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Russia's Ryabkov due in Tehran, new nuclear plants likely on agenda

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Iran a role model for curbing non-communicable diseases

NCDs account for 70% of diseases, 38m deaths globally

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW
By Maryam Qarehgozlou

TEHRAN — Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) account for 38 million deaths per annum worldwide, the World Health Organization (WHO) said in its January 2015 report. This has become worrying for many countries and urged international health agencies and bodies to take immediate measures to tackle this growing problem.

In that respect the Tehran Times has conducted an interview with Farshad Farzadfar, the director for Non-Communicable Diseases Research Center, Endocrinology and Metabolism research Institute, Tehran University of Medical Sciences.

Below is the text of the interview:

■ **Would you please tell us a little about NCDs, their prevalence in the world and in Iran?**

A: NCDs are emerging as a health problem and they are responsible for major part of the burden of the disease across the countries in the world. 70 percent of the diseases are attributed to the NCDs globally.

Regarding Iran the number is pretty much higher; 76 percent of the burden of the diseases comes from NCDs.

In 2011, the heads of states gathered in New York and decided to combat NCDs. Following the gathering WHO came up with a program that covers four specific categories of NCDs comprising ischemic heart diseases, diabetes, Asthma and Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), and cancer and four risk factors which are common across these categories including unhealthy diet, physical inactivity, smoking, and alcohol consumption.

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Tehran links terrorist cells to Riyadh, cites clues from arrestees

POLITICS **TEHRAN** — Weeks **d e s k** after Iranian forces dismantled a terrorist cell in Kerman-shah province, Tehran has pointed the finger of suspicion at Riyadh, citing

clues from the terrorist members captured during recent clashes.

"The terrorist groups arrested recently have given to Iranian security authorities valuable information about

the role and support of Saudi Arabia," Alaeddin Boroujerdi, the head of the parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Committee, told the Lebanese Al-Ahed news website on Tuesday.

Iran to put 1st IPC on tender by mid-Oct.

By Ebrahim Fallahi

TEHRAN — The first tender for Iran's new oil and gas contract model, known as IPC, will be held by the mid October, Ali Kardor, the managing director of National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC), announced in a press conference on Tuesday.

According to Kardor, South Azadegan oilfield will be the priority for the first tender and the tender for mid and small oil fields may be held for domestic companies earlier than the mentioned date.

South Azadegan is one of the five oilfields, dubbed the West Karoun oilfields, Iran shares with Iraq at the western part of Iran's southwestern region of Karoun.

The official also mentioned that the general framework of the IPC has been approved by the cabinet on Monday and some amendments have been applied.

He noted that based on the latest amendments, oilfields with a recovery factor less than 20 percent are top priority and a copy of the finalized IPC will also be sent to the National Security Council for approval.

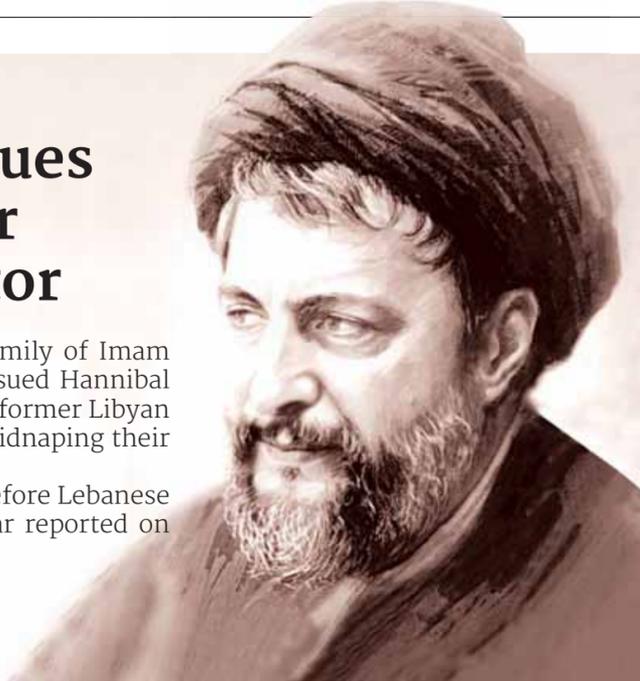
"The duration has not been changed and it is still 20 years," he added.

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Sadr family sues son of former Libyan dictator

POLITICS **TEHRAN** - The family of Imam **d e s k** Moussa Sadr has sued Hannibal Muammar Gaddafi, son of the former Libyan dictator, for playing a role in kidnaping their father in 1978.

The family has filed a suit before Lebanese judiciary authorities, Al-Manar reported on Tuesday.



Iran's security is exemplary: commander

POLITICS **TEHRAN** — Khatam al-Anbia Air Defense **d e s k** Base Commander Farzad Esmayeeli said on Tuesday that security of Iran is "exemplary."

"The (Iranian) people want us to stand against the enemy firmly and we will stand," he said during a ceremony in Tehran.

He said that Iran's capability in the area of air defense is "unique" although the country was under sanctions for years.

Esmayeeli announced on Monday that the country's armed forces had put into operation the home-made "Nazir" radar system with the capability of detecting radar-evading targets and fighting electronic warfare.

"Nazir radar system was put into operation and from now on, no radar-evading flying object can enter the Islamic Iran's skies without permission," Fars news agency quoted General Esmayeeli as saying.

Tehran condemns terrorist blast in Iraq

POLITICS **TEHRAN** — Iranian Foreign Ministry **d e s k** spokesman Bahram Qassemi condemned on Monday the terrorist blast in the Iraqi city of Karbala which left at least 23 people killed and many wounded.

"Takfiri terrorists commit crimes and kill the innocent people while they are aware that they are living out their last days in Iraq," he said. He expressed hope that peace would be restored to Iraq and all Iraqi ethnic and religious groups would eradicate terrorism. Qassemi offered condolences to the Iraqi government and families of victims.

Daesh claimed responsibility for the explosion. According to Press TV, the latest figures released by the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq show a total of 759 Iraqis have been killed and 1,207 others were injured in violence and armed conflicts last month.

Cinéma Vérité receives about 2000 submissions from intl. filmmakers

ART **TEHRAN** — Filmmakers from 88 countries **d e s k** have submitted about 2000 works to the 10th Cinéma Vérité, Iran's major international festival for documentary films, the organizers announced on Tuesday.

A selection board composed of prominent Iranian film experts will pick films for various categories of the festival, which will be held at Tehran's Feslin Cinema from December 4 to 11.

The filmmakers are from the U.S., France, England, Italy, Germany, Chile, Brazil, Argentina, Japan, South Korea, Egypt, Nigeria and many other countries.

The festival is organized by the Documentary and Experimental Film Center every year.

No big change of tack in Turkish foreign policy after coup: expert

INTERVIEW
By Fateme Mohammadipour

Mike Hollingsworth, instructor at the University of South Alabama, believes Fethullah Gülen's issue "is unlikely to have a significant effect on Turkish-American relations since the countries are strong allies and the United States and NATO fully support Turkey."

He adds, "I believe the changes to Turkish foreign policy will be slight however, and will not drastically affect relationships with other countries or NATO as a whole."

In what follows, the academic figure

has answered a couple of questions on the latest regional developments in the Middle East.

■ **Do you believe that Turkey's foreign policy will change now that the country is emerging from coup moments?**

A: I believe that after the coup, there will be some adjustments to Turkish foreign policy. We've already seen them offer use of airfields to Russian forces, and we have also seen a purge of many judicial, educational, military, and religious personnel. I believe the changes to Turkish foreign policy will be slight however, and will not drastically affect relation-

ships with other countries or NATO as a whole. We are more likely to see internal changes in Turkey rather than changes in the way they deal with other countries.

■ **Turkish Prime Minister Binali Yildirim said, Russia could, if necessary, use the Incirlik base. Will these statements damage Turkey's relations with NATO?**

A: Yildirim's offer for the Russians to use Incirlik is interesting and I'm not sure many people were expecting this. Russia currently has not taken Turkey up on this offer, but there some need since Russian medium bombers will no longer be operating out of Iran. →13

Golden Cells campaign aims to promote stem cell donation

SOCIETY **TEHRAN** — **d e s k** "Golden Cells" is another public-led campaign in Iran with the aim of promoting stem cell donation.

The campaign was initiated by those who have one way or another dealt with cancer and diseases that can be cured by stem cells and started to let others know about the stem cell bank, the campaign spokesperson Sameen Razavi told Fars news agency.

"At the beginning we

started to promote this humanitarian act among our family members and acquaintances," Razavi said, adding, "with the support of some charities we started to advertise for the campaign widely and started our activities in the framework of a campaign."

Those who are 18 to 55 and in good health can register the donation, she explained, by taking a blood sample the donors information will be saved and whenever a patient with blood cancer or a blood disorder needs a lifesaving stem cell transplant the center will search the register and look for a genetic match for that patient.

The stem cells will be collected from the blood in a quick and easy process similar to giving blood and will be transplanted into the patient, she added, stating, the risks and side effects of this procedure are minimal.

"So far more than 8,000 users supported us on social media and each of our posts are shared more than 4,000

times; sometimes it takes us less than a day to find a perfect match for patient while some patients who are not aware of our campaign look for a donor by pasting flyers on the walls of the hospitals which is time consuming while time is of an essence for such patients," Razavi noted.

Those interested in joining the campaign and getting more information can refer to Shariati Hospital or Blood Transfusion Organization next to Milad Hospital in Tehran.

Chamran re-elected Tehran City Council chairman as principlists retain position

SOCIETY **TEHRAN** — Over the **d e s k** Tehran City Council election held on Tuesday the principlists remained in office with Mehdi Chamran being reelected as the chairman, Mehr news agency reported.

Chamran assumed the office as the chairman with 16 ballots.

Over another election for the vice chairman seat, Morteza Talaei made it to the board of directors with 17 votes having competed against Ahmad

Hakimpour and Rahmatollah Hafezi with 13 votes and one vote respectively.

Reza Taqipour won the competition for the council spokesman job and remained in his position.

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

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

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ARTICLE

By Mehdi Firouzan
Managing board member of Imam Musa Sadr Institute

Myriad of evidence of Imam Moussa Sadr's well being

Is the source of the belief that Imam Moussa Sadr is still alive an instinct and emotional hunch or is it based on logic and logical thinking?

Should we find substantiated evidence for this question via brainstorming and logical discussion, then we would have shed enough light on Imam Moussa Sadr's case. This paper will attempt to present substantiated news clips on the one hand and eliminate any guessing on the other. First of all, this paper will present non-negotiable and undoubtable facts:

1- There is no doubt that Imam Moussa Sadr and his two companions left for Libya on 25 August, 1978 aboard a Lebanese airliner and entered Tripoli and were received as VIP guests in good health and well-being.

2- Undoubtable fact: Imam Moussa Sadr left for Libya based on official invitation from the Libyan Government; Ergo, Imam Moussa Sadr and his companions were guests of the Libyan Government, who is a member of the UN General Council, is fully aware of international laws and are supposed to abide by them.

3- Another proven fact: The Libyan Government claims that Imam Moussa Sadr and his two companions left Libya on 31 August, 1978 aboard Alitalia flight 881 bound for Rome, a claim that has been proven to be untrue beyond a shadow of a doubt. Therefore, when viewing the Italian General Court ruling on 19 May, 1979, which ruled that Imam Sadr and his two companions neither entered Italy aboard said flight, as claimed by the Libyans, nor left Libya. Hence, in July 2015 another ruling was passed by Italian courts that ruled, for the third time, that Imam Sadr and his companions did not enter Italy.

4- Moreover, as Qaddafi himself said it in 2002 and also after the revolution a myriad of Libyan people in charge said that Imam Sadr and his companions had disappeared in Libya and they never left Libya. →2

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS



Iranian parliament condemns al-Khalifa's violation of senior cleric's rights

POLITICS TEHRAN — The Iranian lawmakers in a statement on Tuesday deplored the al-Khalifa regime for stripping Shiite cleric Ayatollah Sheikh Issa Qassim of citizenship rights as a flagrant violation of human rights. "The Bahraini statesmen's unwise measure against senior cleric Ayatollah Sheikh Issa Qassim is not only a violation of human and citizenship rights but also a violation of the Shiite's right of freedom of religion as the move is against their religious and prominent leader," the statement said on Tuesday, ISNA reported. "There is no doubt that this inhumane act will add fuel to the Islamic Revolution's fire in Bahrain and will initiate a destructive uprising against the puppet regime ruling the country," it added.



Movahedi Kermani says to meet Yazdi on presidential elections

POLITICS TEHRAN — Ayatollah Ali Movahedi Kermani, secretary general of the Combatant Clergy Association, has said he will meet Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi, dean of the Society of Seminary Teachers of Qom, to exchange views on the next year's presidential election.

The Combatant Clergy Association is prepared to help the principlist forces of the Revolution to reach a unified mechanism, he said, Tabnak reported on Tuesday.



MKO criminality unquestionable: Motahari

POLITICS TEHRAN — MP Ali Motahari has said he has no doubts about the criminality of the Mojahedin-e Khalgh Organization. "The Forghan Group who killed my father were a branch of the MKO," he told the Majlis on Tuesday, the YJC reported.



Saudi Arabia, Israel have even alienated allies: Iran's Zarif

POLITICS TEHRAN — Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif says atrocities by Saudi Arabia and Israel have worked to even alienate their own allies. "As evidence from behind the scenes indicates, a sense of being fed up with and in fact disgusted at the policies of spreading terror and extremism by the Saudi regime has emerged in the entire world," Foreign Minister Zarif said in remarks published by IRNA on Tuesday. "Yet, political, economic, and military concerns and interests have caused some disaffected countries to stay silent or comment less [on the matter]," he added.



Official: Iran to launch 3 satellites into orbit in one year

POLITICS TEHRAN — Director of the Iranian Space Agency (ISA) Mohsen Bahrami announced the country has plans to send three satellites into the space in the next one year. "The Dousti (Friendship) satellite (built) by (experts at) Sharif University of Technology is the first satellite which will be launched in the second half of this (Iranian) year (started on March 20)," Bahrami said on Tuesday, Fars reported.

"Also efforts are being made to place Tolou (Sunrise) satellite by SA Iran (electronic industries) and Aat Sat by Amirkabir University into orbit within the next one year," he added.

Bahrami explained that the satellites are more operational and advanced than their predecessors.



UN humanitarian chief to visit Iran

POLITICS TEHRAN — UN Humanitarian Chief Stephen O'Brien is scheduled to visit Iran from 4 to 5 September 2016, IRNA reported on Tuesday.

According to the UN Information Center in Tehran (UNIC), the under-secretary-general for humanitarian affairs and emergency relief coordinator is expected to meet senior officials in Tehran and focus on expanding regional cooperation on humanitarian assistance and strengthening the partnership between Iran and the United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in the Middle East.

The visit will also be an opportunity to draw attention to Iran's considerable experience and expertise in disaster management and humanitarian response and encourage Iranian authorities to continue to alleviate the suffering of those who suffer from conflicts in the region.

Russia's Ryabkov due in Tehran, new nuclear plants likely on agenda

POLITICS TEHRAN — Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov will be visiting Tehran on Wednesday, the Russian ambassador to Tehran said, days after Atomic Energy Organization of Iran spokesman Behrooz Kamalvandi said President Rouhani had approved the funding of two nuclear power plants planned to be built by Russia.

The Russian diplomat, who led the Russian negotiation team during nearly two years of negotiation over Tehran's nuclear deal, will sit down with his Iranian counterpart Abbas Araqchi.

"Mr. Ryabkov will exchange views with his counterpart Abbas Araqchi during the visit," said Russian ambassador to Tehran Levan Dzhagaryan on Tuesday.

The two will most likely discuss a date for starting the construction of the two power plants President Rouhani had referred to.

"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," Kamalvan-



Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov

"Mr. Ryabkov will exchange views with his counterpart Abbas Araqchi during the visit," Russian ambassador to Tehran Levan Dzhagaryan said.

di said on Sunday. One more possible theme is a deal under which Moscow will purchase heavy water from Iran with related talks nearing final stages.

"The talks to sell heavy water to Russia are almost in their final stages," Kamalvandi was quoted by ISNA as saying.

