amount of dark matter in Dragonfly 44, the team turned to one of the largest telescopes on Earth, located at the W. M. Keck Observatory in Mauna Kea, Hawaii. They used a tool on the Keck II telescope called the Deep Imaging Multi-Object Spectrograph (DEIMOS) to study the movement of stars in the galaxy.

"Motions of the stars tell you how much matter there is," van Dokkum said in a statement. "They don't care what form the matter is, they just tell you that it's there. In the Dragonfly galaxy stars move very fast. So there was a huge discrepancy: using Keck Observatory, we found many times more mass indicated by the motions of the stars, than there is mass in the stars themselves."

In other words, van Dokkum and his team found evidence of way more mass than they could actually see.

(Source: Scientific American)

## What are "weather bombs," and why can they help us peek inside our planet?



Weather bombs. They are earthly echoes of intense storms, and by listening to them, scientists just detected a rare type of seismic rumbling inside the Earth for the first time.

These rare, deep-Earth tremors are called S-wave microseisms. Now the discoverers, a duo of Japanese seismologists led by Kiwamu Nishida at the University of Tokyo, are hoping to use these S-waves to probe into the dark unknown of our Earth's core. The earthquake researchers have outlined their discovery today in the journal Science.

This S-wave discovery "gives seismologists a new tool with which to study Earth's deeper structure," write Peter Gerstoft and Peter Bromirski, two independent earthquake researchers at University of California, San Diego, in an essay accompanying the paper.

Although we may go a lifetime without ever noticing it, the earth below our feet is rumbling in myriad different ways. Even the most obvious movements, earthquakes, are in fact complex combinations of different types and frequencies of jiggling earth. So, to understand where S-waves fit in, let's quickly dissect a quake.

When our planet's tectonic plates slip and smash to cause an earthquake, most of the destruction is caused by a class of seismic waves called surface waves. These are the various undulations of the Earth's crust itself, the way dirt, concrete, and rock roll like an ocean wave across the surface.

But even before these dangerous surface waves hit, quakes also send out a smaller, faster vibrations.

## Body waves

These are called body waves, and instead of slowly crashing across the surface, they move directly through the Earth's core in more or less straight lines. These body waves are much fainter than surface waves, and usually go undetected by humans. Fun fact, though: it's these smaller-frequency pulses that alert animals like dogs and horses to earthquakes seconds before they hit.

Body waves come in two flavors. The first are a bit like sound-waves, which stretch and squinch the Earth as they move forward. These are called P-waves, for preliminary wave, because they're usually the first to arrive. But the second type are our S-waves. The name stands for secondary waves, and they undulate up and down and side to side a lot like ocean waves as they move through the earth. S-waves are so hard to detect because they're often so faint (for earthquakes at least) that they're drowned out by larger rumbles, specifically P waves.

The key is finding more of them. Nishida and his colleague didn't detect these waves by listening in on the tectonic crashes that cause earthquakes. Rather, they listened into the faint rumbles caused by storms known as weather-bombs. These are intense storms that are born rapidly in the open ocean.

(Source: Popular Mechanics)

## 2,000 C.M Water Tank Comes on Stream in Zavareh, Isfahan Province

**ECONOMY** 2,000 cubic meter water reservoir became operational in Zavareh, Isfahan Province in the presence of Deputy Governor General and representative of Ardestan in the Islamic Consultative Assembly (Iranian Parliament also called Majlis), governor, district governor and other senior officials in Isfahan Province.

In the inaugural ceremony of Zavareh new 2,000 cubic meter concrete-based water tank, Development and Engineering Deputy of Isfahan Province Water and Wastewater Company Eng. Bisheh said: "Since Zavareh is considered as one of desert regions of the province, it faces critical and severe water shortage problem.



Despite water scarcity in Isfahan Province in recent years, the company managed to manage water shortage problem in the city in the best form possible."

He pointed to the inauguration of this project in order to provide sustainable drinking and potable water in this city and said: "Upon construction operation of this water reservoir, suitable way has been paved for this province in order to supply high-quality and potable water to the noble people of the city."

In the end, he said: "With the completion of construction operation of this project, potable water is supplied to Mehr Housing Project and also Chamran Township of Zavareh city in Isfahan Province."

## NEWS

### One shower could flush 100,000 microbeads into the ocean

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The report also stated that a plate of six oysters "can contain up to 50 particles of plastic," but more research is still needed to investigate the impact of microplastic consumption on human health.

On a larger scale, the cumulative impact of microplastic-containing toiletries and cosmetics is colossal. According to the government report, up to 86 tons of microbeads from toiletry products are washed into the marine environment from the UK each year.

(Source: Mashable)

### Microplastics discovered in the deep, open ocean

A unique study by scientists at the National Oceanography Center (NOC) will provide valuable new insights into the concentrations of microplastics in the open ocean from surface to the sea bed.

Professor Richard Lampitt and Dr. Katsia Pabortsava, who lead microplastic research at NOC, said "There is considerable uncertainty about the concentration and characteristics of the many different types of microplastics and how these factors change over time and space. Our work in the vast open ocean spaces, hundreds of miles from land is a crucial part of this assessment. The deep sea is considered one of the major sinks of microplastic debris and so we intend to focus part of our research in this area. The deep sea also has a huge diversity of marine life, yet we do not know how much plastic is in this part of the ocean or how it may enter food chains or affect marine life there."

Preliminary findings already show microplastic presence in the top thousand meters of the water column at the Porcupine Abyssal Plain sustained ocean observatory in the North Atlantic. NOC scientists will soon analyze samples from three thousand meters depth collected at this site for the past twenty years using sediment traps – instruments analogous to rain gauges. They will also analyze unique samples from sediment traps stationed in the central North and South Atlantic subtropical gyres, which are giant swirls in the ocean where microplastics tend to accumulate.

Between September and November scientists from NOC will embark on a voyage from the UK to the Falkland Islands to measure microplastic concentrations and characteristics in the top three hundred meters of ocean, across the entire Atlantic. These findings will then be used to run ocean models to predict where large accumulations of plastics may end up and how that would impact the health of marine ecosystems and humans.

(Source: phys.org)

### Bees swarm to start new colonies, not to leave forever

The apocalyptic ending of the article described an impending swarm, saying, "Once they leave, there is no turning back."

Swarming is the normal way a hive handles overpopulation. The old queen takes about half the hive, leaving behind queen cells so the hive can raise a new queen and continue to thrive. She starts another colony elsewhere. One hive becomes two. Beekeepers try to manage their hives to avoid swarms not because swarming is bad, but to enlarge their colonies.

Most divide their hives, creating a false swarm so they don't lose half the bees. They also capture swarms to begin new colonies. Swarming signifies a healthy hive that is growing and expanding.

The article treated a complex problem simplistically. Beekeepers managing hives face many challenges today, including pesticides, varroa mites, small hive beetles, genetically modified crops, diseases such as nosema, and overmedication of hives.

I doubt many beekeepers see the European Union as the honeybees' savior. Honeybees seem to have become one more tool in Chicken Little's liberal toolbox. The people of Britain basically voted for national sovereignty. Good for them. I think the queen bee would approve.