Under the nuclear deal between Iran and world powers, including the U.S. and Russia, there will be no additional heavy water reactors or accumulation of heavy water in Iran for 15 years and all excess heavy water will be made available for export to the international market.

Iran's heavy water needs are estimated to be 130 tons of nuclear grade heavy water annually.

In the event of finalizing an agreement, Russia will be the second country after the U.S. importing the product from Iran.

Closer relations between Moscow and Tehran in the nuclear sector will add more of a strategic quality to their ties, particularly after Iran allowed the Russian air force to conduct airstrikes in Syria against terrorist strongholds.

Govt. spokesman not aware of nuclear spy arrest

POLITICS TEHRAN — The Iranian government spokesman seemed on Tuesday to be unaware of what some Iranian official, including Judiciary spokesman Ejei, called a spy in the Iranian nuclear negotiation team.

"Since the issue has been raised very recently, I need more time to be brought up to speed on the case," said Mohammad Baqer Nobakht, refusing to provide more details.

The spokesman made the remarks during a press conference held on Tuesday, where he played down the issue, saying "had it been important, the arrestee would have not been released on bail."

Days ago, Iran's judiciary spokesman Gholamhossein Mohseni Ejei confirmed the arrest of what he called a "spy" in the Iranian nuclear deal.

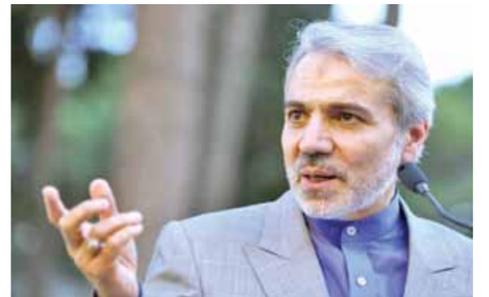
"News of the arrest of the spy is true. Legal action has been instigated against him and he has been released on bail," Ejei was quoted as saying.

The announcement came a week after a parliamentarian claimed a member of the negotiating team accompanying Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif in his visit to Turkey had been detained under espionage charges.

The unnamed "spy", as was called by the parliamentarian, had reportedly received monthly payments as high as \$7,500 from Washington.

The remarks drew a sharp rebuke from the Iranian foreign ministry which warned against putting partisan interests before national interests.

Tehran clinched a nuclear deal with world powers in July 2015. Under the deal, the Western side agreed to



remove economic sanctions against Iran in exchange for a limited nuclear program by Tehran.

Tehran links terrorist cells to Riyadh, cites clues from arrestees

The senior Iranian parliamentarian provided no further details.

"The Saudis have mobilized all their regional and international capacities against the Islamic Republic and working towards this end, they back terrorist groups to target the Iranian nation," Boroujerdi further said.

Being neighbor to Iraq to the west, Iran has dismantled terrorist groups planning attacks within its territory, particularly over the past months.

Two weeks ago, Iranian forces clashed with members of a terrorist cell in Kermanshah, western Iran, killing four and arresting six.

Also, in June Iranian Intelligence Minister Mahmoud Alavi revealed Iranian security squads had thwarted a major jihadist plot to conduct bomb attacks in the capital Tehran and other parts of the country.

On August 26, Supreme National Security Council Secretary Ali Shamkhani also lambasted Saudi Arabia for hatching plots against Iran.



"Saudi Arabia's embassies across the world are propagandizing against us. They are making attempts to breed insecurity across the Iranian borders and have allied with anti-Revolutionary and terrorists." Relationship between the two regional powerhouses

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

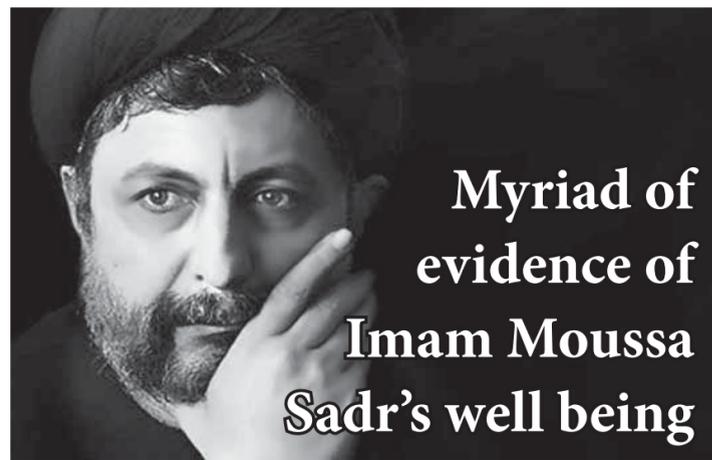
Their long-troubled relationship deteriorated when Saudi Arabia executed a top Saudi Shiite cleric in January, apparently incensed by Iran's deal with the West over its nuclear program.

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

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

Saudi Arabia has, without giving tangible evidence, accused Iran of fueling sectarian conflicts in the region.

This is while Iran has been helping the governments of Iraq and Syria to battle the extremist Islamic State group and other self-styled terrorist bands, which hold swathes of land across the Syrian and Iraqi territories.



Myriad of evidence of Imam Moussa Sadr's well being

Furthermore, after the revolution and ousting of Qaddafi, innumerable facts and information were publicized, not a single one mentioned Imam Sadr's martyrdom. This paper is not discussing analysis or interpretation, it is discussing published information. To specially discuss someone's livelihood, one cannot analyze nor can one count on analysis; the only issue this paper is counting on is information from reliable sources that give strong substantiation. This paper is not guessing or measuring and one cannot give opinion whether one thinks that certain person is dead or alive.

After Qaddafi's ousting, the new authority talked about Imam Sadr's martyr-

dom only once. This was as the Libyan new authorities had discovered 12 bodies in an area called "Tajwara" and claimed that one of them definitely belonged to Imam Sadr. Imam's family did not concur with the so-called finding and insisted on Imam's wellbeing. As the Libyan and Lebanese governments agreed, DNA sample was taken and compared to said body, using the most up-to-date European medical techniques. Test results came back negative; the body was someone else's. Up until this paper was written the Libyan authorities did not even present a single document or an ounce of proof nor have they mentioned Imam's martyrdom again.

A fine issue to point out is that all the people that did not believe in the Imam

Moussa Sadr's wellbeing believed so based on analysis and not on facts; the basis was vastly guessing or personal opinion. On the other hand, those who believe in the Imam's wellbeing believe so based on facts, news and evidence. It is safe to say that any belief regarding this case derives from one of those two contradicting analysis, yet feelings, guessing and personal analysis cannot be decisive in absence of information and proving documents.

Analysis and guessing is not immune of blunder however, news and evidence are similar to a mathematical formula, proven, solid and objective. Should we want to approach Imam Sadr's case by taking the logical path and base our results mathematically free of any influence from personal opinions and guessing, we should do so via the following counting on solid unchangeable facts:

Fact and decisive formula, Imam Moussa Sadr in his complete health and state of mind willingly left for Libya and was the Libyan Government's guest and under their protection. Imam Sadr was subject to his host's details. As of yet, Imam Sadr has not left Libya and there is no reliable news, document or witness to attest to his martyrdom or death. On the other hand, what is the result of such fact? Can it be assumed that he is no longer alive? Is there another logical and sound conclusion to reach other than he is alive? The answer is no.

The argument above is merely a logical deduction albeit we could view it from a different perspective.

From Jurisprudence perspective, to deduce that someone is dead for sure is farfetched. In the Jurisprudence as long as an incident, a substantiated news or undisputable fact, as strong as (Imam Sadr entered Libya in good health with his own free will), one would rule that Imam is still alive and anything contradicting that is invalid and goes against Sharia ruling, for announcing someone's death holds a great burden on person ruling and there are series of consequences that go along.

Based on legal standards, only substantiated evidence can be discussed, to judge the outcome of this case one cannot count on opinion or feeling; they are not standard. Also to rule that someone is dead is taking their legal form of being away. Moreover, to rule death based on opinion or feeling means to deliberately overlook more vital and essential facts. A point to mention, to rule death in this case point out or show the guilty party in this matter without proof beyond a shadow of doubt of someone's guilt is also invalid and wrong.

Socially and politically, the core essence of rights is citizenship rights. To accept Imam's death is to accept the violation of his citizenship rights for there is no defense for said rights; a great mistake and irreparable damage.

Therefore, in viewing the evidence, facts and document, and from a logical, Jurisprudence and legal view, one cannot but deduce that Imam Moussa Sadr is still alive, other than that noting fits in.

Turkey and Syrian Kurdish forces 'should stop fighting'

The United States defense secretary has called on Turkey and Kurdish forces in northern Syria to stay focused on fighting the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Daesh) terrorist group and not to target each other.

Monday's statement by Ash Carter came after Turkish forces launched a two-pronged operation last week against the ISIL, and Kurdish forces from the People's Protection Units (YPG/Yekineyên Parastina Gel) inside Syria.

Turkey said it killed 25 Kurdish "terrorists" in strikes on YPG positions on Sunday - meaning the two U.S.-backed partner forces were fighting each other.

"We have called upon Turkey ... to stay focused on the fight against ISIL and not to engage Syrian Defense Forces (SDF), and we have had a number of contacts over the last several days," Carter said.

"We have called on both sides to not fight with one another, to continue to focus the fight on ISIL ... That is the basis of our cooperation with both of them - specifically not to engage."

The SDF is a group of fighters formed to fight against ISIL and is led by the YPG.

Turkey said on Monday it would continue to target the YPG if it failed to re-



treat east of the Euphrates River.

Carter said the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Joseph Dunford, had spoken to his Turkish counterpart on Sunday over the issue.

The U.S.-led coalition has been backing the YPG with training and equipment to fight ISIL, while at the same time the U.S. has also supported Syrian opposition groups fighting with the Turks in northern Syria.

Turkey regards the YPG as an extension of the outlawed Kurdistan Worker's Party (PKK/Partiya Karkerên Kurdistanê), which has been battling the Turkish military for more than 40 years.

Peter Cook, Pentagon press secretary, also condemned the clashes in northern Syria.

"We want to make clear that we find these clashes unacceptable and they are a source of deep concern," Cook said on

Monday, seconding Carter's call.

"This is an already crowded battle space. Accordingly, we are calling on all armed actors to stand down immediately and take appropriate measures to de-conflict."

In his remarks, Carter said: "The YPG elements of [the SDF] will withdraw, and is withdrawing, east of the Euphrates."

"That will naturally separate them from Turkish forces that are heading down in the Jarablus area."

Turkish forces, backed by allied Syrian rebels, seized the town of Jarablus from ISIL last week, but also clashed with local fighters affiliated with the SDF.

In an interview published on Monday in the Turkish daily Hurriyet, Hulusi Akar, Turkish chief of staff, was quoted as saying that Kurdish forces around Jarablus have been attacking Turkish soldiers there.

"They have to withdraw to the east of Jarablus. Otherwise we will do what is necessary," he told Hurriyet.

On Monday, Turkish-backed Syrian rebels said they were advancing towards Manbij in northern Syria, a city captured earlier this month by Kurdish forces.

(Source: Al Jazeera)

North Korea publicly executes two officials: S. Korean newspaper

North Korea publicly executed two officials in early August for disobeying Leader Kim Jong Un, a South Korean newspaper reported on Tuesday, in what would be the latest in a series of high-level purges under the young leader's rule, if confirmed.

Kim took power in 2011 after the death of his father, Kim Jong Il, and his consolidation of power has included purges and executions of top officials, South Korean officials have said.

Citing an unidentified source familiar with the North, the JoongAng Ilbo daily said former agriculture minister Hwang Min and Ri Yong Jin, a senior official at the education ministry, had been executed.

The report could not be independently verified, and South Korea's Unification Ministry, which handles North Korea-related matters, did not have immediate comment.

Some previous media reports of executions and purges in the reclusive state later proved inaccurate.

The report of the executions comes soon after the South said North Korea's deputy ambassador in London had defected and arrived in the South with his family, dealing an embarrassing blow to Kim's regime.

North Korea rarely announces purges or executions, although state media confirmed execution of Kim's uncle and



the man widely considered the second most powerful man in the country, Jang Song Thaek, in 2012 for factionalism and crimes damaging to the economy.

A former defense minister, Hyun Yong Chol, is also believed to have been executed last year for treason, according to the South's spy agency.

The JoongAng Ilbo said the two men were executed by anti-aircraft gun at a military academy in Pyongyang.

North Korean state media described Hwang, one of the officials named, as agriculture minister in 2012, and referred to him as a vice minister of agriculture in 2014.

Hwang was killed because his policy proposals were seen as a challenge to Kim Jong Un, JoongAng Ilbo said. Ri was caught nodding off during a meeting with Kim and later investigated for corruption and showing disrespect to the leader, it added.

(Source: Reuters)

Microsoft equates 'ISIL' with 'Saudi Arabia'

The Bing web search engine operated by Microsoft has infuriated authorities in Riyadh by offering the Arabic acronym for the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Daesh) terrorist group as the equivalent to "Saudi Arabia" in Arabic.

Over the weekend, Saudi Arabian users found out that once they typed the word "Daesh" into the Bing Translator, which is owned and operated by the American multinational technology company Microsoft Corporation, the words "Saudi Arabia" would appear as the English translation on their computer screens.

The matter subsequently drew the ire of the members of the House of Saud regime, with many in the oil-rich kingdom calling for a boycott of the Bing service and its parent company, Microsoft.

A Freudian slip of tongue?

The Microsoft Corporation later issued an official apology to the House of Saud regime, describing the error as "unintentional."

"Our product team fixed the error in the automated translation within hours of learning about it," an unnamed Microsoft spokesperson said.

Riyadh is widely viewed as one of the major regional supporters of the ISIL.

Takfrism, the terrorist group's "ideology," is influenced by Wahhabism,



the radical ideology dominating Saudi Arabia and freely preached by government-sanctioned Saudi clerics.

According to the United States government cables leaked by WikiLeaks, "Donors in Saudi Arabia constitute the most significant source of funding" to "terrorist groups worldwide."

"It has been an ongoing challenge to persuade Saudi officials to treat terrorist financing emanating from Saudi Arabia as a strategic priority," reads a leaked 2009 cable, written by then Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, who is now the U.S. Democratic Party's nominee for president.

Last month, a British parliamentary committee called upon Saudi Arabia and other Arab states to stop funding ISIL terrorists. In a report on the state of ISIL finances, lawmakers from the Foreign Affairs Select Committee said the terrorist group is enjoying financial support from wealthy Arab families.

(Source: Press TV)

Chinese embassy in Kyrgyzstan hit by suspected suicide car bomb

A suspected suicide car bomber rammed the gates of the Chinese embassy in the Kyrgyz capital Bishkek on Tuesday, killing the attacker and wounding at least three other people, officials said.

An Interior Ministry spokesman said the car exploded inside the compound and quoted Deputy Prime Minister Janysh Razakov as describing the blast as "a terrorist act."

Police cordoned off the building and the adjacent area, and the GKNB state security service said they were investigating the bombing that occurred around 1000 local time (0400 GMT).

China condemned the assault and urged the Kyrgyz authorities to "quickly investigate and determine the real situation behind the incident."

"China is deeply shocked by this and strongly condemns this violent and extreme act," foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying told a regular news briefing in Beijing.

Three embassy staff suffered minor injuries and had been taken to hospital, but no organization had yet claimed responsibility, Hua said.

China's state news agency Xinhua said five people

were wounded: two security guards and three Kyrgyz nationals working at the embassy.

Authorities in Kyrgyzstan, a mostly Muslim former Soviet republic of 6 million people, routinely detain suspected militants they accuse of being linked to the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Daesh) terrorist group, which actively recruits from Central Asia.

An anti-Chinese militant group made up of ethnic Uighurs - a Turkic-language speaking, mainly Muslim people, most of whom live in China's Xinjiang region - is also believed by some to be active in Central Asia, although security experts have questioned that.

In 2014, Kyrgyz border guards killed 11 people believed to be members of that group who had illegally crossed the Chinese-Kyrgyz border.

Attacks on Chinese missions abroad are rare, although its embassy in Belgrade was hit in error during the NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) bombing of Yugoslavia in 1999.

An extremist militant attack on a hotel in Mali in 2015 killed three Chinese citizens, and this year a Chinese United Nations peacekeeper was killed in an attack, also



in Mali.