(Source: The Washington Post)





# Iran celebrates 2nd Asiatic Cheetah Festival

By Farnaz Heidari

The second wildlife friendly Asiatic Cheetah Festival was celebrated in close proximity to Touran Biosphere Reserve, Semnan province, on August 25 by Persian Wildlife Heritage Foundation.

Villagers of Ahmadabad, Ghale-bala, Rezaabad and Khij kalat along with the team members of the Conservation of Asiatic Cheetah Project (CACP), The General administration of Environment of Semnan and some of prominent figures such as actor Hedieh Tehrani and TV chef Saman Golriz collaborated with Persian Wildlife Heritage Foundation in holding this environmental basin festival.

Festivals are not a modern day invention and the roots of the celebratory gathering in Iran go as far back as our Pre-Islamic Zoroastrian era. Unfortunately, with so many pre-packaged products and high-voltage effects, festivals have become known for being relatively anti-environment. But environmental festivals have a different story.

The most important case for celebrating environmental festivals is upgrading green efforts and that's why environmental foundations such as Persian Wildlife Heritage focus on making headway in the field of green.

The environmental festivals in Iran are taking steps with the aim of slowing the damage to our environment and wildlife heritage. To combat these issues, more festivals are focusing on being green. The eco-friendly festivals such as Asiatic Cheetah Festival of Touran being honored with many environmental initiatives. Honoring old rangers of Touran Biosphere, unveiling



cheetah stamp by project manager of (CACP) Hooman Jowkar urges attendees to bring local people and even all Iranians to further attempts for conservation of Asiatic cheetah.

The Asiatic Cheetah is well known for its lean body, great speed, and spotted coat. Years of persecution have made it one of the world's most vulnerable big cats. The cheetah's heyday lasted until the last ice age; since then human populations have exploded, and the cheetah's range and numbers have shrunk. In their ancestral homeland of the Middle East the Asian subspecies of cheetah is critically endangered, with very few, if any, animals left in remote parts of Iran such as Touran Biosphere Reserve. The situation is only slightly better in Africa whilst just over 50 of Asiatic Cheetah left in Iran.

Touran Biosphere Reserve covers area 1,464,992 hectares. The Reserve presents a variety of habitats, includ-

ing three extensive plains at different altitudes, varying from 700 to 1400 square meters, a saline river system, three mountain systems rising to a maximum of 2,200 meters and 200,000 hectares of sand including moving dunes, and a vast expanse of barren playa.

This area was first established as a Protected Region in 1976, but because of importance of the area in having a high endemic plant species and large mammals especially presence of Asiatic Cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus venaticus*), Persian Leopard (*Panthera pardus*), Wild Cat (*Felis catus*), Sand Cat (*F. margarita*), Goitred Gazelle (*Gazella subgutturosa*), Jeyher Gazelle (*G. dorcas*) and Onager (*Equus hemionus*) was listed as a Biosphere Reserve by Man and Biosphere Program (MAB) since 1977. This area is also gifted with a rich variety of endemic flora like *Astragalus*, *Eremoschys*, and *Hyoscamoides*.



Agricultural Support Services Company

## ONE STEP INTERNATIONAL TENDER

AGRICULTURAL SUPPORT SERVICES COMPANY

55/95/10799

29/08/2016



Ministry of Jihad-e-Agriculture

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AND TO SUBMIT THEIR SEALED AND STAMPED ENVELOPES CONTAINING OFFERS LATEST ON SATURDAY 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 SUNDAY 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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Telecommunications Company  
of Isfahan Province

At the Initiative Taken by the Telecommunications Company of Isfahan Province and for the First Time in Country:

## Optical Fiber Dubbed "FTTH" Tooba Plan Comes on Stream in Isfahan Province Concurrent with Government Week



شرکت مخابرات استان اصفهان



In the first day of Government Week, various telecommunications and IT projects, costing over 302 billion and 500 million to-mans were put into operation in Isfahan Province in the presence of Minister of Communications and Information Technology (ICT) Mahmoud Vaezi. Adding 40 gigs to the bandwidth of province, increasing mobile phone 3rd generation (3G) to 25 cities of the province, presenting mobile phone 4th generation (4G) to nine cities, construction of optical fiber as long as 170 km, construction of fixed bandwidth in this province, commissioning center to empowering and equipping newly established companies in this province, launching APA Center at Isfahan University of Technology, etc. are considered as salient telecommunications projects implemented in this province during the Government Week.

Also, a number of 734 telecommunications projects, costing over 428 billion rials, along with implementing Fiber-To-the-Home (FTTH) Plan were put into operation in this province during the Government Week.

With due observance to the said issue, 7,136 ADSL ports as long as 10,000 meters was put into operation in Chahar Bagh Street in this province, the report added.

Of the other projects commissioned during the Government Week, it should be referred to: commissioning 6,144 ports as long as 9,700 meters on Towhid St., and also a number of ports as long as 3,600 meters on Amadegah of Isfahan St., which was equipped with optical fiber system for easy access to ADSL and high-speed internet.

Moreover, a contract was concluded with the private sector for the construction of accelerators in Isfahan Research and Scientific Township.

**■ Provincial Bandwidth to Hit 4Fold by End of 11th Government**

Minister of Communications and Information Technology (ICT) Mahmoud Vaezi was the first speaker in the inaugural ceremony of telecommunications projects in this province who said: "With the coordination made in this regard, giant strides have been taken in order to solve problem facing the country in telecommunications sector."

Since the beginning of 11th government, bandwidth in this province has turned into 12fold, he said, adding: "The number of internet subscribers in this province has increased 5.3fold in this province in a way that optical fiber as long as 170 km has been

added to the telecommunications sector of this province."

He put the number of villages connected to ADSL service in this province in 1393 (ended March 19, 2015) at 325 while 308 villages were connected to equipped internet system in the last Iranian calendar year in 1394 (ended March 19 2016).

Before termination of the 11th government, all villages of the province will be connected to the advanced internet services system he maintained.

He put the cost spent for commissioning telecommunications projects in this province at 302 and 500 million to-mans in a way that 40 gigabyte is added to the bandwidth while 25 cities of the province have been connected to the 3rd generation of internet service (3G).

Turning to APA Center, the minister said: "This telecommunication center has been commissioned in this province."

The minister put the cost spent both by public and private sectors since the beginning of the 11th government at 730 billion to-mans while telecommunication transfer line in this province will hit six-fold before termination of the 11th government.

By the end of 11th government, 29 cities of the province will be equipped with 3-G internet system while 15 cities of the province will be equipped with 4-G internet system he said, adding: "A number of 241 villages will be connected to internet service system within the next three months."

In the end, he called on academicians to forge unsparing relations with private sector companies of the province.



**■ Developing Optical Fiber in Isfahan, a Turning Point in All-Time History of TCI**

The next speaker was Rasoul Saraeian Managing Director of Telecommunications Company of Iran (TCI) who congratulated the Government Week to statesmen and senior officials of the country.

While announcing the commissioning first phase of national information network in the very near future, he said: "We should bear in mind that bandwidth is of paramount importance in the country and effective steps should be taken in order to commission the project across the country."

Commissioning optical fiber will be considered as a turning point in all-time telecommunications history of the country and also in line with national data network system, he said, adding:



"Presently, National Data Network will start its work in Isfahan Province. If this plan attains success, it will be overgeneralized to other provinces of the country."

**■ Developing 5th Bandwidth, Most Important Components in Materializing Objectives of E-Government**

Hossein Keshaei Chief Executive of Telecommunications Company of Isfahan Province was the next speaker who congratulated the Government Week to statesmen and said: "It is a great honor that a number of 734 telecommunications projects are inaugurated in this province during the Government Week."

Giant strides were taken in this province in the field of telecommunications, he said, adding: "Today, suitable way has been provided for people of this city in commissioning the 5th bandwidth of telecommunications in this province."

It should be kept in mind that development of 5th bandwidth is of the most important components in materialization of objectives of electronic government (e-government).

Using copper has been removed in telecommunications projects of the company which is salient advantage of Telecommunications Company of Isfahan Province, he maintained.

At the current condition, main thoroughfares and streets of the province have been equipped with FTTH System, he said, adding: "Presently, G5 modem has been commissioned in this province."



**■ 1,500 3- and 4-G Generations to Be Commissioned in Isfahan Province**

Vahid Sadoughi Managing Director of Hamrah Aval Company was the next speaker who said that a number of 128 BTS internet site (2nd generation, 2-G) has been renovated in this province, adding: "Also, 109 BTS sites (3-G) will be put into operation in this province."

He put the total number of BTS internet site (3-G) in this province at 509 which are active in Isfahan.

Turning to the credits envisioned for this province for commissioning BTS internet sites of Hamrah Aval Company in this province, he said: "These internet sites will be put into operation, costing 890 billion rials."

He pointed to the activity of 1,401 internet sites of Hamrah Aval company in Isfahan Province and said: "With the coordination made in this regard, these sites will be overhauled in this province in the very near future."

**■ 1,810 IRANCELL Internet Sites Active in Isfahan Province**

The last speaker was Alireza Ghalambar Dezfouli Managing Director of IRANCELL Company who congratulated the Government Week and said: "Presently, 1,810 internet sites of IRANCELL are active in this province."

Moreover, 25 TBLT internet sites have been activated in this province, he said, adding: "The number of internet sites, which are under construction in this province, stands at 1,570."

To date, 808 billion to-mans investment has been made in this province, he said, adding: "Accordingly, IRANCELL has commissioned 3- and 4-G internet services at 50 and 16 cities of this province respectively."

With the coordination made in this regard, IRANCELL will also invest another 3,300 billion rials in this province with the aim of upgrading and streamlining internet services."

In the end of his remarks, Chief Executive of IRANCELL Company pointed to the increase of high-speed internet as much as 150-fold in this province and said: "IRANCELL has expressed its readiness to establish cooperation and collaboration with knowledge-based companies for generation of more employment in this province."



A former economy minister of Brazil has testified that Dilma Rousseff, the country's suspended president, did not break any laws justifying impeachment.

Rousseff, 68, is accused of taking illegal state loans to help bridge budget shortfalls and mask the true state of the economy during her 2014 reelection campaign.

Nelson Barbosa, the former minister, and Ricardo Lodi, a Rio State University law professor, were the final defense witnesses brought to testify on Saturday that Rousseff did not break the law or harm the economy, which is now in deep recession.

"There is nothing remotely illegal," Barbosa said. "You cannot act retroactively with a new interpretation of the law."

The same argument was delivered on Friday by a first batch of Rousseff witnesses who said that such budgetary maneuvers have long been common practice and that Brazil's economic decline was entirely unrelated.

Her accusers laid out their case on the trial's opening day on Thursday, arguing that Rousseff was criminally irresponsible and helped run once booming Brazil into the ground.

#### ■ Rising tension

Tension is building in advance of Monday when Rousseff, from the leftist Workers' Party, will take the stand for the first time and face her accusers.

She will be accompanied by her mentor and predecessor in the presidency, Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva.

## Brazil: Dilma Rousseff trial told she broke no laws



Lula rose from poverty to found the Workers' Party and become one of Brazil's most popular presidents ever before helping Rousseff take his place.

The once all-powerful pair are now demonized by the right, blamed for Brazil's economic shambles and tainted by the revelation of a gigantic

corruption scheme at state oil giant Petrobras which peaked during the Lula presidency.

Lula's presence and Rousseff's allegations of a plot to destroy 13 years of Workers' Party rule will make for a highly charged atmosphere in the deeply divided Senate where a shouting match broke out on Friday, forcing the session to be suspended.

Final arguments will follow Rousseff's testimony, then the voting session, which will include speeches by each senator, with the final result expected on Tuesday or Wednesday.

Two-thirds or 54 out of the 81 senators must vote for impeachment to force Rousseff's immediate removal.

The latest estimates by opposition senators and major Brazilian newspapers is that the pro-impeachment side is on track to win.

The current acting president Michel Temer - Rousseff's former vice president turned bitter enemy - would then be sworn in to occupy the post until 2018 elections.

Since he took over the temporary job with Rousseff's suspension in May, Temer has installed a new Centre-right cabinet with a market-friendly message that has won praise from investors.

Brazil's economy shrank 3.8 percent in 2015 and is forecast to drop a further 3.3 percent this year. Inflation stands at around nine percent and unemployment at 11 percent.

(Source: Al Jazeera)

## Turkey-NATO ties damaged if Russia uses Incirlik to attack NATO nations: William Beeman

➔ One assumes that the stated reason for Russia to use the Incirlik base is to launch attacks on groups opposing the Assad regime in Syria. If Russia were using Turkey to attack Ukraine, that would be a very serious problem for NATO. But actually Russia has plenty of easy access to Ukraine from its own soil. The move to Incirlik is certainly the result of Iran kicking Russia out of Hamadan. ?

■ **Has there been any coordination between Ankara, Washington and Moscow before Turkey's military presence in Jarablus?**

A: ?I honestly don't know if this coordination exists for this specific case, but I am certain that Turkey, the U.S. and Russia are communicating about their moves

behind the scene. Turkey would claim that this decision was entirely its own, and no external power could prohibit them from doing this. ?

■ **Some European countries like Hungary and Check has asked for formation of a European army. Is the formation of such an army necessary? Will Turkey have a role in it?**

A: ?Hungary and the Czech Republic are concerned that large-scale multi-national crises such as the immigration crisis, can't be handled by the individual armies of individual states. They also worry about possible future incursions from Russia that might not be able to be handled by committed NATO forces or individual armies. The formation of a single European

army might also save money. However, there is a real danger seen by many nations that a single European army could lead to a pan-European military dictatorship without a war. ?

■ **Does such a request mean that NATO has not been able to address some security concerns of Europe such as the refugee crisis?**

?In a word, yes. NATO has not been able to handle the refugee crisis adequately. This is the reason for the call for the establishment of a single European army, but many see this as too strong a response to the refugee crisis. Let's say that the refugee crisis ends. What would such an army then do? The danger of such a force being co-opted for European conquest is very great.

## Britain increases funding to protect nuclear sites: report

The British government is allocating additional funding to protect the country's nuclear power plants against potential terrorist attacks, according to a report.

The money being spent on the armed police force tasked to protect 14 nuclear power stations in Britain has almost tripled since the July 7, 2005 bombings in London which killed 52 people and injured over 700, The Independent reported.