In Pakistan, Chinese workers have occasionally been targeted by what police say are nationalists opposed to its plans to invest tens of billions of dollars in a new trade route to the Arabian Sea, part of its "One Belt, One Road" project to open new markets via Central Asia, South Asia and the Middle East.

(Source: Reuters)

Deadly suicide bombing strikes Somalia's capital

At least 10 people have been killed in a suicide bombing near the Somali presidential palace in Mogadishu, which caused a huge blast and destroyed two hotels nearby, according to police.

Reuters news agency said al-Shabab fighters claimed responsibility for Tues-

day's attack.

Al Jazeera has learned that at least 10 people, including government soldiers, died in the attack and 20 others were injured.

Witnesses and social media users reported hearing a loud explosion in Mog-

adishu, followed by gunfire.

"There was a blast close to the SYL Hotel area, near the main checkpoint of the presidential palace," said Ibrahim Mohamed, a security officer.

Images posted to social media showed huge plumes of smoke rising

above the president's palace.

Al-Shabab fighters have claimed responsibility for several recent explosions in Mogadishu, including a car bomb and gun attack last week at a popular beach restaurant that killed 10 people.

(Source: Al Jazeera)

Scandal and separation put Clinton aide Huma Abedin in the spotlight again

Huma Abedin — the long-serving Hillary Clinton aide who prides herself on her loyalty and discretion — again finds herself under a glare of unwanted scrutiny after announcing her separation from husband and disgraced former congressman Anthony Weiner.

Weiner lost his job and now potentially his marriage after repeatedly getting caught sending suggestive messages to women on Twitter.

Abedin has periodically garnered headlines over the years for her roles in controversies over donor access to Clinton, her boss's use of a private email server at the State Department and Abedin's overlapping employment with an outside consulting firm while she was a government employee. But it is her marriage to Weiner that made her a somewhat reluctant celebrity — her choices and motives up for public debate, her marriage the subject of a documentary, and her designer clothing the subject of public scrutiny and magazine profiles.

The announcement follows a report on Sunday in the New York Post that Weiner had recently sent photos and sexual messages to another woman. The newspaper reported that Weiner — wearing pants but no shirt — sent one revealing picture of his crotch last year while his young son, Jordan Zane, was curled in the bed next to him.

The separation apparently ends one of the most-watched and seemingly improbable political marriages of recent times.

Hillary Clinton said then that Abedin was like a second daughter to her, and indeed Abedin spends more time with Clinton than nearly anyone else inside her family or out of it. Abedin has unique access to the candidate, born of two decades of discreet service. She is now the vice chair of Clinton's campaign.

The separation also supplies a different ending to the parallel between Bill and Hillary Clinton and each wife's public embarrassment by the sexual indiscretions of her politician husband. Abedin was present as an East Wing aide for Hillary Clinton's painful reckoning with her husband's infidelities. Whatever advice passed between them about Weiner's betrayal remains a private matter.

Abedin has been tangled in several ethical and legal controversies involving Clinton and the Clinton family charity. She drew criticism and allegations of impropriety for outside employment while she was a staffer at the State Department.

The aide was one of a tiny number of people who had email accounts on a private server housed in Clinton's suburban New York basement, and was among those interviewed by the FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigation) in its investigation of whether classified materials were mishandled. Emails sent or received by Abedin released as part of a lawsuit by the activist group Judicial Watch also show she was a point of contact for Clinton Foundation staffers seeking access or favors at the State Department.

There is no evidence of wrongdoing, but Republicans and other critics have said Abedin is part of a culture of insider dealings and "pay to play" arrangements in which donors to the Clinton Foundation may have expected special treatment from a secretary of state and potential future president.

GOP (Grand Old Party) nominee Donald Trump has repeatedly alleged without evidence that Abedin was sharing classified secrets with her husband, whom he called a "pervert" and a "sleaze." He said in a statement on Monday that Abedin was "making a very wise decision" by separating.

Abedin, 41, has worked for Clinton since she was first lady. She was the subject of a Vogue interview this month in which she talked about the pressures of parenthood during a busy political campaign.

Clinton's palace guard of aides and friends has always been intensely protective of Abedin, including during her marital troubles and in the face of conservative accusations about alleged ties to Islamist radicalism. She had denied any such ties, and they have been debunked by the Washington Post's Fact Checker column and others.

'I don't know which Donald Trump will show up,' Clinton says of debating Trump

Elsewhere, Hillary Clinton was candid with supporters at a high-dollar fundraiser in the Hamptons on Monday afternoon, seeking their advice on debating Trump and telling them that she was preparing to debate an unpredictable candidate.

"I'm running against someone who will say or do anything ... and who knows what that might be," Clinton said in her opening remarks, which were overheard by her traveling press corps. "I do not know which Donald Trump will show up."

Clinton mused that Trump might seek to look or act presidential in order to "to convey a gravity." Or, she noted, he might seek to "score some points."

"This is the most unpredictable election season that I certainly can remember," Clinton said, pledging not to take anyone, anything or any place for granted in the election.

The fundraiser was held at the home of software company chief executive Charles Phillips and his wife Karen. Phillips is a native of Little Rock, Ark.

Former president Bill Clinton also attended the event. At the gathering, Clinton also issued dire warnings about Trump, telling her supporters that he had already damaged America's standing in the world.

(Source: The Washington Post)



NEWS

Iran's post-sanctions construction industry set to perform well

Iran's construction industry is set to perform well over the forecast period (2016-2020), with growth driven by investments in infrastructure, energy and residential construction projects, according to London-based Timetric which is a leading business information service, providing financial and economic research services based on proprietary data and analysis.

Improvements in investor and consumer confidence due to the lifting of international sanctions will also drive funds into construction projects, the report added.

Timetric's "Construction in Iran - Key Trends and Opportunities to 2020" report provides a comprehensive analysis of the construction industry in Iran. It provides historical (2011-2015) and forecast (2016-2020) valuations of the construction industry in Iran using construction output and value-add methods and segmentation by sector (commercial, industrial, infrastructure, energy and utilities, institutional and residential) and by project type.

It also provides breakdown of values within each project type, by type of activity (new construction, repair and maintenance, refurbishment and demolition) and by type of cost (materials, equipment and services); analysis of key construction industry issues, including regulation, cost management, funding and pricing; and detailed profiles of the leading construction companies in Iran.



The industry's output value in real terms is expected to rise at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 6.34% over the forecast period, up from -1.64% during the review period (2011-2015).

There are certain risks associated with Iran's construction industry outlook, most notably low oil prices, high labor costs, and political risk. Falling oil prices are expected to affect government earnings from oil export.

The report provides detailed market analysis, information and insights into the Iranian construction industry including the Iranian construction industry's growth prospects by market, project type and construction activity; analysis of equipment, material and service costs for each project type in Iran; critical insight into the impact of industry trends and issues, and the risks and opportunities they present to participants in the Iranian construction industry.

According to the Central Bank of Iran (CBI), the total number of construction permits issued in urban areas declined by 32.1%; from 172,600 permits in FY2013-2014 to 117,300 permits in FY2014-2015. Moreover, the total floor area of permits issued in urban areas declined by 40.2%; from 120.6 million m² in FY2013-2014 to 72.1 million m² in FY2014-2015. The imposition of international sanctions and a decline in oil prices, which was the country's main economic driver, affected the country's economy and construction industry, which led to the halving of foreign investments and oil export revenues. However, with the lifting of international sanctions, the Iranian construction industry is recovering.

Iran faces a housing shortage due to its population growth and urbanization. Despite the construction of a large number of housing units, supply is relatively low when compared to demand. According to the Ministry of Transport and Urban Development, 1.5 million new housing units are required annually, but only 700,000 units are constructed. To maintain a balance between supply and demand, 4.0 million new units are required to be built to address the shortage. Iran's housing deficit and growing urban population will continue to generate demand for residential construction over the forecast period, and provide lucrative opportunities for residential housing developers.

With robust and modern infrastructure vital to economic growth and competitiveness, the government is focusing on infrastructure development. Accordingly, to improve the country's rail network and align the regional rail network in the subcontinent to Central Asia and the Persian Gulf, in 2015 the government announced its plans to develop the country's rail network by 2025. As a result, the country's total rail network is expected to increase from 15,000km in 2015 to 25,000km in 2025.

To enhance the country's transport infrastructure, the government is seeking help from foreign investors. Accordingly, in January 2016, a memorandum of understanding for cooperation in the rail sector was signed between the Islamic Republic of Iran Railways (RAI) and Siemens, a German company, to develop the country's rail infrastructure and boost the economy.

The government is focusing on renewable energy sources to reduce the country's dependence on hydrocarbons, improve energy security and meet rising energy demand. Accordingly, under the sixth five-year Economic Development Plan (2016-2021), the government aims to increase renewable energy capacity to 5GW by 2018.

FLSmidth considers Iran one of its most important markets

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW
By Mahnaz Abdi

Per Mejnert Kristensen, the president of cement division of Denmark's FLSmidth Company, told the Tehran Times that his company considers Iran as one of its most important markets.

He made the statement in an exclusive interview on the sidelines of a ceremony for inaugurating the company's office in Iran.

The ceremony was hosted by the National Iranian Copper Industries Company on Tuesday in Tehran.

FLSmidth is a global engineering company based in Copenhagen, Denmark. With almost 13,000 employees worldwide, it provides global cement and mineral industries with factories, machinery, services and know-how.

"FLSmidth has a very long time history in Iran. We have been here for more than 80 years. So, we feel actually that we have been all the time. Sometimes, we had a permanent representative and sometimes we have worked from abroad," Kristensen explained.

He went on to say, "The last few years we had no office here in Iran, but now we have very pleased that the lifting of sanctions have given us this opportunity because we consider Iran as one of the most important markets as you know both in cement and minerals and both of these industries are very interesting for us in Iran as one of the leading countries when it comes to the mineral deposits and when it comes to cement plants and cement consumption."



Saeid Ghasemily, the general manager of FLSmidth's Iran office, speaking in a ceremony on Tuesday to inaugurate the office

"So for us now to focus on Iran by establishing our office gives us the chance to be much closer to our customers," he highlighted.

"Everyone wants to do a lot of local activities in the country, training our customers, going to the plant side, service the plants of cement or minerals and I think really to be able to do that, it is really important we are physically close to our Iranian customers and we found it very important now to establish ourselves in Tehran and we will expand it very rapidly employing more local people, local engineers. We will train and educate in our systems our ways of working and it will certainly enable us to serve our customers

much better than what we did in the past," Kristensen stated.

'Iran's future bright with sanctions lifting'

"And with the lifting of sanctions we know that the future of this country will be bright and we want of course to be a part of this very interesting development that we will see in the coming year," Kristensen further noted.

"We have in fact for many years worked very closely with Iranian partners when it comes to the design and supply of equipment for cement plants and the same goes also for mineral plants. We've worked with Iranian customers in the Iranian industry. We

always look very carefully on how we can have a close partnership, so that is not only the supplier and buyer and we actually work as a partner," he added.

'FLSmidth welcomes transfer of technology to Iran'

In terms of transferring technology to Iran, Kristensen said, "A part of this [our partnership] has been always that part of the design has been made locally by our partners."

"It creates a chance for us to work in a close partnership which will also entail cooperating on different technology. It is something that we welcome because it helps us develop the Iranian industry and we think also for us long-term partnership is a benefit because to have close partners is a very important part of our strategy," he asserted.

'Opening office a sign of commitment to Iran'

"After the lifting of sanctions I do my utmost to assist the Danish companies in gaining a foothold in the Iranian market," Danish Ambassador to Iran Danny Annan told the Tehran Times in the same ceremony.

"FLSmidth is a very old friend of Iran. It has been here for 80 years. As two years ago we celebrated the 80th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Iran and Denmark, FLSmidth has been here as long as Denmark has been officially here," the ambassador added.

"FLSmidth has made a very good team in Iran. And for me it [opening the company's office in Iran] is a very clear sign of the long-term commitment of FLSmidth to Iran and the Iranian people," he noted.

Why Iran's infra push is good news for India

To the advantage of Indian steel and mineral industries, there is a fund of goodwill for this country in Iran, which has launched a massive infrastructure building program following the withdrawal of sanctions. One of the first things Teheran decided to do after the country's international isolation ended in January was to bring back oil production to the 2011 pre-sanctions level, which earned the country the displeasure of a few members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries. This is good news for Indian steel pipes manufacturers nursing idle capacity. With energy prices remaining weak amid supply gluts and weak demand, oil companies globally have effected sharp cuts in capital spending. In a situation like this, pipe producers everywhere will be targeting Iran where oil production has been stepped up. For instance, Russia's largest steel pipe maker TMK is giving a push to exports to Iran for better capacity use of its

plants. As Teheran wants to make good for big falls in energy prices by stepping up oil production, it is laying emphasis on expansion of ports and railway network.

An Indian steel industry official says: "If we play our cards well, we stand a good chance to export good volumes of steel for use in the about-to-be-launched infrastructure projects in Iran." Some of the 12 'business agreements' signed during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Teheran in May are likely to create an ideal condition for use of Indian steel in Iranian projects. Two projects in Iran, which India is to execute involving major financial commitments on its part, are of particular significance for Indian steel. Port development work is all about cement and steel. India will be spending \$500 million to build two terminals and five cargo berths at Chabahar port, which remained under-funded and under-used through

the sanctions years. Chabahar, which is on the Persian Gulf on Iran's southern coast, is of strategic commercial significance for India because the port will give India access to Afghanistan and central Asia bypassing Pakistan.

For moving goods to Afghanistan and other places at minimum logistics cost, Indian government-owned turnkey construction company IRCON will lay a 500-km rail line between Chabahar and Iran's inland city Zahedan. Incidentally, the capital city of Sistan and Baluchestan province Zahedan is 41 km from Afghanistan border. The Bhilai Steel Plant of Steel Authority of India (SAIL) has supplied good quantities of rails to Iran in the past. Earlier this month, Jindal Steel & Power Limited (JSPL) dispatched the first consignment of 1,700 tons of rails out of a total order for 150,000 tons to Iran.

(Source: Business Standard)

PICTURE OF THE DAY YJC



The 27th conference on Islamic Banking opened in Tehran on Tuesday in the presence of Finance Minister Ali Tayebnia, Government Spokesman Mohammad Baqer Nobakht, Central Bank Governor Valiollah Seif and several high-ranking officials.

Pakistan vows to facilitate banking ties with Iran

ECONOMY TEHRAN — Pakistani Commerce Minister Khuram Dastgir Khan in a meeting with the Iranian Ambassador to Islamabad Mehdi Honardoost

underlined his country's readiness to remove the obstacles on the way of boosting mutual banking relations and enhancing trade ties, IRNA reported on Tuesday.

During this meeting, held in the Pakistani capital, Dastgir Khan promised that the Pakistani government will seek immediate removal of barriers to tighten banking relations and to reach the pre-planned \$5-billion bilateral trade volume.

The two sides also conferred on mutual Free Trade Agreement (FTA), and Honardoost, for his part, said that the Islamic Republic awaits Pakistan's final answer to finalize the FTA with this country.

The senior officials additionally addressed the issue of the incoming 20th meeting of Iran-Pakistan Joint Economic Committee, which is going to be held in Tehran, and discussed the necessary preparations for that meeting.



Next-gen Audi A4 to be launched in India on 8 Sep.

Audi has reportedly scheduled the launch of its next-generation Audi A4 in India on 8 September. The entry-level luxury sedan will add to the long line up of Audi vehicles, and is expected to arrive in a turbocharged petrol only.

According to ZigWheels, Audi will be bringing in just the 1.4-litre turbocharged petrol engines variant of the vehicle to India at launch. The engine is rated at 150PS with 250Nm of torque. Transmission options too will be limited to a 7-speed S-tronic automatic gearbox at launch.

Audi is expected to bring the diesel variant to India as well, but do not expect it to arrive in showrooms anytime soon.



Will Bugatti really create a hybrid version of the Chiron?

According to Bugatti's president, Wolfgang Durheimer, an electric supplement to the Bugatti Chiron's 1,480-hp quad-turbo motor is "under consideration for now." Any such system falling under that umbrella would only be used to improve the car's already ballistic performance. As a result, should a hybrid Chiron go on sale at some point, don't go anticipating any "x amount of miles solely on EV power" statistics being spouted by Bugatti. Instead, expect the incredible acceleration figures to plummet (as in become better by going lower) when the electric motor assistance is thrown into the equation. Even if the motors only increase output by 10% that's still another 148 hp and 118 lb-ft of torque at the Chiron's disposal.