The funding going to the nuclear authority has increased by 55 percent since 2010.

The government increased the budget of the force, which consists of more than "1,000 highly trained" officers, at a time when other forces have experienced drastic cuts.

The specialist service, which also guards the transportation of nuclear matter that could potentially be weaponized, saw a six-percent rise in its funding in the last year alone.

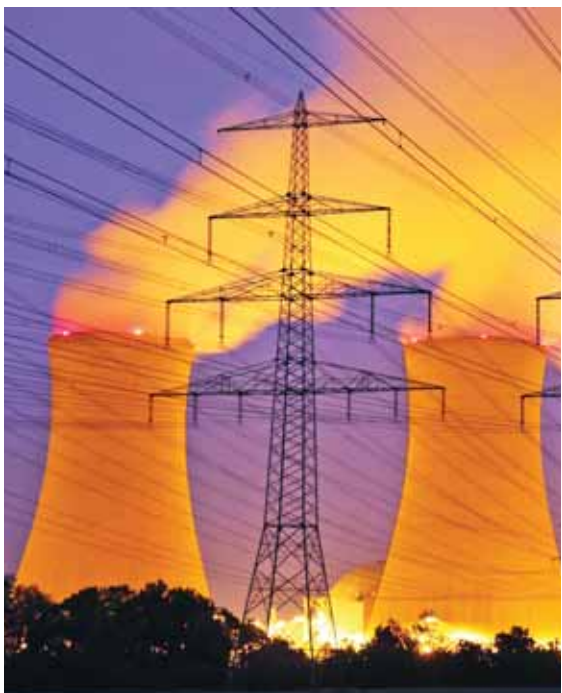
The force includes firearms experts, dog handlers, marine and road escort teams and is administered by the Civil Nuclear Police Authority (CNPA).

The official terror threat level for Britain's power plants is currently at "severe," which means such an attack is highly likely. However, officials insist that the steady increase in funding is not in response to a specific threat.

Earlier this year, the ONR, which holds sway over nuclear security, warned of the increasing threat of attacks on British operational reactors.

"The threat of terrorism in the nuclear sector will continue to be managed proportionately and effectively through national and international capabilities," according to a document from the ONR.

It also transpired that the terror cells behind the



recent terrorist attacks in Paris and Brussels were also planning a strike on a nuclear power station in Britain.

Meanwhile, the British government is considering signing a deal with China to construct a nuclear power station at Hinkley Point.

Prime Minister Theresa May has paused the project with her senior adviser Nick Timothy warning that China would take advantage of the deal.

China "could use their role to build weaknesses into computer systems which will allow them to shut down Britain's energy production at will," Timothy warned.

British ministers are expected, in the early fall, to announce their decisions over whether to push ahead with the project.

May's predecessor David Cameron initiated the £18 billion project by French energy company EDF with financial backing from China General Nuclear Power Corporation (CGN) as a sign of Britain's openness to foreign investment.

The two companies behind the initiative were shocked when the British government refused to give final approval for the nuclear reactor hours before a signing ceremony was due to take place on July 29.

Britain's former business secretary Vince Cable said that, as home secretary, May was unhappy about Cameron's approach to Chinese investment in Britain and had clashed with Cabinet over the Hinkley Point project. The armed police force protecting Britain's NPPs has seen an increase in funding, while other forces have faced significant reduce of spending, the Independent newspaper reported.

The newspaper added that governmental spending on protection of the nuclear facilities had almost tripled since 2005 reaching and had risen by 55 percent since 2010. According to the media outlet, almost three quarters of the allocated sums have been spent on staffing. Deadly terrorist attacks across Europe, such as in Paris in November or in Brussels in March prompted European Union authorities to step up security measures and enhance the exchange of information between bloc member countries.

(Source: agencies)

## North Korea hits back at UN condemnation

North Korea has strongly dismissed a recent statement by the United Nations condemning its recent ballistic missile launches, threatening to take "eventful action" over the UN criticism.

The 15-member UN Security Council on Friday announced its condemnation in a unanimous statement drafted by the United States and supported by China, expressing "serious concern" about North Korea's four ballistic missile launches in July and August.

The statement further demanded that North Korea "refrain from further actions, including nuclear tests," and called on all UN member states "to redouble their efforts" to implement sanctions against Pyongyang.

A spokesman for the North Korean Foreign Ministry said on Sunday that the UN statement was a "product of brigandish acts of the U.S."

"Now that the U.S. posed threats to the dignity and the right to existence of the DPRK (Democratic People's Republic of Korea/North Korea) defying its serious warning, it will continue to take a series of eventful action steps as a full-fledged military power," the spokesman said.

North Korea became the target of the toughest-ev-



er sanctions imposed against it when it conducted its fourth nuclear test in January this year.

It also launched a long-range rocket in February, which, according to Pyongyang, was aimed at placing an earth observation satellite into orbit. However, the U.S and South Korea denounced the practice as a cover for an intercontinental ballistic missile test.?

On Wednesday, North Korea test-fired a submarine-based ballistic missile from its eastern coast days after the U.S. and South Korea began their annual military exercises.

South Korean officials said the submarine-launched missile flew about 500 kilometers (310 miles) before falling into the Sea of Japan.

North Korea's Leader Kim Jong-un, however, described the missile test as the "greatest success," adding that it put the U.S. mainland and the Pacific "within the striking range."

North Korean Foreign Ministry official Jon Min Dok had earlier said that the U.S.-led discussions at the UN were a "terrible provocation."

Jon also assured that the missile test did not cause any harm to the security of neighboring countries, but rather showed the country's "great power and inexhaustible strength in the face of the trials of history and the challenges of our enemies."

North Korea has pledged to develop a nuclear arsenal in a bid to protect itself from the U.S. military, which occasionally deploys nuclear-powered warships and aircraft capable of carrying atomic weapons in the region.

Washington also holds joint military maneuvers with Seoul, which Pyongyang views as preparations for war and a direct threat against its security.

(Source: agencies)

## JUMP

### Iran, France to boost environmental co-op

➔ She also stated that the Paris deal can contribute to economic growth and more job opportunities.

"Great private companies are accompanying me in this trip and we have selected these companies based on the challenges Iran is facing in the field of water, energy and air quality," she noted.

Commenting on the 16th International Environment Exhibition in February she also asked for a pavilion for French companies to attend the event.

She went on to say that an Iranian delegation will travel to France in October to talk specifics on the upcoming exhibition.

Enquired about her trip to Lake Urmia Royal noted that Iran has taken some extraordinary measures to improve the lake's condition such as reforming farming techniques and growing less water intensive crops, adding, it is vital to cut back on the amount of pesticides used in agriculture sector.

Elsewhere in her remarks the French minister said that Iran has astonishing natural heritage, 20 of which are already registered as World Heritage Sites.

Royal entered Iran on Saturday and is scheduled to visit with Energy Minister and Tehran University chancellor and take a trip to Lake Urmia. She is also going to visit Isfahan to see some of its world renowned attractions.

## Trump warns of regulations, taxes harming family farmers

Donald Trump said rival Hillary Clinton will push regulations and high taxes that will hurt family farmers as he campaigned in Iowa, an agricultural state that remains a presidential election battleground.

Trump warned a crowd in Iowa on Saturday that Clinton "wants to shut down family farms" and implement anti-agriculture policies. His comments came in a speech to the annual "Roast and Ride" fundraiser for Republican Sen. Joni Ernst. Trump skipped the 42-mile motorcycle ride that preceded the event.

Joining the presidential nominee on stage were top Iowa Republicans — among them Ernst, Gov. Terry Branstad, Sen. Chuck Grassley and Rep. Steve King — in a rare show of establishment support for a candidate who has struggled to unite his party.

In a gesture to Iowa's agriculture industry, Trump renewed his commitment to continuing a requirement that all gasoline sold contain an ethanol-based additive, an issue important to corn growers. He also promised to cut taxes on family farms, which he called the "backbone" of the country.

"Hillary Clinton wants to shut down family farms just like she wants to shut down the mines and the steelworkers," he said at the Iowa State Fairgrounds. "She will do this not only through radical regulation, but also by raising taxes on family farms - and all businesses - to rates as high as nearly 50 percent."

Clinton's campaign website touts a plan to increase funding to support farmers and ranchers in local food markets and regional food systems, saying she'll create a "focused safety net to help family farms get through challenging times." It also says she plans to target federal resources in commodity payment, crop insurance, and disaster assistance programs to support family operations.

Branstad, in an interview with The Associated Press, said he felt Trump could score points against Clinton by focusing on agricultural issues. Branstad, whose son runs Trump's campaign in the state, said he also hopes Trump would launch campaign ads there and that he sees the race as "about even."

"I don't like that but, hopefully, that's going to change," Branstad said.

Speaking to an overwhelmingly white crowd, Trump again pledged that as president he would help African-Americans living in cities with high crime and low employment. He offered no specifics for how he would achieve that goal.

Trump drew an online backlash on Saturday for a tweet he sent in response to the shooting death of NBA star Dwyane Wade's cousin, who was gunned down near the Chicago school where she had planned to register her children.

"Just what I have been saying. African-Americans will VOTE TRUMP!" Trump tweeted. He later sent a tweet offering his "condolences to Dwyane Wade and his family."

Campaigning in Florida, Clinton running mate Tim Kaine said, "We just ought to be extending our sympathy to the family," and added, "That's the only reaction that's appropriate right now."

Clinton met on Saturday for more than two hours with intelligence officials at the FBI office in White Plains, New York, for her first overview of the major threats facing the nation around the globe since she became the Democratic nominee. Trump received his briefing earlier this month, a customary move for major-party nominees.

Trump also previewed his immigration plans at the Iowa event, saying that he was developing an "exit-entry tracking system to ensure those who overstay their visas, that they're quickly removed." The proposal echoed the language of Trump's former primary rival, New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, who is now advising him.

■ **Anti-Trump republicans to run ads against Trump in key states**

Yet, a group of Republicans who are dismayed by Trump and alarmed by his slipping poll numbers will be running ads in key states across the country, calling for Trump to step aside, according to a new report from Politico.

The ad, which was sponsored by the group "Free the Delegates" will run in suburbs in Florida, Virginia, Ohio and Michigan, according to Politico. Free the Delegates had tried to stop Trump at the Republican convention, but had fallen short. The ad is titled "Keep Your Promise," which is a throwback to a comment Trump made early in the campaign that he'd bow out of the presidential race if he was far behind in national polls.

"Resign the nomination. Let the RNC replace you so we can beat Hillary," the ad read at the end.

The ad buy was fairly limited and was only five figures, Politico reported. In an interview with Politico, Regina Thomson, who runs Free the Delegates, told Politico that eventually the group hoped to get enough money to run the ad on Fox News.

(Source: agencies)



FOOTBALL

Arsene Wenger calls on Mesut Ozil to keep scoring after goal in Watford win

**LONDON** — Arsene Wenger called on Mesut Ozil to keep scoring after the German playmaker returned to give Arsenal a much-needed spark in their 3-1 win at Watford on Saturday.

Ozil made his first start of the season and immediately made the Gunners look much sharper in attack as Wenger's team earned their first victory of the Premier League campaign. He capped his performance by putting Arsenal 3-0 up in the first half after meeting a pinpoint cross from Alexis Sanchez in the box.

While it's normally Ozil who is the provider of those types of assists, Wenger said he wants more goals from the German star. "I think what we have seen from him today is what we want from him," Wenger said. "To give assists but as well to score goals. So I'm very happy that he scored today because that's what he has to add to his game."

Ozil's presence also seemed to spark Sanchez, who looked much more at home in his role as a central striker than in Arsenal's first two games, a 4-3 loss to Liverpool and a 0-0 draw at Leicester. Ozil was rested for the first game and then came on in the second half against Leicester, having returned late after the European Championship.

Sanchez earned the penalty that put Arsenal ahead, then scored the second himself before setting up Ozil for the third.

And Wenger said it was obvious that Ozil gave the whole team a lift. "Especially in the first half. In the second half he dropped physically. But of course we need him," Wenger said.

Wenger also praised Rob Holding again after another composed performance from the 20-year-old centre-back. Arsenal are on the verge of signing Valencia defender Shkodran Mustafi to bring in a more experienced option after injuries to Per Mertesacker and Gabriel Paulista, but Wenger said Holding will still be fighting for a place in the team.

"He had to play under huge pressure again," Wenger said. "It's not easy, and it shows some great potential. I am convinced he will give a fight to all the centre-backs."

With Ozil back in the playmaker role, Wenger dropped Santi Cazorla back into a deeper central position next to new signing Granit Xhaka -- a partnership that could become the cornerstone of the Gunners' midfield this season. And Wenger said Xhaka is already showing his qualities as a deep-lying playmaker.

"Xhaka has a good touch in the game, and he's calm, his passing is effective," Wenger said. "He is a left-footer as well, so he can find Theo [Walcott] on the opposite side sometimes. He has a good long ball, and he wants the ball. And he has some physical strength in his locker. He is adapting very quickly."

The win gives Arsenal a much-needed boost going into the international break, but Wenger lamented the fact that he has to release some of his players again just as they are regaining fitness. Laurent Koscielny and Olivier Giroud have also been eased back into action after France's run to the Euro 2016 final, with Giroud having made just one substitute appearance so far.

"We paid a heavy price in our first game because we were not ready, we did not have the players back," Wenger said. "Now Mesut is nearly there, not completely, but he just goes [away] again. For us, the break is not welcome."

Walter Mazzarri is still waiting for his first win as Watford boss having lost three out of four games in all competitions since his summer appointment. But the Italian was pleased with his side's second-half response and praised his quartet of debutants.

"The first half was all Arsenal but the second half was all for us. We played a good game," he said. "There were a few things that went against us. We lost two main players today so the rest of the team was not quite ready for that situation.

"We are working and the results will come. In the second half we played good football and we should have scored more.

"[Petr] Cech was amazing and made some great saves. [Robert] Pereyra, [Daryl] Janmaat, [Younes] Kaboul and [Isaac] Success all came in and did very well." *(Source: ESPN)*



Torino enquire about Joe Hart as he looks to leave Manchester City on loan

Italian Serie A club Torino have made an enquiry about signing Manchester City's out-of-favour goalkeeper Joe Hart with the 29-year-old facing a crucial few days deliberating on his future before the transfer window shuts on Wednesday night.