China's HeSteel breathes life into old steel factory in Serbia

As Chinese steel giant HeSteel increases production at the Smederevo Steel Mill in Serbia, its 5,000 workers are feeling more confident of the future and believe their families will improve their living standards once the factory starts working at full capacity.

One month after HeSteel took over the factory by paying the amount of 46 million euros (\$51.39 million) to the Serbian government on July 2, sales of the factory's products - cold and hot rolled steel - increased monthly from 81,000 tons of steel in June 2016 to 102,000 in July this year.

Short-term accomplishments of National Information Network

By Shataw Naseri

National Information Network would boast some short-term accomplishments for users.

By the end of the 3rd phase, the network would have experienced certain alterations in a variety of areas including services accessibility, economically affordability, increased coverage as well as enhanced quality, ISNA reported.

Finally, the network came into operation in Government Week, years after its putting forth. It would, of course, feature certain advantages for users.

■ "Network Deployment" Phase

The 1st phase of National Information Network called "Network Deployment" Phase, came into operation recently in Government Week and it features some advantages for users.

In terms of service accessibility in the 1st phase, there would be E-government and other digital services, domestic video services nationwide such as video on demand (VOD), internet access and modern services including mobile payment, as well.

In terms of economically affordability for users, there would be fixed and mobile broadband access, access content along with domestic services across the country.

In terms of increased coverage in



the 1st phase, there would be mobile broadband access in metropolises as well as major cities and fixed broadband access nationwide.

Moreover, in terms of enhanced quality for users, there would be mobile broadband access in major cities, access content, domestic broadband services as well as internet access.

■ "Network Development" Phase

The 2nd phase of National Information Network called Network Develop-

ment Phase would come into operation in the Fajr Decade as Communication and Information Technology Minister claimed. It features certain advantages for users.

In terms of services accessibility for users, there would be HD video services, economically affordability in metropolises and public E-services, as well.

In terms of economically affordability, access content as well as domestic broadband services nationwide are among the 2nd phase accomplishments.

Furthermore, in terms of increased coverage, there would be mobile and fixed broadband access in major cities.

Also, in terms of enhanced quality in the 2nd phase, there would be mobile broadband access in major cities, access content, domestic broadband services and internet access.

■ "Network Maturity" Phase

The 3rd phase of National Information Network or Network Maturity Phase, would come into operation in World Telecommunication Day, next year, and would feature certain advantages for users.

In terms of service accessibility for users, there would be HD video services and domestic cloud broadband as well as economically affordability in major cities.

Access content and domestic broadband services nationwide are among the economically affordable accomplishments of the 3rd phase.

In terms of increased coverage for users, there would be mobile broadband access in all cities and, also, fixed broadband access would come into operation nationwide.

In terms of enhanced quality, there would be mobile broadband access in all cities, access content, domestic broadband services and internet access, as well.

Over step-by-step development of National Information Network, the so-called alterations could be witnessed by users.

Fitbit unveils Charge 2 and Flex 2 activity trackers

Fitbit has finally decided to update its Charge fitness tracker line, after nearly two years since the original models were outed. The new Fitbit Charge 2 comes with a built-in heart rate monitor (so the more expensive HR option is gone this time), as well as something the company calls 'connected GPS'. This means that when the wearable is connected to your phone, it will be able to use that device's location information to record a map of your route and give you real-time stats like pace and distance.

Like Apple, Fitbit now seems to be a fan of breathing exercises, since it's providing some in the new Charge 2. The wearable tracks multiple sports such as running, biking, and weightlifting, and it automatically recognizes the activities you're performing. It gives you reminders to move, automatically tracks your sleep (with silent alarm function-



ality), and it still works with computers as well as Android and iOS devices.

Its display is four times bigger than the original Charge's. Bands are interchangeable, battery life is up to five days, and smartphone notifications are displayed

on the screen. The Charge 2 is "sweat, rain, and splash proof", yet it's not "swim proof or shower proof", according to its maker.

The Fitbit Charge 2 will be out in mid-September for \$149.95, £129.95, or €159.95, and it's currently up for pre-order here.

The Flex 2 tracker doesn't have a heart rate monitor, but it is very small and can fit in band, bangle, and pendant accessories. It has no screen of its own, but has five LED lights. It's swim proof and actually tracks your swims too, alongside steps, distance, calories burned, active minutes, hourly activity, and stationary time. It also has sleep tracking and silent alarm functionality and reminders to move.

It will be out in October for \$99.95, £79.95, or €99.95, and it too is already on pre-order direct from Fitbit.

(Source: gizmodo)

Sensor tech predicts when senior citizens are at risk of falling



Falls are dangerous for anyone, but they can be particularly worrying for senior citizens whose bodies aren't as resilient as they used to be.

University of Missouri scientists may have a way to prevent those slips. They've developed a sensor system that measure changes in your gait speed and stride length to predict likely falls up to 3 weeks before they happen.

If you slow down or shorten your stride in a significant way, it can alert health care workers (complete with imagery) so that they can take action before there's an injury.

Unlike many motion sensors, you don't need to wear anything on your body. You could string devices around the home, and wouldn't have to change your behavior or remember to charge a device.

And that's particularly important given the team's goals. The invention could not only save lives, but extend the independence of seniors by another few years -- they could walk with greater confidence.

(Source: engadget)

Surface Pro 3 battery issues disappear in today's update



The Surface Pro 3 has been plagued with a software problem that causes some tablets to quickly lose power once unplugged from a charger, but a firmware update released today squashes the battery bug. Microsoft first acknowledged the problem in July and confirmed it was a software issue, rather than a flaw in the tablet's hardware, earlier in August.

In an update FAQ, Microsoft explains that the battery levels in some Surface Pro 3s were being misreported to the operating system and firmware, meaning the tablets stopped charging well before they hit full capacity.

"Think of this like a fuel gauge in a car, where the car looks to the fuel gauge to determine how much to fill the tank," Microsoft says. "In this case, if the fuel gauge isn't working right, the car would also not be able to fill the tank -- even though the tank is fine."

After applying the update, the battery issues will self-correct over "the next several charge and discharge cycles," Microsoft says, and any tablets that weren't able to run on battery power will be able to do so.

(Source: engadget)

Niantic is reversing bans on some 'Pokémon Go' accounts



Pokémon Go players who felt they were wrongly banned might get a reprieve. That's because developer Niantic has said that in its quest to block bots and data scrapers, some people who used third-party map apps to locate the virtual critters were wrongly blocked.

"Each end-user app can be used as a collection tool by the app creator, invisibly collecting and forwarding data to the app creator without the knowledge of the end user," Niantic writes. "These apps can have an effect similar to DDoS attacks on our servers."

The company says it's rearranged of few things in its back-end and can reverse bans on a "small subset" of accounts. That won't apply to accounts doing nothing but remotely accessing and capturing Pokémon, taking part in gym battles or grabbing supplies from Pokéstops. In fact, it sounds like bans for those terms-of-service-violating activities will become even more strict.

"Our main priority is to provide a fair, fun and legitimate experience for all players, so, aggressive banning will continue to occur for players who engage in these kinds of activities."

(Source: engadget)

Unannounced ZTE Axon 7 mini is already on sale in Germany for €299

The ZTE Axon 7 mini was leaked once so far last month and we expected it to become official in August. Yet here we are almost at the end of the month and that hasn't happened.

Even so, two online retailers from Germany have already listed the Axon 7 mini, with one of them even claiming it has units in stock and ready for dispatch. The handset is priced at €299 unlocked.

Usually such listings are helpfully revealing a new phone's specs too, but that doesn't seem to be the case

here. That's because all of the specs that the retailers claim are the Axon 7 mini's are actually the specs of its predecessor, the Axon mini from last year. It's highly unlikely that ZTE would only change the design this time around and stick with the exact same innards for a new generation of its smaller Axon-branded handset, so it's unclear what's going on here - and how one retailer can claim to have Axon 7 mini units in stock while apparently not knowing its specs.

Still, if nothing else all this probably signifies that

we're getting ever closer to an official announcement of the Axon 7 mini by ZTE. Perhaps IFA, which starts in a few days, will prove to be the perfect venue for such an outing.

According to the one and only leak we've seen about the Axon 7 mini, the new model will be powered by Qualcomm's Snapdragon 617 SoC, it will sport a 16 MP rear camera, and a 2,705 mAh battery. It should run Android 6.0 Marshmallow from day one.

(Source: GSMARENA)

NEWS IN BRIEF



New Version of Galaxy TabPro S coming

Samsung is currently working on a successor to the Galaxy TabPro S tablet hybrid, according to a new report. Appropriately dubbed Galaxy TabPro S2, the Windows-10 powered device will be launched "in the coming months."

The new tablet will be available in four models (SM-W728, SM-W727, SM-W723, and SM-W720), although it's not yet confirmed whether these are different variants for different markets or ones with different specifications.

Rumored specs of the device currently include 12-inch (2160x1440 pixel resolution) Super AMOLED display, and Intel's latest Core M-series processor. The report also notes that some of the Galaxy TabPro S2 models could also offer support for LTE connectivity.



Apple Watch 2 to get a 35% battery capacity bump

Apple Watch 2 is expected to go official on September 7 and the signs are all over the internet. The stock of the original Apple Watch is nearly depleted and yet no new Watches are made to replenish it. There are various leaks of the new hardware, too.

The next Apple Watch is rumored to reuse the original design and come in 38 and 42 mm flavors. It will be adding GPS radio and probably enhanced processing capabilities.

The latest report coming from China pictures the new battery for the 42mm model. The new unit has a capacity of 1.28 Wh or 334 mAh - that's 35% increase over the 246mAh battery in the original 42mm Watch.

Apple Watch 2 (or more likely Watch S) will be announced on September 7 at a special Apple event, complementing the new iPhone 7 series. It will run on watchOS 3, but we are yet to discover more on its expanded capabilities besides GPS tracking.



Quantum Dot technology and curved screens inside

Samsung revealed today it is preparing to debut new curved gaming monitors featuring its Quantum Dot technology at IFA 2016. The Samsung CFG70 monitor will be available in 24- and 27-inch variants, while the Samsung CF791 will come in a single, 34-inch flavor. All of them can display 125% of the sRGB spectrum.

The monitor duo is quite eco-friendly, as Samsung points out that their design lacks cadmium. Furthermore, both of the models undergo factory calibration, which optimizes black gamma levels and white balance levels for temperature management.

The Samsung CF791 is the more interesting model, as it sports a 21:9 ratio and a curvature of 1500R making it the most curved gaming monitor in the world. Its refresh rate is 100Hz and supports AMD FreeSync to synchronize the frame rate of games with AMD GPUs. The stand is vertically adjustable, too.

The CFG70 series has an 1800R curvature with a 1ms response time and a rapid refresh rate of up to 144Hz. It ships with Samsung's Gaming UX OSD interface, which makes configuring it a bit more straightforward.



Huawei will announce two phones at its IFA event, teasers reveal

Huawei is holding a pre-IFA event in Berlin on September 1, which is this Thursday. While at one point we assumed we'd see the Mate 9 unveiled on that occasion, recent news purported to come from a Huawei exec said that wouldn't be the case. Instead, the company will allegedly out a phone in an entirely new mid-range series.

In the rumors this line has been referred to as Nova, although the final name could be different of course. Past mumbblings also spoke about it being aimed at women somehow.



Motorola Moto G4 Play now available for purchase in Canada

The Motorola Moto G4 Play, which was made official back in May this year, is now available for purchase in Canada. A quick look at Motorola's Canada website reveals that several carriers including TELUS, Virgin, Wind, and Bell are selling the device for zero-down on a regular two year contract, or between \$199 and \$249 outright.

The device is also coming to India soon (launch date is said to be September 6). This was revealed by Motorola's India subsidiary on Twitter.

The Moto G4 Play will be an Amazon exclusive in India. Pricing information, however, is currently not known.

FEATURE

Is Europe overreacting to terror?

The streets of France have been subdued this summer. Tourism is down. Public events have been canceled or curtailed. Red-bereted paratroopers patrol through crowded streets, assault rifles held at their sides.

The soldiers are unmistakably ready for trouble. Many wear armored gloves in the mid-summer heat, ready to grapple with any knife-wielding attacker. Body armor and webbing pouches are stuffed with ammunition-heavy magazines.



It's now well over a month since the July 14 Bastille Day truck attack in Nice killed 86 people – and there is a clear sense of relief that Europe has been spared an attack on that scale since. Still, the continent remains distinctly on edge – and in the background, what feels like a never-ending series of smaller attacks unsettle populations and continue to destabilize already messy politics.

■ Europe is under threat

Indeed, the last few days have seen alarming signs that the political reaction to the attacks might yet prove more destabilizing than the attacks themselves. No one questions that Europe is under threat. In tempo and scale – and most notably in the number of casualties – the successive attacks over the last 18 months far outstrip anything seen on the European mainland even in the days of France's long war in Algeria or Germany's militant outrages of the 1970s. But there is a very real risk of overreaction.

Europe's recent political polarization is about much more than terrorism. It's about wider popular discontent with the unprecedented levels of migration of the last two decades, of moves to multiculturalism and fear of more change to come.

But it is the visceral fear of attacks – arguably out of all proportion to the risk, even with recent events – that seems to now be really driving the wider backlash.

Much of what France and other European countries have done since recent attacks is eminently sensible. Most have beefed up the size of their emergency response SWAT-style police or paramilitary units, allowing them to flood heavily armed officers to the scene of any Paris-style assault.

France, for example, has scaled up both the number of elite GIGN and RAID counterterrorism units as well as the number of offices and firepower within each individual team. Germany is looking at tweaking legislation to allow military units to back up police for the first time since World War Two.

In Germany, however, government officials have been criticized for a report suggesting householders should stockpile several days' worth of food and water in the event of some kind of crisis. German authorities are also considering whether the country should re-introduce conscription, abolished in 2011.

■ Hybrid attacks

Those steps are not just related to the fear of terrorist attacks – indeed, the documents in question make it clear they are also a response to worries over potential cyber or “hybrid” attacks.

All of this adds to an ever more febrile environment on social and mainstream media. It increasingly seems to become less relevant whether an attack – such as the gun attack in Munich which killed nine, or last week's stabbing of an Orthodox Jew in France, or a machete attack on a bus in Brussels – is directly related to a terrorist group like ISIL or not. Providing a migrant or someone of migrant descent is involved, it all feeds into the same divisive narrative.

Good intelligence is key to preventing attacks – and that means authorities having good relations and deep contacts with the populations in which militants want to hide. As distrust grows, that may become more difficult.

It's not entirely a negative picture. Many French Muslims made a point of attending Christian church services as a show of solidarity after the beheading of a local priest in July. The French government is aiming to work with moderate Muslim groups to tackle the growth of what they say are extremist mosques often funded from groups and individuals in Saudi Arabia.

In general, opinion polls suggest citizens in those countries with the largest Muslim populations in Europe – France, Germany and the UK – view Muslim migration less negatively than those countries in Eastern Europe that are home to very few.

That shouldn't be a surprise. But it may yet prove a self-fulfilling narrative. (Source: Reuters)

Europe's recent political polarization is about much more than terrorism. It's about wider popular discontent with the unprecedented levels of migration of the last two decades, of moves to multiculturalism and fear of more change to come. But it is the visceral fear of attacks – arguably out of all proportion to the risk, even with recent events – that seems to now be really driving the wider backlash.

A year ago this week a little boy was washed up dead on a Turkish beach and became a symbol of the refugee crisis caused predominantly by conflict in Syria and Iraq. Pictures of Alan Kurdi appeared to show not only how bleak was the predicament facing many in war-torn regions, but also how Europe – with its comparative peace and prosperity – had failed to work out a cogent or unified response.

As it happened, Alan Kurdi's death coincided very nearly with the anniversary of the outbreak of the Second World War. The Independent's editorial of 2 September, which called on the British government to take a fair share of refugees, noted that the time had come for European countries to work together and to demonstrate how far the continent had come since the dark days of World War II.

Twelve months later, it is arguable whether the various conflicts in Syria and beyond its borders are any closer to their conclusion. ISIL may have lost ground in Iraq, while the group has also been squeezed in parts of Syria. Turkey's decision to send ground troops into northern Syria, notionally to combat ISIL, but also with a view to pushing back Kurdish advances, further complicates the situation. The Syrian conflict has become the most significant proxy war since Vietnam. It is civilians who suffer.

■ Irregular migrants

As for Europe, unity of purpose seems in short supply. Individual countries have taken diverse approaches: Germany remains open for new asylum applications; other borders were slammed tight and remain firmly closed, especially in the Balkans. The European Union's deal with Turkey in March for Ankara's authorities to take in new “irregular migrants” arriving in Greece, in return for financial assistance and various other pacifiers, reduced unchecked migration to a degree. Still, the UNHCR still estimates that a quarter of a million people will enter Europe from the east in 2016. And with Turkey's government following the failed coup against President Erdogan, the EU may come to wonder whether its “solution” to the refugee crisis was more a deal with the devil.

Here in Britain, we find ourselves on the way out of the EU, June's referendum having turned less on whether the Union was an excessively bureaucratic mess,

A year on from the death of Alan Kurdi, we've still not done enough to solve the refugee crisis



Pictures of Alan Kurdi appeared to show not only how bleak was the predicament facing many in war-torn regions, but also how Europe – with its comparative peace and prosperity – had failed to work out a cogent or unified response.

Erdogan ditches previous policy priorities to pursue new aims

In the past few days, the Americans have given Ankara the green light to support factions of the Free Syrian Army heading to Jarabulus in a bid to get a grip on the city after ousting ISIL forces.

Writing in Al Arab newspaper, Iraqi columnist Marwan Yassine Al Dulaimi said this marks a shift in the U.S. stance and is directly related to the repercussions of the Syrian conflict on Ankara.

In light of the quick turn of events on the northern front, Al Dulaimi considered the timing and importance of such a shift, noting that “it is closely related to the White House's attempts at mending its relationship with Ankara after the failed coup in an attempt to confirm the key role of Turkey as an indispensable strategic partner in the region”.

That said, the writer does not see any change in the position of the Americans vis-à-vis Ankara.

Ankara is trying to please the Americans by effectively contributing to the war against ISIL and ousting it from Jarabalus.

“They continue to support Ankara's national security and are not trying to squander their special historical relationship. Turkey being a member of NATO implies that U.S. support for the Syrian Democratic Forces will not be at the expense of such a regional force and strategic partnership.”

For its part, Ankara is trying to please the Americans by effectively contributing to the war against ISIL and ousting it from Jarabalus.

“As such, Ankara will be withdrawing this card that the other parties are unremittably waving in its face because they feel that it has not exerted any military efforts to confirm the credibility of its opposition to ISIL,” Al Dulaimi opined.

“Ankara knows all too well that the



U.S. is capable – on its own – of making the Democratic Syrian Forces retreat to the east of Euphrates on its orders without putting up any fight”, he noted.

Until last Wednesday, before factions of the Turkey-backed Free Syrian Army took control, the U.S. had forbidden Turkey from making any military move or from taking part in the Syrian conflict, contrary to its recent position.

■ Freedom of movement

“Such a shift reveals that Turkey was subjected to the international will represented by the U.S. and that it could not act outside this will. Countries of the region have carefully drawn borders that it could never overstep without orders that give it freedom of movement,” the writer concluded.

“Turkish president Recep Tayyip Erdogan has once again turned around since the failed coup,” wrote the columnist Raghida Dergham in the pan-Arab daily newspaper Al Hayat.

“By redefining and re-enacting Turkey's role in Syria as a national authoritarian priority, he flouted previous agreements with Persian Gulf countries and broke the U.S.-led international coalition in Syria,” Dergham noted.

The main concern caused by Erdogan's new policy, Dergham continued, is the belief among Persian Gulf leaderships that Turkey's fight against ISIL.

“Erdogan's Turkey used to consider the West and the Persian Gulf as its allies, today it takes as allies whoever shows support for Erdogan's government,” Dergham concluded.

(Source: The National)

Huma Abedin's split with Weiner ends one political drama as another unfolds

The private life of Hillary Clinton's right-hand woman is making headlines today – but her greatest role may be alongside a future president.

Huma Abedin has been the reluctant star of two political psychodramas in the past year.

The first – involving painfully public strains in her marriage to Anthony Weiner, the former New York congressman – ended, perhaps predictably, on Monday with news that she had decided to separate from him.

But the second – Abedin's emerging role as a central figure in the likely return of Hillary Clinton to the White House – may be only just beginning and remains of far greater public interest.

Just how crucial this 40-year-old campaign aide is to the presidential project became clear last July when emails revealed the inner workings of Clinton's hectic life as secretary of state.

Then serving as deputy chief of staff to the secretary, Abedin appeared frequently in the email traffic, as a gatekeeper, personal assistant and professional confidante so close that Clinton said she was “like a second daughter”.

■ Clinton's right-hand

Initially, the tranches of emails painted Clinton's right-hand woman in a flattering, but somewhat subdued, light: advising her boss on how to operate a secure fax machine and suggesting when it was time to take a nap.

But more recent batches underlined how far Abedin has come since this George Washington University student started out as intern working for the then first lady in the East Wing of an earlier Clinton White House.

In these latest emails, it has become clear that this loyal aide has become a key broker in the Clinton's powerful nexus of international connections: dealing with everything from requests to link U2 with the International Space Station to seeking a visa for a disgraced Wolverhampton Wanderers football player.

Both these more lurid requests for political favours were wisely squashed by Abedin, and her discretion and sound political judgment has led to a senior role in the 2016 campaign, of

and more on emotional fears about borders, a perceived dilution of “British” culture and a seeming belief that compassion can be an island. Nigel Farage's “Breaking Point” poster might have been widely criticized, but it struck a chord with many. If any other country in Europe had voted to leave the EU, we would interpret it as a victory for nationalism – we should not come to a contrary conclusion just because it happened here. When five London day-trippers drowned at Camber Sands last week one of the first questions asked by some onlookers – and media – was whether they might be illegal immigrants; which surely goes to show how far our irrational fears of a migratory invasion have come.

A return to one of mankind's more basic political and social instincts is no doubt a consequence of world events – the financial crash, the rise of extremism, the refugee crisis – and is perhaps more a railing more broadly against the process of globalization. But it has been facilitated too by a wider coarsening of public debate in which almost anybody in a position of responsibility is seen as fair game for the most virulent of criticism. Those who argue for compassion are treated with contempt or to facile claims about what sacrifices they personally are prepared to make. Experts are derided for any sort of analysis or prediction that goes beyond stating a provable fact – increasingly, even facts are pooh-poohed. Humility has fallen out of fashion in favour of a passion for humiliating others. The traditional media and social media have both played their parts.

None of it matters to those who mourn dead Syrian children. And for those stuck in Aleppo, or in refugee camps in Lebanon, or at the Jungle in Calais, hand-wringing over the seeming decline of kindness in the West achieves little. When The Independent launched its petition a year ago urging the government to take in more refugees, nearly 400,000 people added their signatures within a few days. In response, the government agreed to increase the number to whom it would offer asylum – to 20,000 over five years. At the time that figure seemed significant. With hindsight, it feels like a drop in the ocean. Not unlike Alan Kurdi.

(Source: Independent)



Then serving as deputy chief of staff to the secretary, Abedin appeared frequently in the email traffic, as a gatekeeper, personal assistant and professional confidante so close that Clinton said she was “like a second daughter”.

which she is vice-chairwoman.

But it is her constant access to the candidate, not the nominal job title, that makes this such an influential role.

The close ties to such a controversial figure have made her a lightning rod for political attacks. It is perhaps no accident that Trump's aggressive first reaction to the news of her separation from Weiner was to question whether their relationship posed a security risk. In a fly-on-the-wall documentary of Weiner's failed run for New York mayor, Abedin emerges as a stoic and sympathetic character. “This is like living a nightmare,” she says to camera at one point.

Her decision to finally cut him loose may come later than many observers of the marriage imagined, but it should finally free one of Washington's brightest up-and-coming political stars to emerge as a public figure in her own right.

(Source: The Guardian)

Iran to put 1st IPC on tender by mid October

1→ Further in his remarks Kardor noted that NIOC will start notifying foreign companies and will send invitation letters for the tender next week.

In November 2015, Iran introduced a new model of oil and gas contracts, known as Iran Petroleum Contract (IPC), which will replace buy-back agreements. It is expected to offer more flexible terms on oil price fluctuations and investment risks to make the sector more financially attractive.

■ 'Technology transfer stressed in IPC'

Asked about technology transfer, the official said that in the new contracts NIOC has placed a significant importance upon transferring new technologies to the country. "We have focused on technology transfer in three different layers namely upstream, engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) and equipment," he added.

■ '\$134b needed for upstream projects by 2021'

According to Kardor, NIOC needs \$134 billion of investment for upstream oil and gas projects by 2021 to meet the objectives of the country's Sixth National Development Plan (2016-2021) and with the new contract model it would be possible to reach this figure even sooner.

Signing new contracts, it is estimated that about \$10 billion of foreign investment will be attracted by the end of current Iranian calendar year.

Earlier this week Gholamreza Manouchehri, the deputy managing director of NIOC for development and engineering



affairs, said that Iran will sign two or three deals based on the new model of oil contracts, known as IPC, by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2017).

■ 'Pre-sanctions level reachable by Mar. 2017'

Answering a question by the Tehran Times about Iran's current production level, and the production perspective

for the future, the official said that the country will reach the pre-sanctions level of 4 million barrels per day by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (which ends on March 20, 2017) and reaching 5.2 million bpd is on the agenda.

Elsewhere in the press conference, asked about Algeria meeting and Iran's position, then NIOC official didn't comment on the subject.

Oil falls on growing doubt about output deal as dollar rallies

Oil declined amid doubts that producers will agree on a deal to stabilize the market when global suppliers meet next month for informal talks.

Futures decreased 1.4 percent in New York. Iran's plan to continue boosting crude output until it regains its pre-sanctions OPEC market share is dimming prospects of collective action, according to Patrick Allman-Ward, chief executive officer of Dana Gas PJSC. United Arab Emirates Oil Minister Suhail Al Mazrouei said in a Twitter post that the oil market should achieve stability soon. The dollar rose against the euro, curbing the appeal of commodities as an investment.

Oil entered a bull market August 18, less than three weeks after tumbling

into a bear market, as prices surged partly on speculation that discussions among members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries may lead to action to stabilize the market.

"The short-covering rally has come to an end," said Bob Yawger, director of the futures division at Mizuho Securities USA Inc. in New York. "There are two reasons for this: the likelihood of an agreement to freeze output is becoming less-and-less likely all the time and the dollar's relative strength."

WTI for October delivery dropped 66 cents to settle at \$46.98 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract gained 0.7 percent to \$47.64 on Friday, trimming a weekly decline. Total volume traded was 50 percent be-

low the 100-day average at 2:40 p.m.

■ Dollar rally

Brent for October settlement fell 66 cents, or 1.3 percent, to \$49.26 a barrel on the London-based ICE Futures Europe exchange. The global benchmark crude closed at a \$2.28 premium to WTI.

The U.S. currency rose after Federal Reserve officials spurred bets that the U.S. central bank will increase interest rates as soon as next month. The dollar advanced against the euro for the sixth time in seven days.

"Dollar strength will lead the commodity complex," said Michael Corcelli, chief investment officer at Alexander Alternative Capital LLC, a Miami-based hedge fund. "Attention will be focused

on the central banks and interest rates in the weeks ahead."

■ Iranian participation

While Iran supports action to stabilize the market, it won't participate in a freeze in output before regaining its pre-sanctions share of OPEC production, state-run news service Shana reported Friday, citing Oil Minister Bijan Namdar Zanganeh.

"I'm not overly optimistic about an oil freeze being agreed," Allman-Ward of Dana Gas said Sunday in a television interview on "Bloomberg Markets Middle East" in Dubai. "There's pressure with Iran working to increase production. The environment is not that conducive to a freeze."

(Source: Bloomberg)

NEWS

Turkmen president mulls gas deliveries to the EU

Turkmenistan has expressed its interest in delivering gas to EU member countries as soon as possible, the Central Asian republic's leader has said during a visit to Berlin.

Following rare talks with German Chancellor Angela Merkel in Berlin Monday, Turkmen President Gurbanguly Berdymukhamedov told reporters his country was interested in delivering energy resources to the West.

The leader of one of the world's most closed nations indicated it was not in Turkmenistan's interest to focus solely on gas deliveries to other Asian countries.

The Central Asian country has also been engaging in gas talks with China, India and Afghanistan. Turkmenistan is among the nations with the biggest natural gas deposits globally.

Berdymukhamedov said in Berlin talks about potential deliveries to the EU had already got underway in Brussels. For her part, Chancellor Merkel said she hoped "remaining obstacles" could be removed soon, without specifying the nature of existing roadblocks still in place.

One of the more obvious difficulties would be to ensure the consent of such deliveries from both Russia and Turkey as any gas coming from Turkmenistan would have to go through the Caspian Sea.

Merkel and Berdymukhamedov also touched on other aspects of expanding trade between the two countries. Germany is Turkmenistan's most important trading partner in the 28-member European Union, with bilateral trade worth more than \$460 million (411 million euros).

German exports to the Central Asian republic include machinery and tools. (Source: dailynewsegypt.com)

Sinopec to build crude production hub in Tarim basin

Sinopec, China's second largest oil and gas group, will build a crude production hub with a 1.5 million tonnes annual capacity in Tarim basin between 2016 and 2020, the company said on its official Weibo microblog on Monday.

Sinopec's Shuibeil oil field, a new discovery in the middle west of the Tarim basin, has oil reserves of 1.2 billion tons and 500 billion cubic meters of natural gas deposit, it said.

The company plans 10 exploration wells at the Shuibeil oil field, having completed drilling eight of them. Six of the wells produce high quality oil with commercial values.

Sinopec holds a total of 32 oil reserve blocks in the Tarim basin, it said. (Source: Reuters)

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Smartphone detects atrial fibrillation with existing hardware

Smartphones can be used to detect atrial fibrillation with existing hardware, according to research presented at ESC Congress. A low-cost application has been developed that uses the phone's own accelerometer and gyroscope to check for atrial fibrillation.

"Atrial fibrillation is a dangerous medical condition present in 2% of the global population and accounting for up to seven million strokes per year," said lead author Tero Koivisto, a vice-director of the Technology Research Center (TRC), University of Turku, Finland. "In the European Union alone this heart rhythm disorder costs approximately USD \$19 billion every year."

Around 70% of strokes due to atrial fibrillation could be avoided with pre-emptive medication.

However, atrial fibrillation often occurs randomly on/off and is difficult to detect by visiting a doctor. There are relatively large and costly electrocardiogram (ECG) devices that patients can take home for long-term monitoring but they require a patch or wires that are clumsy to use and continuous contact with electrodes tends to irritate the skin.

Current methods

Due to the above constraints, current methods for detection of atrial fibrillation

are infeasible for wide-scale screening of populations or higher risk age groups (60 years and above).

The current study tested the ability of a smartphone to detect atrial fibrillation without any add-on hardware. The study included 16 patients with atrial fibrillation from the Turku Heart Centre. In addition, 20 recordings from healthy people were used as control group data to validate the developed algorithm.

To detect atrial fibrillation, a smartphone was placed on the chest of the patient, and accelerometer and gyroscope recordings were taken. Patients were advised to lie in a prone or supine position during the measurements.

Koivisto said: "We use the accelerometer and gyroscope of the smartphone to acquire a heart signal from the patient. A measurement recording is taken, and the acquired data is pre-processed by signal processing methods. Multiple features such as autocorrelation and spectral entropy are then extracted from the pre-processed data. Finally, a machine learning algorithm (KSVM) is used to determine if the patient suffers from atrial fibrillation."

Atrial fibrillation

Using this technology the investigators detected atrial fibrillation with a sensitivity



and specificity of more than 95%.

"We measure the actual motion of the heart via miniature accelerometers and gyroscopes that are already installed in today's smartphones," said Mr. Koivisto. "No additional hardware is needed and people just need to install an app with the algorithm we developed."