Hart, who is also expected to be named in Sam Allardyce's first England squad this evening, is keen to leave City on loan with manager Pep Guardiola making it clear he is third choice behind Claudio Bravo and Willy Caballero.

But with no goalkeeping positions available at most of Europe's leading clubs, Hart may have a big decision to make whether to stay at the Etihad and hope he gets his chance or move to a significantly less glamorous club.

Sunderland are among a number of teams who have enquired about Hart but any move would rely on the player wanting to move and City helping to pay a significant portion of his £130,000-a-week wages.

Higher-ranked teams like Liverpool, Everton and West Ham have not shown any inclination to make a move with Ronald Koeman declaring his loyalty to current 'keeper Maarten Stekelenberg and saying he had "no interest" in Hart.

Hart would consider a move abroad and is waiting to see if Torino's initial interest is backed up by a more concrete offer in the next 48 hours.

The Italian side, who are overshadowed in their home city by Juventus, finished 12th in Serie A last season and kicked off their league campaign by losing 3-2 to AC Milan last weekend.

Though Stoke City have been without their No 1 Jack Butland so far this season with an ankle injury, they don't expect his absence to be long enough to consider a move for Hart.

But Sunderland are in the market for a new 'keeper with first-choice Vito Mannone ruled out for three months with an elbow injury leaving 22-year-old Jordan Pickford as their No.1.

Hart played for City in Wednesday's Champions League qualifier against Steaua Bucharest and seemed to bid the fans an emotional farewell at the final whistle. *(Source: DailyMail)*

Rostov's UCL journey begins with Kurban Berdyev, may end without him

Have you ever heard of a coach who resigned in disgust but continued to work as an assistant to his own assistant, helping the team to the greatest achievement in its history?

You might understand that Rostov's qualification for the Champions League group stage -- where they were drawn against Bayern Munich, Atletico Madrid and PSV Eindhoven in Group D -- is a huge sensation, but it is difficult to fully grasp its proportions. The circumstances of the triumph are unique in their strangeness. The saga surrounding Kurban Berdyev, the one and only architect of the team, truly defies belief. It sounds like an over-imaginative Hollywood script.

The very fact that Berdyev took over at Rostov in December 2014 was surprising. He was considered one of the best coaches in Russia. He built Rubin Kazan from scratch, turned the modest club into a real force, won two Russian championships in 2008 and 2009 and proceeded to claim some very good results in Europe, including a 2-1 win at Barcelona in 2009.

When Berdyev was forced out at Rubin in late 2013, he was expected to sign for a big club or try his luck abroad. Instead, he waited for a year before arriving at Rostov, who were in very deep crisis. Rock bottom, with a porous defensive record and total managerial chaos, they looked certain to go down. On the face of it, Rostov were the worst possible choice for Berdyev.

And yet, the coach again proved that he is a true magician.

After saving Rostov from relegation by the skin of their teeth in 2015, he turned them into the most organised team in the league in 2015-16. He convinced players who worked under him at Rubin to come to Rostov; most importantly Ecuadorian midfield general Christian Noboa, young Iranian striker Sardar Azmoun and veteran Spanish stopper Cesar Navas. Together, they produced a seemingly impossible title challenge, and the dream was alive until the very last second on the final matchday.

Eventually, CSKA Moscow denied them and were crowned champions, but Rostov managed to finish ahead of the Gazprom-owned giants Zenit St Petersburg, whom they thrashed 3-0 in the crunch game of the season, without conceding a single corner, let alone a shot on goal. Zenit had to be content with playing in the Europa League and sold Hulk to Shanghai SIPG. Rostov were through to the Champions League qualifiers.

The improbable success was achieved despite the fact the club was still poorly managed and in desperately poor financial situation. Salaries were delayed and the club's future was always in doubt. Berdyev not only worked with his players as a coach, but had to deal with countless logistical problems on a daily basis, and even looked for sponsors himself. That is why he demanded to dramatically improve the situation in order to



continue, while Spartak Moscow owner Leonid Fedun made a lucrative offer.

An agreement was only reached in late June, less than a month before the club started the season. After a decisive meeting with the Rostov regional governor Vasily Golubev, Berdyev signed a new two-year contract. He was promised that things would change, but the promises were not kept. The salaries still went unpaid, the debt remained huge and the club couldn't even sign new players, leaving them with a very thin squad.

And thus, Berdyev chose to leave. Rumours about the imminent departure circulated before the games against Anderlecht in the Champions League qualifiers, and they were made official after Rostov sensationally won 2-0 in Brussels in the return leg.

"The decision was taken before the games, and the club was informed about it", Berdyev said. Just 24 hours prior to the announcement, Spartak lost to AEK Larnaca in Europa League qualifiers and fired coach Dmitry Alenichev, and that's when a crazy story became much crazier.

For a few days, it looked certain that Berdyev would sign for Spartak, and take the best Rostov players with him. Noboa made his intentions clear: "I came to Rostov because of the coach, and will probably leave now that he has left."

The Ecuadorian was supposed to move to Spartak, alongside Azmoun and talented Russian players like Ivan Novoseltsev and Fyodor Kudryashov. Without Berdyev, there was no reason for other players to stay at Rostov as well, because they were

not getting paid. Star defender Bastos, who was initially kept because Berdyev found a sponsor to fund his contract, was sold to Lazio earlier this month.

Fans and players gave Berdyev an emotional farewell. At the league game against Ural, his name was constantly chanted in the stands throughout the whole 90 minutes, and the players threw him in the air after the final whistle. The coach organised a gala dinner in order to say goodbye to his adoring proteges. Berdyev's assistant, Dmitry Kirichenko, was named the interim coach as the club started searching for a long-term successor.

That should have been the end of the Rostov fairytale, but it wasn't because, incredibly, Berdyev stayed.

It is impossible to fully understand what went on, but Berdyev was seen in the stands when Rostov played at Zenit two weeks ago, wearing club garb. Then UEFA announced that Rostov listed Berdyev as Kirichenko's assistant ahead of the games against Ajax. Rumours started to circulate that the veteran coach would travel to Amsterdam with the team, and that was indeed the case. Berdyev prepared Rostov for the big clash, and that was very bad news for the Dutch. The Russians drew 1-1 and became favourites ahead of the return leg.

At the same time, the negotiations with Spartak became extremely difficult. Fedun failed to meet Berdyev's demands, and the Spartak deal collapsed on Wednesday. Massimo Carrera, who had worked under

Antonio Conte at Juventus and Italy, was named coach at Spartak, while Berdyev began talks with Lokomotiv Moscow, but still prepared Rostov for the return leg against Ajax, as a "consultant".

"His role doesn't matter," Kirichenko said on Tuesday. "Berdyev continues to work with us like before. He helps us very much." He was nowhere to be seen in the stands when Rostov thrashed Ajax 4-1 on Wednesday, the biggest night in the club's history, but it was obvious that it was his triumph. He made this team.

Without Berdyev, Rostov would've been relegated in 2015. Instead, the ecstatic city in southern Russia is preparing to host Bayern Munich, Atletico Madrid and PSV Eindhoven in Europe's most lucrative competition. The turnaround couldn't have been sharper, but it is still unknown if the tactical genius, who celebrated his 64th birthday on Thursday, will continue working with the team

Will Berdyev officially return? Will he sign for Lokomotiv instead? If so, which players will remain at the club? Are they ready to leave now, before the biggest games of their careers? Is the club capable of keeping anyone?

All those questions remain, and they will be answered before the transfer window closes on Aug. 31. If Berdyev stays, Rostov must not be underestimated, and they could make quite a few headlines in the autumn. If he leaves, the club could fall apart. Anything is possible.

*(Source: ESPN)*

PSG's Edinson Cavani won't make Napoli return - Aurelio De Laurentiis



Speculation linking Edinson Cavani with a return to Napoli will not amount to anything, the club's president Aurelio De Laurentiis has said.

Cavani spent three successful seasons with the Azzurri between 2010 and 2013, helping them finish third, fifth and second in Serie A, before departing for Paris Saint-Germain in a transfer worth a reported €64 million.

"I hold Edinson Cavani in high esteem," De Laurentiis told Napoli's official website after it was reported the striker could make a return. "We had a lot of fun during his time in Naples. He scored some beautiful goals, 104 of them! But bringing a player back to Napoli who has been here before is difficult. Not so much because

it seems like reheating an old soup, but because Napoli evolve from season to season, assuming different systems and styles of play.

"This is why I always say that we need young players and the new arrivals this summer will already make a major contribution to Napoli's successes. Talking about our forwards, big players like [Arkadiusz] Milik and [Manolo] Gabbiadini have big chances of becoming superstars with Napoli.

"We are responsible for the future of the team and shouldn't make transfers just for the effect it would have. We do not need to enchant anybody. Fans are fans for the faith they have [in the club] and not for the footballers we choose."

*(Source: Soccernet)*

West Ham sign Zaza on loan from Juventus



West Ham United have signed Italian striker Simone Zaza from Juventus on a season-long loan for an initial fee of five million pounds, the Premier League club said on Sunday.

Zaza scored five Serie A goals in 19 games last season and also struck Juve's winner in their friendly win over West Ham at the London Stadium earlier this month. The 25-year-old was in Italy squad for Euro 2016.

A permanent fee of 20 million pounds will be automatically triggered if the striker makes a certain number of Premier League appearances this season, plus a further three million pounds in contingent payments, the east London club said.

"I want to thank everyone for welcoming me... I wanted to start a new experience and I feel this is the right choice for me," Zaza told the club's website (www.whufc.com).

"I have been fortunate enough to have already played at the new stadium with a different shirt. It is a beautiful stadium and I felt the warmth of the fans and this was a big reason why I wanted to join the club."

West Ham, who failed to make the Europa League group stage for the second year in a row after being eliminated by Astra Giurgiu, face Manchester City away in the league later on Sunday.

*(Source: Reuters)*



# I'd prefer to draw with Man United or Inter, says Jahanbakhsh

**T I S P O R T S** Iranian international winger, who is currently playing for Dutch side AZ Alkmaar, stated that he would have preferred to draw with big teams like Inter or Manchester United in the UEFA Europa League.

"I'd have preferred to draw in a group with Manchester United or Inter so we could play against big teams. Last season's Europa League was the first experience for most of our players and we're definitely going to have a better performance this year," says Jahanbakhsh.

"I'm also glad to see Sardar Azmoun and Saeed Ezatollahi in the Champions League playing against big teams like Bayern Munich and Atletico Madrid. This will improve their qualities while at the end, Iran national team will benefit from this," he added.

Alkmaar has been pitted against Irish side Dundalk and Russian giant FC Zenit in Group D of the UEFA Europa League.

The 23-year old winger believes that Iran could beat Qatar in the first step of the World Cup qualifying match in front of 100,000 Iranian fans at Tehran's Azadi Stadium on Thursday.

"The first game in these kind of tournaments are always tough. I hope we could beat Qatar in front of our fans at Azadi stadium. We know we have a difficult way through the World Cup but we need to prove ourselves," Jahanbakhsh added.

The Persians will play Qatar in the first game of 2018 World Cup qualification third round on September 1 while it has to face China five days later in Shenyang, more than 6,000 kilometer away.

Iran has been drawn in Group A of the World Cup qualification along with Uzbekistan, China, Qatar and Syria.



## Sports minister Goudarzi meets Iranian women's sitting volleyball team



**T I S P O R T S** Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Mahmoud Goudarzi attended Iranian women's sitting volleyball's training on Sunday.

Goudarzi met the Iranian athletes ahead of the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games in Iran's Sports Federation for the Disabled (IRISFD) headquarters in Tehran.

Debutant Iran's women's sitting volleyball team has been pooled with powerhouses China, USA and Rwanda.

Pool A consists of Brazil, Ukraine, Russia, and Canada.

"First, I have to say I am very happy to be here among you. We hope you have a successful performance in Rio. I know you have a difficult task in the tournament but if you do your best and still don't win, at least you can be satisfied that you've tried," Goudarzi said.

The 2016 Paralympics will kick off on September 7 with the opening ceremony at Maracana Stadium and will last until September 18.

Iran will send 111 athletes to the games.

## Iran's Bank Sarmayeh beats Taiwan Power at Asian Club Volleyball



**T I S P O R T S** Iran's Bank Sarmayeh earned its fifth victory in a row at the 2016 Asian Men's Club Volleyball Championship on Sunday.

The Iranian representative swept past Taiwan Power 3-0 (25-21, 26-24, 25-20) in Myanmar.

Bank Sarmayeh will play Masoco Tphcm from Vietnam on Monday. The winner will advance to the semifinals.

The Iranian team has already defeated Kazakhstan's Altay VC (3-1), Malaysia (3-0), Hong Kong (3-0) and Japan's Toy-

oda Gosei Trefuerza (3-1) 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.

The 2016 Asian Men's Club Volleyball Championship is the 17th staging of the AVC Club Championships.

The tournament is being held in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar from 23 to 31 August 2016. The champion will qualify for the 2017 Club World Championship as Asia's representative.

## Iran team roster for 2018 FIFA World Cup qualifier announced

Head coach of Iran's national football team has announced the names on the roster of the squad against Qatar at the third round of the 2018 FIFA World Cup qualification tournament.

On Saturday, Carlos Queiroz unveiled the names of selected footballers for Team Melli's showdown against the Maroons at the Azadi Stadium in western Tehran on Thursday.

Alireza Haghighi, Alireza Beiranvand and Mohammadreza Akhbari were picked as goalkeepers.

Morteza Pouraliganji, Seyyed Jalal Hosseini, Pejman Montazeri, Ramin Rezaeian, Vouria Ghafouri, Mohammad Ansari, Ramin Rezaeian, Ehsan Hajsafi and Saeid Aghaei will join the Iranian outfit as defenders.

Dariush Shojaeian, Mehdi Torabi, Omid Ebrahimi, Vahid Amiri, Andranik Teymourian, Ashkan Dejagah and Masoud Shojaei will be playing as midfielders.