He continued: "If people feel odd

and want to check their cardiac status, they can simply lie down, place the phone on their chest, take an accelerometer and gyroscope measurement, then use the app to analyze the result. They will get a simple yes/no answer as to whether they have atrial fibrillation or not."

(Source: EurekAlert)

More parents believe vaccines are unnecessary

Pediatricians are encountering more parents who refuse to have their children vaccinated, mainly because they don't see the point of vaccines, a U.S. survey found.

In the survey, conducted in 2013, about 87 percent of pediatricians said they had encountered vaccine refusals, an increase from the 75 percent who reported refusals during the last survey from 2006.

The most common reason, provided by three out of every four parents: Vaccines are unnecessary because the diseases they prevent have been wiped out in the United States.

"Because these diseases are gone, people no longer fear them, even though many of them are only a plane ride away," said Dr. Kathryn Edwards, co-author of a new American Academy of Pediatrics report based on the survey. "They don't seem to realize that these diseases do exist in other places, and could come here."

The percentage of pediatricians who always dismiss patients over repeated vaccine refusals has also increased, doubling from 6 percent in 2006 to 12 percent in 2013, the survey found.

In the report, the AAP urges pediatricians to exercise patience with worried parents rather than closing their doors to them.

"Our goal is to work with our patients so they under-

stand the importance of vaccinations, and their questions about vaccines are answered," said Edwards, a member of the AAP Committee on Infectious Diseases.

Refusing vaccines

The reasons parents provide for refusing vaccines have evolved in recent years, pediatricians report.

In 2006, about three of every four parents who refused vaccines said they were worried that vaccines could cause autism -- a theory that's been debunked -- or produce serious side effects.

Fewer parents gave those as reasons in 2013, although many still cite concerns about safety. Concerns over a baby being too small to receive vaccines, or discomfort at having too many shots at once, have also diminished, the survey found.

Instead, most parents are refusing childhood vaccinations because they see vaccines as unnecessary, and that number increased by 10 percent between the two surveys.

Thanks to the protection provided by vaccines, parents haven't seen the ravages that can be wrought on children by diseases like chicken pox, measles, meningitis and polio, said Dr. Claire McCarthy, an assistant professor at Harvard Medical School in Boston.

"We are so good at what we do with vaccines



that the danger of vaccine-preventable illness can seem not quite real to this generation of parents, and that's definitely getting in the way," McCarthy said.

"This is very frightening to us as pediatricians because in this global world, their child absolutely could get polio," McCarthy said. "Polio is endemic in many parts of the world, and all we need is for one of those people to come on over to the United States and hang out in a shopping mall or Disney World."

(Source: HealthDay News)

New tech Cholestosome spares diabetics from daily insulin injections

The dream of millions of diabetics of being spared from painful daily insulin injections may soon be over. Researchers from Niagara University have developed a new technology that would deliver the insulin in capsule form.

It is the second successful trial of an oral insulin after Oramed Pharmaceutical, a company, successfully held a Phase II clinical trial of its ORMD-0801.

Mary McCourt, leader of the research team, says they have developed Cholestosome, a neutral, lipid-based particle which solves the biggest obstacle to delivering insulin orally. The stomach's highly acidic environment degrades proteins such as insulin before it gets a chance to move into the intestines and blood-

streams.

With the encapsulated insulin made of naturally occurring lipid molecules -- the normal building blocks of fats -- makes it unnecessary to package it in a polymer coating for protection.

The researchers used simple lipid esters to make vesicles with the drug molecules inside, explains Lawrence Melinki, a member of the Niagara team which developed the technology at the McCourt/Melinki lab, reports ACS.

Neutral particles

The team used computer modeling to show that once the lipids are assembled into spheres, it formed neutral particles resistant to stomach acid attacks. Drugs are loaded inside and the small pack-

ages pass through the stomach without degrading.

Once the Cholestosome reaches the intestines, the body recognizes it as something to be absorbed. The vesicles pass through the intestines into the bloodstream, and the cells take it and break it apart to release insulin. Testing on animals showed certain formulations of Cholestosomes loaded with insulin have high bioavailability.

The next step for the team if to further optimize formulations, do more animal testings and develop new partnerships for human trials.

The researchers will present their findings at the national meeting of the American Chemical Society in Philadelphia, re-

ports the New York Post.

A capsule insulin, while it would be fully embraced by diabetics, would surely dent the sales of pharmaceutical giants that manufacture injectable insulin such as Eli Lilly, Novo Nordisk and Sanofi-Aventis.

Separately, Oramed, a pharmaceutical company is also working on an experimental insulin drug at its laboratory.

In May, Oramed announced it succeeded in its experiment oral insulin trial by significantly reducing night-time blood glucose for type 2 diabetics, reports Reuters.

Oramed would conduct a larger Phase III trial before it submits the drug, ORMD-0801, for regulatory approval.

(Source: ibtimes.com)

Is there a solution for constant fatigue?

According to patients at the Center for Restorative Medicine, a new discovery has completely transformed their lives.

Founder and Director Dr. Steven Gundry is a world-renowned heart surgeon, a best-selling author, and the personal physician to celebrities such as Tony Robbins. But his latest medical breakthrough could be the most important accomplishment of his career.

Dr. Gundry unveiled a simple -- yet highly effective -- solution to symptoms that plague millions of Americans over 40: low energy, low metabolism and constant fatigue.

He went on to say that persistent fatigue can be a warning sign for much more serious health problems ... including diabetes, obesity, hypertension and heart disease.

"When you're feeling low energy, that's your body screaming HELP!" He told the crowd of reporters and medical professionals.

Radical solution

Dr. Gundry's radical solution was inspired

by a breakthrough with a "hopeless" patient who had been massively overweight, chronically fatigued and suffering from severely clogged arteries.

The secret to his breakthrough? "There are key 'micronutrients' missing from your diet," Dr. Gundry told the room. "If you can replenish them in very high dosages, the health results are astonishing."

This unorthodox philosophy is what led Dr. Gundry to create the world's first at-home treatment for fatigue -- which has since become remarkably successful with his patients.

"They're reporting natural, long-lasting energy without a 'crash' and they're feeling slim, fit and active," he revealed yesterday.

The science behind his formula is brand new, and was met with both fascination and enthusiasm by those in attendance. Immediately following the announcement, Dr. Gundry's team released a comprehensive video presentation, so that the public can be educated as to exactly how it works.

(Source: health-headlines.org)

EAT YOUR FRUIT

Kiwi



The small kiwi fruit stores a treasure of nutritional surprises. It is an excellent source of vitamin C (ascorbic acid). Others vitamins including vitamin A, folate, vitamin E (alpha-tocopherol) and vitamin K (phylloquinone) are also present in good amounts. The mineral wealth of kiwi includes tremendous quantity of potassium along with other minerals such as calcium, magnesium and phosphorous. All these vital nutrients in the fruit come with an additional bonus of dietary fiber.

Health Benefits of Kiwi

1. Antioxidant properties
2. Cardiovascular health
3. Better sleep
4. Improves iron absorption
5. Macular degeneration
6. Digestive health
7. Pregnancy
8. Skin care
9. Cancer
10. Strong immune defense
11. Diabetes
12. Culinary usage

NEWS

Steroid treatments may boost preemies' risk of eye problems

Babies with very low birth weights are often given steroids to improve lung function.

Steroids used to help premature babies' lungs work may increase their risk of eye problems, a new study suggests.

Doctors often give corticosteroids to babies whose birth weight is very low to improve lung function, but it's long been suspected that the drugs may have harmful side effects.

"Clinicians need to use their best judgment to balance the positive effects from steroids on developing lungs with potential negative effects on developing eyes in very premature infants," said lead investigator Dr. Tammy Movsas.

New study

For the new study, the researchers analyzed data from nearly 1,500 infants who weighed less than 500 grams (1.1 pounds) at birth.

Although the study couldn't prove cause-and-effect, the risk of an eye condition called retinopathy of prematurity (ROP) was 60 percent higher for babies treated with steroids, the researchers found.

And babies' risk of developing an advanced case of ROP was 70 percent higher if they were on the drugs, the findings showed.

Movsas called the increased ROP risk modest, but significant.

The study was published recently in the Journal of the American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus.

"This study has potential clinical significance since children with a history of ROP are not only at increased risk for visual impairments from the ROP itself, but are also at increased risk for developing other ocular disorders later in life," Movsas said in a journal news release.

Movsas is medical director of the Midland County (Mich.) Department of Public Health and a clinical associate professor of pediatrics and human development at Michigan State University.

(Source: consumer.healthday.com)

How long will your caffeine buzz last? Genes may ell

If one cup of coffee keeps you perked up all day, you may be able to thank your genes for that long-lasting caffeine kick, a new study finds.

Scientists in Scotland have identified a gene that may play a role in how the body breaks down caffeine, according to the study -- and variations in this gene may influence how much coffee a person drinks.

In people with a certain variation of a gene called PDSS2, caffeine is broken down in the body more slowly, according to the study, which was published on August 25 in the journal Scientific Reports. Slower breakdown means that the caffeine stays in the body longer, so a person doesn't need to drink as much coffee to get the same effects, the researchers said.

In the study, the researchers examined the DNA of more than 1,000 people in northern and southern Italy and more than 1,700 people in the Netherlands. Everyone in the study also filled out a questionnaire that included questions about how much coffee they drank each day.

Among the Italians in the study, those who had a certain variation in their PDSS2 gene tended to drink less coffee, by about one cup a day, on average, than those who did not have the variation, the researchers found.

(Source: Live Science)

Villa for Rent South Dibaji

600 sq.m land, 750 sq.m built-up

area, triplex, 6 bedrooms,

2 master bedrooms, yard,

parking lot, sauna, Jacuzzi, s/p,

two corners, fully renovated,

Servant Quarter (S/Q) with full

facilities and services

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By Lachin Rezaian

Why encroaching on Iranian soil is an unattainable dream?

Iran's strong defense capabilities and military achievements in spite of the sanctions against defense sector have foiled enemies' intentions and objectives through the 37 years after the Islamic Revolution.

In recent years, Iran has made major breakthroughs in its defense sector and attained self-sufficiency in producing key military hardware and systems.

By attaining self-sufficiency and producing new achievements, which have been acknowledged by international experts, Iran has so far designed and manufactured different domestically developed missiles, radars, satellites, drones, tanks, aircrafts, destroyers, etc.

The Islamic Republic has also conducted military drills to enhance the defense capabilities of its military and to test modern military tactics and equipment, including Beit-ul-Muqaddas 27, Beit ul-Muqaddas 28, and Great Prophet.

Iran's military show has provoked enemies to condemn its self-sufficiency, military power and achievements as a threat to the world, especially the region.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has repeatedly assured other nations, especially regional neighbors, that its military might poses no threat to other countries, stating that its defense doctrine is merely based on deterrence.

Iranian Defense Minister Hossein Dehghan has hailed Iran's defense sector, adding in spite of the sanctions against defense sector, the armed forces have foiled enemies' intentions and objectives by attaining self-sufficiency and producing new achievements, and will do the same in the future.

The threats of military action by the US and its ally, Israel, against Iran, as well as the illegal unilateral

Emad

Emad is a liquid-fuel, intermediate-range ballistic missile (IRBM) with a claimed range of 1,700 km and 750 kg payload. It was first unveiled in 2015. With an advanced guidance and control system in its nose cone, the missile's accuracy is reported to be around 500 meters. The missile is capable of striking targets with great precision.

Qadr

Qadr (sometimes referred as the Ghadr) is the most advanced Iranian liquid-propellant medium range ballistic missile which has more than 2000 km range, about 100 m CEP and carries a single 700 - 1000 kg warhead.

Talash

Talash missile defense system is a long- and medium-range system with a domestic missile capability designed and manufactured by the Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces Logistics (MODAFL). It is synced up with the Iranian air defense missiles, Sayyad 2 and 3.

Bavar 373



sanctions by Washington and the European Union are based on the allegation that Iran's nuclear energy program pursues military purposes, a claim Iran has categorically rejected.

Dehghan has reiterated that the Islamic Republic needs no permission from anyone to boost its military and missile capabilities. "We will decisively follow our defense program objectives and expand our missile capabilities."

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei addressing a meeting of government officials including President Rouhani on August 24, said enemies of Iran are strongly opposed to Iran's military and defense capabilities and make every effort to prevent its growth.

Iran, as a country living in the most unstable and volatile region of the world, is fully entitled to build a credible conventional capability to deter and defend against any aggression.

Iran's military achievements aim to fully repel any enemy threat. Israeli officials have repeatedly talked of a military strike against Iran, however, the regime's top commanders have opposed such action warning against the repercussions of a war with the Islamic Republic.

Over the past 37 years after the Islamic Revolution, Iranian military defense industry has always been progressed producing new achievements in the field of defense capabilities; various sectors of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards, the Islamic Army and Iran's Department of Defense despite tough sanctions, have relied on domestic power, talents and capacities to design, manufacture and test modern and advanced equipment, with missile tests, unveiling of defense systems, aircraft launch, express boats production with higher speeds, producing modern weapons and making numerous ships, are only a few kinds of Iran's capabilities in the field of defense.

Scientists and experts of Defense Ministry and Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran have brought about important and valuable achievement for the Iranian nation. Through the production of critical military projects and satellite launch, the country has been freed from dependence on western countries; delivery of 20 helicopters, cruise missiles, drones, satellite are among the most important achievements of the organization.

The following presents some of the new military-defense systems and equipment Iranian experts have achieved so far:

Missiles and air defense missile systems

Nowadays along with other technologies, missile technology adds strength to the country armed services. At present of technological advancements, every country which has a well-known military power, is trying to enhance its missile technology because it becomes a real important tool in modern confrontations.

While talking about missile technology developments in The Middle East, Iran is one of the leading countries in that perspective which has the complete missile systems.

Here is the list of some important missiles of Iran's military system:

Bina

Bina is a 3D high-resolution control radar which has great ability in detection and identification of potential targets with low radar cross section, and can fully fight against electronic warfare while also detecting stealth targets.

Kashef

Kashef is a series of Iranian early warning radars developed by SAIRAN. Currently there are two versions in service, Kashef 1 and Kashef 2. Kashef 1 is a 2D radar operates in S-Band and has a range of 150 km. Kashef 2 is externally very different from Kashef 1. It uses a different net-like antenna that can be split in 3 parts to reduce the time needed for setup and breakdown. The range is 200 km and the maximum number of targets it can track simultaneously is increased to 1000. It uses 30 kW of power.

Qaher-313

It is a single-seat stealth fighter and multi-role combat aircraft that was publicly announced in 2013.

Saegheh 2

It is a twin-seat fighter jet, which has more power, mobility, navigation equipment, fire power, payload and operational range compared to its single-seat version.

Panha 2091

Panha or Toufan is an Iranian overhaul and upgrade of the Bell AH-1J International (export version of the SeaCobra) light-attack helicopters.

Armored Vehicles

Zulfiqar MBT

Zulfiqar is an Iranian main battle tank (MBT) and has a distinctive box-shaped, steel-welded turret of local design. It has three variants; the Zulfiqar-3 is the most advanced variant of the Zulfiqar family. It features considerable upgrades to the fire control system, chassis, engine and main gun. The new variant is equipped with the 2A46 125 mm smoothbore cannon with an autoloader, a laser rangefinder and a new fire control system.

Rakhsh

It is a lightweight 4x4 cross-country APC developed and produced by DIO's Shahid Kolah Dooz Industrial Complex and named after Rakhsh, the mythical horse of Rostam in Shahnameh. It is in service of Iranian Police, Iranian Army, IRGC and Sudan.

Cobra BMT-2

It is an Iranian armored personnel carrier armed with a 30 mm auto-cannon or a ZU-23-2 anti-aircraft gun.

Tosan

It is an Iranian light tank for unconventional warfare and can drive long distances on its tracks and does not need to be carried on trucks.

UAV

Tehran has gained a lot of experience in making drones after the country first used the aircraft for military use. The Islamic Republic has so far unveiled various domestically produced drones, including Ababil, Fotros, Hazem, Karrar (long range attack drone), Mohajer, Sarir, Shahed 129, Yasir and Zohal. Iran unveiled its first domestically manufactured long-range UAV named Karrar in 2010. The first Iranian medium-altitude long-endurance UAV, the Shahed-129 was unveiled in September 2012, which is capable of carrying out combat and reconnaissance eight missions for 24 hours and has a range of 1,700 km.