Moreover, Karim Ansarifard and Mehdi Taremi have been selected to play as forwards during Team Melli's upcoming match. Teymourian will don the captain's armband.

The Islamic Republic of Iran is pitted against South Korea, Uzbekistan, China, Qatar and Syria in Group A of the third round of the 2018 FIFA World Cup qualification tournament.

Asian powerhouse Japan is drawn in Group B, and has joined Australia, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Iraq and Thailand.

The winner and runner-up of each group (four teams in total) will qualify for the 2018 FIFA World Cup, while the third-placed teams of each group (two teams in total) will head to the play-off round of the 2018 FIFA World Cup qualifiers.

The winner of the Asian play-off round will then face twice the fourth-placed squad in the fifth round of the Confederation of North, Central America and Caribbean Association Football (CONCACAF) qualifying games.

(Source: PressTV)

## Luis Enrique: Jasper Cillessen must match incredible Claudio Bravo

Luis Enrique says Jasper Cillessen must match the "incredible" Claudio Bravo for the sake of Barcelona's goalkeeping rotation and their "sporting success" to continue.

Cillessen arrived as a direct replacement for Manchester City-bound Bravo midweek, and despite administrative delays preventing the Dutchman from featuring against Athletic Bilbao on Sunday, Enrique wasted no time in laying down the gauntlet to his new recruit.

"[Claudio] Bravo has been incredible in his two seasons. He's a very professional goalkeeper and unique person who has contributed a lot to a goal that, with the departure of [Victor] Valdes, was in doubt.

"I'd also like to highlight the excellent performance of the three goalkeepers [we had].

"They were perfectly-behaved, competitive and exemplary. I hope it's



the same with our new goalkeeper because the most important thing is sporting success.

"The formula we'll use in goal this year will only be successful for the quality of our goalkeepers, their behaviour and professionalism."

(Source: FootballEspana)

## Iran's Mehrosadeghi appointed as AWCC vice president

The Asian Waterski & Wakeboard Confederation (AWWC) has elected the president of Iran Waterski Association as the vice president of the continental governing body.

During a recent AWCC congress in South Korea's southwestern city of Yeonggwang, Alireza Mehrosadeghi managed to garner most of the votes cast, and claim the second top position in the Asia Oceania confederation, the Islamic Republic of Iran Federation of Sport Associations website reported.

Mehrosadeghi was appointed the president of Iran Waterski Association on March 2, having served as the association's vice president for seven years.

While Chris Howarth of Hong Kong was reinstated as the Secretary General of the Asian Waterski & Wakeboard Confederation, Chinese Taipei's Thomas Lin was elected as the new President of the AWCC.



Lin replaced Paul Fong, who was recently appointed IWWF Executive Director. Howarth has long been serving as IWWF Treasurer.

Moreover, Abbas Nateghnouri of Iran was elected to the AWCC Competitions Committee.

(Source: PressTV)

## TENNIS

### Nadal aims to carry Olympic boost into US Open

Rafa Nadal was exhausted yet exhilarated following his emotional return to action at this month's Rio Olympics after an injury-absence and is looking forward to gearing back up for the U.S. Open starting on Monday.

"If you're not excited about the U.S. Open, you're not a tennis player," Nadal told reporters.

Injuries are affecting several top players heading into the last grand slam of the year in a season made even more hectic with the Olympics squeezed into the schedule.

Men's top seed Novak Djokovic, like Nadal, is also dealing with a wrist injury and women's number one Serena Williams is coping with a sore right shoulder.

Left-hander Nadal, sidelined after being unable to play his third-round match at the French Open because of an injured left wrist, decided to test himself in Rio.

"I was two months and a half outside of the competition, and not only outside of the competition, outside the practice courts. I couldn't practise," the Spanish fourth seed said at Flushing Meadows on Friday.

Nadal, 30, said he was determined to give it a try in Rio and ended up feeling good enough to compete in singles, doubles and mixed doubles.

"The motivation, the passion, sharing moments with the team helped a lot," said Nadal, who reached the Rio singles semi-finals and won gold in doubles with his friend Marc Lopez.

"Winning a gold medal is always something unique, and I think I enjoyed it as much as I can during the whole event," he said.

"I finished the tournament completely exhausted ... no more energy inside of my body."

Nadal carried on straight from Rio to Cincinnati where he won his opening match before losing to teenager Borna Coric of Croatia.

"I am better, I am a little bit better," said Nadal. "It's true that the wrist bothers me a little bit less every day. I need to understand again to hit my normal forehand. During the wrist injury, always you try to find movements to avoid the pain."

"Today I can start the forehand, I think my normal forehand, but still needs time to feel that I am more confident on my wrist. But I am practicing well and I am competing well."

Nadal hopes his Rio elation carries over to the Open, which he won in 2010 and 2013.

"I have been playing at a very high level. So that helped me to play well in the Olympics, and I hope it's going to help me to play well here," the 14-times grand slam winner said.

"When you go to the Olympics and finally you win a medal, it's just the most important thing that you can do. So I'm just very happy for that, one medal for my country." Nadal will play his first-round Open match against Uzbekistan's Denis Istomin, who reached the fourth round in New York in 2012 but is 7-20 this season.

(Source: Reuters)

## FIFA proposes two-and-a-half-year ban for Qatar official Al-Mohannadi

A two-and-a-half-year ban and a CHF 20,000 fine have been suggested by FIFA after an investigation into Qatar official Saoud Al-Mohannadi.

FIFA's Ethics Committee has recommended a two-and-a-half-year ban from football for Qatar Football Association (QFA) vice-president Saoud Al-Mohannadi who is running against Ali Kaffashian as AFC candidate in FIFA's Executive Committee.

World football's governing body has investigated the QFA official for an alleged failure to cooperate fully with a separate anti-corruption probe.

"The investigation against Mr Al-Mohannadi concerned his failure to properly cooperate and provide truthful information to the investigatory chamber in the framework of another investigation not related to the awarding of the 2022 FIFA World Cup," a FIFA statement read.

"In his final report, the chief of the investigation recommends imposing a ban of no less than two years and six months and a fine of no less than CHF 20,000 on Mr Al-Mohannadi for an alleged violation of art. 13 (General rules of conduct), art. 18 (Duty of disclosure, cooperation and reporting) and art. 42 (General obligation to collaborate) of the FIFA Code of Ethics.

"Until a formal decision is taken by the adjudicatory chamber of the Ethics Committee, the accused party is presumed innocent."

Al-Mohannadi had been the general secretary of the QFA when its bid to host the 2022 World Cup was launched.

He had been approved as a candidate to run for a place on FIFA's ruling council this month, having last year withdrawn from the race for the Executive Committee claiming he did not want to divide support for West Asian candidates.

Al-Mohannadi is the second Qatari official to be involved in a major corruption scandal involving FIFA. Mohammad Bin Hammam was banned for life for bribing his way to FIFA Presidency election in December 2012. Although FIFA was not forthcoming about the details of Al-Mohannadi's misdemeanour, it is believed that the Vice President and the strongman of QFA has hidden documents, falsified records and used strong-arm tactics and direct threats against anyone revealing incriminating evidence that would have harmed QATAR hosting of the 2022 World Cup.

(Source: FourFourTwo)