Ababil

The Ababil, much smaller than manned airplanes, is a domestically-manufactured naval surveillance plane. Ababil-5 is for medium-range reconnaissance and surveillance missions and the Ababil-T is designed for short, medium-range attack missions.

Karrar

It is the first long-range unmanned aerial drone manufactured in Iran and single-use drone which has a range of about 600 miles.

Toofan

Toofan is an Iranian UAV which has been developed to find and destroy the enemies through optical explorer. In this type of mission, the UAV is designed for battle and with small dimensions, it could approach to the enemy without being detected and its high speed makes nay reaction extremely difficult.

Mohajer 4



Mohajer 4 was manufactured for air surveillance and target identification from 150km distance. It may be capable of guiding laser-guided munitions to their targets. Its fuselage is redesigned and features low mounted trapezoid shaped wings with upward-canted wingtips to lessen the drag. Operational range of the drone is almost double of the older versions.

Shahed 129

It is a UAV with 24-hour flight capability and armed with Sadid missiles. It is capable of carrying out combat and reconnaissance missions with an endurance of 24 hours, making it the first Iranian MALE UAV.

Dorna

Dorna with maximum speed of 220Kmph in 3300m altitude is the second generation of Mohajer-2 with the intention of improving range and flight endurance.

Roham

Roham can receive photogrammetry (mapping from aerial photographs) data, fly and hover over sea or mountainous and forested areas, land on and take off from any location, monitor a specific target at low



altitudes and patrol an area at a high speed.

Hodhod 3

Hodhod 3 is an unmanned multi-rotor which is capable of operating without a band. It can fly for 53 minutes non-stop and create less noise, and can be easily repaired as well. The drone is 12 KG heavy and the vertical flight drone can move carrying consignment up to 3 kg, and can be used for emergency such as carrying scorpion and snake bites serums.

Mohajem 92

Mohajem 92 is a drone that has a range of 500 kilometers (310 miles) with a maximum speed of 200 kph (125 mph). It was manufactured by the self-sufficiency department of the Islamic Republic Air Force.

Fotros

Fotros is a drone with a range of 2,000 km and can remain aloft for between 16 and 30 hours. Fotros can carry missiles for air-to-ground attacks. In theory, this

makes the Fotros roughly equivalent to the drones that the US.

These are only a few instances of showing Iran's defense and military achievements.

Iran's progress in military arena has sparked concerns and criticisms from its enemies, most notably the US, in the world and the region.

The United States is concerned about Iran's increasing missile power and tries to use it as a pretext to undermine the Iranian Establishment which is mostly flimsy and legally worthless, however, indicative of Westerners long-term policy which shows they do not want the Islamic Republic to be powerful enough to ensure regional security.

They have increasingly imposed economic sanctions against Iran's Armed Forces since the end of Iraqi imposed war on Iran in 1988, to undermine Iran's military strength and defense achievements.

However, as Iranian commanders, defense minister, president and many high-ranking officials comment, every achievement unveiled in Iran's military system is for the stability, security and peace in the region.

Iran definitely enjoys the right to defend against any outside threat and for this purpose operates within the international law which indicates no flying target is allowed to invade Iranian air space.

Iranian officials have repeatedly underlined that the country's missile program and defense capabilities of the Islamic Republic of Iran are not negotiable with any country, under any circumstance.

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has underlined that Iran's missile tests did not violate a nuclear agreement, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), clinched by Iran and the 5+1 countries on July 14, 2015.

Accordingly, Iran's missile launches have never been against the UN Security Council Resolution

2231 that endorsed the nuclear agreement. Resolution 2231 (2015) provides for the termination of the provisions of previous Security Council resolutions on the Iranian nuclear program and establishes specific restrictions that apply to all states without exception.

The resolution calls upon Iran not to undertake any activity related to ballistic missiles designed to be capable of delivering nuclear weapons, including launches using such ballistic missile technology. It does not prohibit legitimate and conventional military activities, nor does international law disallow them, Iranian Foreign Minister Zarif has reiterated.

Iran has never sought to acquire nuclear weapon and never will in the future, as it fully honors its commitment under the NPT and the JCPOA. Iran will continue with its defense capabilities and that these defense capabilities have nothing to do with nuclear weapons.

Invitation of Tender

Engineering, Procurement and Construction of Meybod WWTP

Background:

Petro Farayand Karkheh Development & Engineering Co. intends to open an international tender related to Waste Water Treatment Plant. All interested and reputable EPC contractors (Prospective Bidder) are invited to represent their interest for financing and implementing EPC project. Thereafter, Pre-Qualified Bidders will be issued a request for proposal (RFP) and other Bidding documents.

Scope of Work:

The scope of work includes but not limited to Financing, Engineering Design, Procurement, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of Meybod WWTP Project under the following condition:

- WWTP Process: any kind of activated Sludge
- Construction Period: 18 Months
- Production Capacity: 22,000 m3/day

Who May Apply?

The employer is interested in engaging the EPC contractors with capability to finance the project. The contractor should have technical experience in Designing, Construction, Operation and Procurement of similar plants.

Method of Application

Prospective bidders would be able to access Pre-Qualification Documents from the below Website from 31st of AUG: www.pfkico.ir

Tender documents must be received no later than tender closing time on October 4th

Contact:

For further clarification or enquiries contact us via the following contact detail:
00982122925685-9 info@petrofarayand.ir

Attention:

Please note that this is not an invitation to the tender. The employer shall not be responsible for the costs of any submission. All submissions shall be at the cost of the Prospective Bidders. The employer reserves the right to accept or reject any submission.

Humans have been impacting climate change since 1830

Global warming is a big issue that has no end in sight unless the world comes together to help put it under control. This problem has been around for quite some time, and humans are one of the main reasons why it has become so prevalent.

Nearly 200 years ago, as early as 1830, during the time of the Industrial Revolution, humans were moving away from the old and into a new world, one where life is much better than it was in the past.

Researchers who have been seeking to find a date of when humans truly began to shape the world found evidence among 500 years of tree rings, ice cores and corals to create a natural archive of the Earth's historical temperatures.

Much of what researchers have learned about climate change comes from data collected from instruments designed to monitor temperatures during the time of the 1800s onward.

Still, while these instruments are capable of capturing the many changing conditions in the 20th century, they tend to miss the beginning of the warming trend.

"A lot is known about the climate re-



cord for the time when we have instrumental records," said Nerilie Abram, a climate scientist at the Australian National University. "We wanted to look at whether these records give us the full picture."

■ Tropical oceans

Researchers who have been seeking to find a date of when humans truly began to shape the world found evidence among 500 years of tree rings, ice cores and corals to create a natural archive of the Earth's historical temperatures.

Scientists managed to figure out that air in the northern hemisphere and temperatures in the tropical oceans began to rise during the 1830s. This was during the time greenhouse gas emissions began to rise at an alarming rate. Researchers

first thought that they were looking at the planet rebounding after a period of cooling, but such wasn't the case.

The warming observed was due to the rise of greenhouse gases during the Industrial Revolution, and humans were to blame.

South America, Australia and some parts of Asia began to heat up at around 50 years later. Interestingly enough, Antarctica at the time appeared to have been free from this shift in events.

These results are very important if researchers are to understand the temperature of the Earth before humans began to directly influence the direction of climate change.

A maximum of 25 scientists from across Asia, Europe, the United States and Australia have taken part in this study. Their work was published online in the journal Nature on Aug. 24.

Reading University meteorologist Ed Hawkins said the results gathered in the research show how much information can be gathered from tree rings, corals and other natural material on the planet to help determine past activities regarding climate change.

(Source: The CSM)

Earth has entered first new geological epoch in more than 11,500 years, scientists agree

An international team of researchers say the worldwide spread of plastics, new metals and concrete, combined with manmade climate change, has pushed the planet into the Anthropocene epoch.

While human activity has left visible traces on the Earth since before the current Holocene epoch, which began around 9,700 BC, the scientists argue that the recent changes to global systems are sufficiently simultaneous and significant to justify the adoption of a new geological time unit characterized by human domination.

The Working Group on the Anthropocene (AWG), which is meeting in Cape Town last week, is proposing that the starting date for the new epoch should be set for around 1950.

The group's committee of 35 members voted by a majority of 20 to recognize the new time division as an epoch, rather than the lower ranked age, such as a subdivision of the Holocene, or a higher ranked period like the Jurassic or Cretaceous.

■ Golden spike

The search is now on to find what geologists call a "golden spike", a physical reference point that can be dated and taken as a representative starting point for the Anthropocene epoch.

A river bed in Scotland, for example, is taken to be the representative starting point for the Holocene epoch.

Prof Jan Zalasiewicz, a palaeobiologist at the University of Leicester and a member of the working group, said carbon and nitrogen levels in the atmosphere had remained reasonably steady before the "great acceleration" of the 20th Century.

"Human action has certainly left traces on the earth for thousands of years, if you know where to look," he said.

The "difference between that and what has happened in the last century or so is that the impact is global and taking place at pretty much the same time across the whole Earth."

"It is affecting the functioning of the whole earth system." The concept of an Anthropocene epoch was first

proposed by Nobel-prize winning chemist Paul Crutzen and colleague Eugene Stoermer in 2000.

This week's AWG vote is scientific endorsement that the epoch is geologically real and of a sufficient scale to be considered for formal adoption as part of the International Chronostratigraphic Chart.

Climate change by numbersPlay! 01:18

Prof Colin Waters, principal geologist at the British Geological Survey and WGA secretary, said: "Being able to pinpoint an interval of time is saying something about how we have had an incredible impact on the environment of our planet. The 'concept of the Anthropocene manages to pull all these ideas of environmental change together."

Changes to the Earth system which characterize the potential Anthropocene Epoch include the presence of plastic and aluminum particles and high levels of nitrogen and phosphates in soils, as well as "large-scale chemical perturbations to the cycles of carbon and nitrogen," according to the AWG. (Source: The Telegraph)

TIC Comes 1st at Shahid Rajaei Festival

ECONOMY In a ceremony held to commemorate the Government Week, Telecommunication Infrastructure Company (TIC) stood at first place in Shahid Rajaei Festival in the field of assessing performance and activity among other governmental organizations and departments.

Top and exemplary employees of the ministries and governmental organizations were introduced at the closing ceremony of the prestigious festival which was held in the presence of President Rouhani, members of Cabinet of Ministers, staff and personnel of various organizations, Public Relations Dept. of TIC reported.

As represented by Telecommunication Infrastructure Company, Taher Shams Member of Board of Directors was awarded with a Plaque of Appreciation by Iranian President Dr. Hassan Rouhani.



The Plaque of Appreciation, which was awarded to the Chairman of the Board and Managing

Director of TIC, is read as follows: "The unsparing and unflinching efforts of you and all industrious managers and staff of the respected company are highly appreciated in the current year named after by the supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution as "Resistance Economy, Action and Implementation". The activities and performance of the state-owned companies and organizations were evaluated in two dimensions of general and specific indicators, based on which, Telecommunication Infrastructure Company managed to win the first rank in terms of materialization of objectives of resistance economy. The excellent performance of the company is highly appreciated and we wish evermore success to you and dear colleagues of the company in all stages of life."

National UNESCO Commission Keen to Broaden Cooperation with IMIDRO

ECONOMY United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) voiced its readiness to enhance its cooperation with Iran Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO).

In his meeting with Secretary General of Nations UNESCO Commission Sa'dollah Nasiri Qeydari, IMIDRO Chief Executive Mehdi Karbasian reiterated: "Opportunities available in the mineral field is considered as important capacities and opportunities after oil and gas."

Iran enjoys high mineral and industrial capacities, he said, adding: "For developing this technology in mineral sector, world's most modern technical knowhow

and foreign financial resources coupled with taking advantage of domestic engineers and experts should be taken into consideration."

Elsewhere in his remarks, IMIDRO senior official pointed to the research and development (R&D) in the Organization and said: "It is hoped that his organization will take advantage of research and training capacities of National UNESCO Commission more than ever."

Focusing on safeguarding rights of communities in the field of mines and observing requirements of environmental standards coupled with preserving this God-given resource for the next generation have always been considered by the senior officials of IMIDRO, he maintained.

For his part, Secretary General of Nations UNESCO Commission Sa'dollah Nasiri Qeydari acknowledged readiness of the organization for broadening times in the field of research and training.

Suitable ground has been paved for organizing joint training courses with the cooperation of UNESCO and other developed countries, he said, adding: "Iran enjoys high potential for indigenizing technical knowhow and knowledge in the country."

Shamseddin Siyasiraad IT, Research and Training Director of IMIDRO was the last speaker who said: "Research in the field of environmental impacts of mines should be taken into consideration in line with attaining sustainable development,

reconstruction of mines, geo-parks and also monitoring hazards and risks in mineral sector.

It should be noted that the cooperation agreement was inked between national UNESCO Commission and IMIDRO is the presence of Secretary General of Nations UNESCO Commission Sa'dollah Nasiri Qeydari, IMIDRO Chief Executive Mehdi Karbasian, and Dr. Siamak Khademi Deputy Commission, Dr. Miham Gazani Manager of Natural Sciences Department, Dr. Behzad Mehrabi Member of National Committee for Geology and Geo-park Commission and Eng. Siyasiraad Research and Training Affairs Manager and also Dr. Farhad Farshad IMIDRO representative.

Execution of "FATF" Notified to Banks: Bank Keshavarzi Chief Executive

ECONOMY Implementation of Financial Action Task Force (FATF) was notified to banks by the Central Bank of Iran (CBI).

Managing Director and Chairman of the Board of Directors of Bank Keshavarzi Dr. Morteza Shahidzadeh announced the above statement and said: "All necessary software packages are prepared at the bank in a way that Bank Keshavarzi is leader in this field as compared with other banks."

Given the above issue, the bank runs its activity under the strict supervision of Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance and also Governor of the Central Bank of Iran, he maintained.

Banks should unify their activities with internationally accepted banking criteria, he said, adding: "For this purpose, FATF should be implemented in order to forge interaction



with international banking and monetary system."

Speaking in a news conference on the occasion of government Week, chief executive of the bank said: "His bank will throw his heavyweight on national standard production with the aim of attaining sustainable export." The highest figure in country's economic

growth belongs to the agricultural sector, he said and called on state officials to support objectives of agricultural sector in the country which can guarantee food security and attaining self-sufficiency.

In the end, senior official of the bank pointed to the pioneering and leading role of Bank Keshavarzi in international banking relation arena and said: "The bank had brokerage ties with four foreign bank before implementation of Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), the official title of nuclear deal, the figure of which hit 78 after implementation of JCPOA which indicates brilliant performance of the bank in international arena."

Currently, Bank Keshavarzi has opened Letter of Credit (L/C), worth \$4 billion, expandable to over \$5 billion before termination of the current Iranian calendar year in 1395 (to end March 19, 2017).

NEWS

More than 300 reindeer killed by lightning: Here's why

More than 300 wild reindeer were killed after being struck by lightning in Norway, in what government officials say was an unusually deadly event. It's not uncommon for wildlife to be killed by lightning strikes, but what made this storm so deadly?

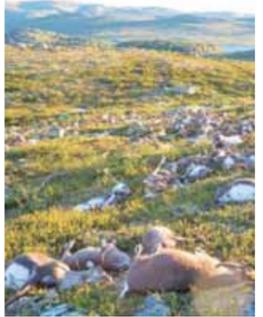
Most lightning deaths that occur in groups are due to the ground current, John Jensenius, a lightning safety expert from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, told The Verge.

"First, there's a direct strike — this is what most people think of when they think of lightning — that hits the tree or maybe the ground nearby," Jensenius said. The "energy then spreads along the ground surface, and if you're anywhere near that lightning strike, you absorb it and get shocked."

The lightning current travels up one leg and down another, Jensenius said, so animals are more vulnerable because their legs are more spread out — the ground currents travel more easily in their bodies.

A total of 323 reindeer, including 70 calves, were killed during a lightning storm on Friday (Aug. 26), according to the Norwegian Environment Agency. Of the 323 reindeer killed, five were euthanized because of their injuries, agency officials said.

The animals were found in Hardangervidda, a national park that is home to an estimated 10,000 wild reindeer, Europe's largest herd. As herd animals, reindeer typically travel together in large groups. Kjartan Knutsen, a spokesman for the Norwegian Environment Agency, told The Associated Press that reindeer tend to stay very close to each other in bad weather, which could explain how so many were killed at once. (Source: Live Science)



Our galaxy underwent burst of activity six million years ago

While the center of our galaxy may be relatively quiet at the moment, a new study shows that the Milky Way underwent a burst of activity just as humans began to walk the Earth.

In adding up our galaxy's mass, scientists noticed a suspicious gap.

"We played a cosmic game of hide-and-seek. And we asked ourselves, where could the missing mass be hiding?" said Fabrizio Nicastro, lead author of a recent study.

Cosmologists estimate that our Milky Way galaxy weighs between one and two trillion times as much as our Sun. While most of that total is in the form of dark matter, one-sixth is thought to be normal matter, including stars and space dust. But that still doesn't account for the galaxy's estimated total weight.

"We analyzed archival X-ray observations from the XMM-Newton spacecraft and found that the missing mass is in the form of a million-degree gaseous fog permeating our galaxy," Nicastro said.

"That fog absorbs X-rays from more distant background sources."

But in solving one mystery, scientists uncovered something they hadn't expected. The fog exists as a "bubble" that extends from the center of the galaxy, propelled outward by a burst of energy from a supermassive black hole at the center of the Milky Way.

The "different lines of evidence all tie together very well," said Martin Elvis, the study's co-author. "This active phase lasted for 4 to 8 million years, which is reasonable for a quasar."

In another major discovery announced over the weekend, cosmologists have observed a galaxy roughly the same size as our Milky Way, but which features very few stars and is instead composed almost entirely of dark matter. (Source: Manila Bulletin)

60% of key S. Asian water basin not usable: study

Sixty percent of the groundwater in a river basin supporting more than 750 million people in Pakistan, India, Nepal and Bangladesh is not drinkable or usable for irrigation, researchers said Monday.

The biggest threat to groundwater in the Indo-Gangetic Basin, named after the Indus and Ganges rivers, is not depletion but contamination, they reported in the journal Nature Geoscience. The "two main concerns are salinity and arsenic," the authors of the study wrote.

Up to a depth of 200 meters (650 feet), some 23 percent of the groundwater stored in the basin is too salty, and about 37 percent "is affected by arsenic at toxic concentrations," they said. The Indo-Gangetic basin accounts for about a quarter of the global extraction of groundwater -- freshwater which is stored underground in crevices and spaces in soil or rock, fed by rivers and rainfall.

Fifteen-to-twenty million wells extract water from the basin every year amid growing concerns about depletion.

The new study -- based on local records of groundwater levels and quality from 2000 to 2012 -- found that the water table was in fact stable or rising across about 70 percent of the aquifer.

It was found to be falling in the other 30 percent, mainly near highly populated areas. Groundwater can become salty through natural and manmade causes, including inefficient farmland irrigation and poor drainage. (Source: AFP)

NEWS IN BRIEF



Charity foundation to create jobs for 100,000 underprivileged

SOCIETY TEHRAN — The Imam Khomeini Relief Foundation is going to create employment opportunities for 100,000 underprivileged, the foundation's CEO has said.

"Last year we spent some 14 trillion rials (nearly \$400m) on creating 120,000 jobs for the deprived help seekers," Parviz Fattah said, YJC reported on Tuesday.

"Our fundamental principle is to help those in distress to stand on their own feet and become self-supporting and no longer live on charity," Fattah highlighted.

Mentioning 650,000 job opportunities created so far he stated that the foundation prefers jobs in good-producing sector rather than service-producing sector.

"We are trying help the individuals to find jobs that suit their personality and build up their self-esteem," he added.

Iran's govt. allots \$30m to infertility treatment

SOCIETY TEHRAN — The Iranian government has allocated some 1.05 trillion rials (about \$30m) to infertile couples' treatment, the deputy health minister said on Tuesday.

The government has pledged to cover 85 percent of the infertility treatment expenses for some two million couples who have difficulty conceiving from August 30, IRNA news agency quoted Mohammad Aqajani as saying.

For instance, Aqajani said, couples who choose to try in vitro fertilization (IVF) to get pregnant would only pay 3 million rials (nearly \$85) for the procedure which in fact costs 20 million rials (nearly \$570) for tree times.

He went on to say that 17 public fertility centers are now operating nationwide six of which are in the cities of Bandar Abbas, Yasouj, Shah-e Kord, Zahedan, Khorram Abad, and Gorgan, which were deprived of any public or private fertility centers so far.

LEARN ENGLISH

Working With the IT Department

Whenever I have a technology problem at work, I try to solve it myself. It's not that I know a lot of about technology. In fact, the **opposite** is true. I'm **pretty much** a **computer illiterate**, but I still try.

Why do I **bother**? The answer is the **IT department** in my company. Every time I **consult** one of the **IT specialists**, they make me feel like an idiot. But this time, I **had no choice** but to **call in** the experts.

Leah: What seems to be the problem here?
Steve: My computer is **acting up** and I can't get this file to open.
Leah: Move. Let me take a look. Ha, of course your computer is acting up. I don't know what you did to it, but it's really **screwed up**.
Steve: I'm not sure how I could have done that.
Leah: Me neither. This is **configured** all wrong. And the reason you can't open this file is because it's **encrypted**. Did that **occur to you**?
Steve: No, I guess I didn't.
Leah: I'll fix everything, but try not to screw it up again.
Steve: I'll do my best.

...
See what I mean?
(Source: eslpod.com)

Words & phrases

- opposite:** as different as possible from something else
- pretty much:** almost completely
- computer illiterate:** to not understand computers, and to be unable to perform simple tasks with them
- bother:** to make the effort to do something
- IT department:** a collection of persons who are experts when it comes to electronic communications of all kinds
- consult:** to ask for information or advice from someone because it is their job to know something
- specialist:** someone who knows a lot about a particular subject, or is very skilled at it; expert
- have no choice:** to not be able to choose between things; left with no options and forced to take a particular action, which is here calling the IT department
- call in:** to ask someone to come and help you with a difficult situation
- act up:** if a machine or part of your body acts up, it does not work properly
- screw something up:** to spoil or damage something by doing something stupid; mess something up
- configure:** to arrange something, especially computer equipment, so that it works with other equipment
- encrypt:** to protect information by putting it into a special code that only some people can read, especially information that is on a computer
- occur to someone:** if an idea or thought occurs to you, it suddenly comes into your mind

Iran a role model for curbing non-communicable diseases

WHO decided to combat these risk factors by taking nine specific measures such as reducing 25 percent of the premature death caused by NCDs until 2025 for age group 30-70 what we call 25 by 25, reducing smoking, increasing physical activity, reducing trans-fat, and providing the essential medication for those suffering from hypertension and diabetes.

(In line with WHO's activities to combat NCDs) in 2015 we established a committee in Iran called National Non-Communicable Disease Committee at the Ministry of Health headed by the Health Minister, Hassan Qazizadeh Hashemi. There are also six subcommittees affiliated with this committee responsible for controlling cancer, cardiovascular diseases, metabolic disorders, air pollution and inter-sectoral collaboration, traffic injuries, and a subcommittee for monitoring and evaluating whole action plan for the NCDs in Iran which I'm responsible for.

The national plan was endorsed by President Hassan Rouhani, Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani, Director-General of WHO Margaret Chan Fu-Chun and WHO Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean Ala Alwan and it was very appreciated by other countries because the action plan is not just limited to one ministry and sector but to other sectors as well.

Right now the committee is going to prepare the provincial action plan by asking the universities of medical sciences to prepare their provincial plan to combat NCDs.

What is this center's objective and goals?

A: The NCDs research center was established four years ago in 2012. We try to provide evidence about the level of the incidence and prevalence of the diseases specifically NCDs to help policy makers decide efficiently and to save resources for the health sector because we have very limited resources. To do so we developed various projects.

There is a study we call National and Sub-National Burden of Diseases (NAS-BOD) deciding the incidence and prevalence of different diseases and now we have data on 290 diseases for both genders for 19 age groups in 31 provinces from 1990 to 2015.

There are also several clinical trials. One which is being led in collaboration with Oxford University is poly-pill, where we put anti-hypertension agents, aspirin, and anti-hyperlipidemia agents together and give it to a person once a day and it can control the NCDs specifically cardiovascular diseases by bringing the prevalence of the disease from 20 percent to 15 percent. We have 27,000 individuals in the control arm and 27,000 in the intervention arm. We compare the final results in these two groups after 5 years to see how they differ in the level of ischemic heart diseases.

Telematics is another project we are working on. It is a very small device which is able to transmit data from a car to our servers and the data that is coming is about the velocity and shocks caused by careless driving and then we analyze these data to come up with a driving score having control and intervention arms (to reinforce the results).



What international bodies this center is collaborating with?

A: The telematics project is in collaboration with Tufts University and John Hopkins University. We've also conducted another project called Global Nutrition and Epidemiologic Transition Initiative (GNET) in collaboration with Harvard University. The project NASBOD is in close collaboration with Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) at the University of Washington in Seattle. We are also conducting a project in Uppsala in Sweden regarding cancer and how the incidence of cancer is different between the Iranian who have migrated to Sweden and Iranian who are living here to remove the effects of genes and see how the environment can decrease or increase the level of the cancer.

We are also working with University of Sydney, Brandeis University and co-conducting two projects with Imperial College London one revolving around risk factors at the global level and the other is about Asthma and COPD using a device on the elderly aged over 60 asking them to re-

port if they experience any discomfort while breathing when they go out as the device that can measure level of pollution.

Additionally we cooperate with different international agencies such as WHO in Geneva, in Cairo, in Iran, UNICEF in Tajikistan, UNHCR in Iran, and UNAIDS in Iran. Moreover we are holding talks to start collaboration with World Bank.

A high-ranking delegation of health officials paid a visit to the center, including WHO Assistant Director-General for NCDs Dr. Oleg Chestnov. What were the outcomes of this visit?

A: The WHO delegation's trip to Iran was to check on the National action plan I mentioned before to see how we did this and that was kind of validation of the reports. They were really impressed by what we did. We had a really productive discussion regarding different parts of the action plan.

Regarding Iran's performance in providing accurate results WHO decided to put Iran in the list of 10 countries as a role model for all other countries after this meeting. They will also send someone from Geneva to help us to make this survey as an example for other countries and also to make sure that all these plans are actually being implemented in the country and are not just on the paper.

How does the center interact with Ministry of Health? What are the obstacles you are facing?

A: Regarding this center's collaboration with Ministry of health we are pretty much smooth. We don't have that much problem still there are problems regarding getting approval for a proposal or getting the finance but it is usual in Iran.

When it comes to human resources there are two problems. One is training and educating them and the other is motivation. I do believe that the level of the motivation among the people in the medical universities who are working on the NCDs is crucial and is pretty much low compared to what we are expecting.



When it comes to human resources there are two problems. One is training and educating them and the other is motivation. I do believe that the level of the motivation is pretty much low compared to what we are expecting. The financial problems are nothing compared to magnitude of the problems with the human resources.

At the provincial level when we are dealing with universities of medical sciences there are serious concerns. I was looking at the lists of the professors that are working in each university and I found that some university professors that had no papers at all. What kind of professor they are who are teaching but have no scientific productions at all?

I think the main task of Ministry of Health is to increase the capacity and knowledge of the personnel for combatting NCDs. I do believe that the financial problems are nothing compared to magnitude of the problems with the human resources.

Where does the finance come from for the center's projects?

A: There are several sources. The major source is the Ministry of Health. The other parts come from other organizations that are concerned with the public health problem. Some of them are international agencies like WHO, UNICEF who give us very small grants. The other parts come from Setade Ejraiey Farmane Imam (literally meaning the Executive Headquarters of Imam Khomeini's Directive).

For some specific projects like clinical trials we get the money from pharmaceutical companies. Also we have several funding sources from outside of the country such as MRC, Wellcome Trust and National Institute of Health (NIH) that gave us a grant but we still are not able to transfer this money to Iran because of the sanctions.

Our lawyers in universities of Oxford and Harvard are working on this to see if it is possible to find a way to convince banks to transfer the money but so far we had no success.

We don't have any experience working with private sector except for some pharmaceutical companies and I actually think that the private sector is not motivated enough to invest on research. But I'm telling for certain that it is not possible for the market to survive without the help of academia and no academia would be able to achieve their goals without the help of market. But there is no correlation between these two in Iran and this makes us to distance from achieving the resistance economy objectives.

What is the utmost goal of this center?

A: What we are hoping to achieve is to reduce premature mortality by 25 percent until 2025. If we implement action plan correctly it is projected that we can reduce that to more than 40 percent but it totally depends on how we are capable to implement this action plan because usually in our culture we are good at designing and demonstrating what we need and setting clear strategies but there is a low level of motivation when it comes to implementation. There are some cultural and social reasons for that and this is another gap we have and when it comes to the implementation of the rules.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

A ↔ ع

Intl. science Olympiad opens today in Tehran

An international Olympiad of math, chemistry and statistics will open today in Tehran's Shahid Beheshti University, Tasnim news agency reported. Starting from Sunday the event will last for five days and students from Russia, Tatarstan, Ukraine, Turkmenistan, Aljazeera, India, Iraq, Poland, and Slovenia along with Iranian students will compete against one another for the first three places. 50 foreign students, 12 foreign professors and 15 Iranian students will take part in the examination. Students will take the exams for two days and get the final results after two days on Thursday and those come into first three places in each field will be awarded with medals on the closing ceremony of the event.

برگزاری المپیادهای بین المللی علمی در تهران

به گزارش تسنیم المپیاد بین المللی ریاضی، شیمی و آمار امروز در دانشگاه شهید بهشتی آغاز می شود. این المپیاد که کار خود را از روز یکشنبه آغاز میکند برای مدت پنج روز به طول می انجامد و دانشجویانی از کشورهای روسیه، تاتارستان، اوکراین، ترکمنستان، الجزایر، هند، عراق، لهستان و اسلوانی همراه با دانشجویان ایران در این المپیاد شرکت می کنند و برای بدست آورد جایگاه اول تا سوم به رقابت می پردازند. ۵۰ دانشجوی خارجی به همراه ۱۲ استاد خارجی و ۱۵ دانشجوی ایرانی در این مسابقات شرکت می کنند. آزمونهای این المپیاد بین المللی از روز یکشنبه آغاز می شود و دوشنبه به پایان می رسد و نتایج آزمون پس از جمع بندی در مراسم اختتامیه روز پنجشنبه اعلام می شود. در مراسم اختتامیه نیز به نفرات اول تا سوم مدال اهدا می شود.

ENGLISH PROVERB

A loaded wagon makes no noise

Explanation: really wealthy people do not talk about money
For example: Alex: Did you know that Richard is filthy rich? He seems really humble. Bob: Yes you are right, a loaded wagon makes no noise.

PHRASAL VERB

Bang about/ around

Meaning: to move around a place, making a lot of noise
For example: We could hear them banging about upstairs.

ENGLISH IDIOM

All hell broke loose

Explanation: if you say that all hell broke loose, you mean that there was a sudden angry or noisy reaction to something
For example: All hell broke loose when it was announced that the plant was going to close down.

It gets darker earlier these days in the northern Iraqi town of Qayyara, which the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Daesh) terrorist group abandoned about a week ago after setting fire to many of the region's oil wells.

Smoke billowing into the sky during a Reuters visit blotted out the sun in central districts hours before nightfall, producing an apocalyptic scene in this desert settlement which lacks electricity amid 49-degree Celsius (120°F) temperatures.

The Iraqi military's recapture of Qayyara, along with a nearby airbase in July, is the latest and most significant advance in a United States-backed push to Mosul, the largest city under the ISIL control anywhere in its self-proclaimed caliphate.

Baghdad wants to retake Mosul before the end of the year, which it says will effectively end the militants' presence in Iraq more than two years after they seized a third of its territory. Some officials from countries in the U.S.-led coalition supporting the Iraqi forces have said that timeline may be too ambitious.

Yet the loss of Qayyara certainly dealt a blow to ISIL, which had extracted oil from some 60 wells and sold it to help finance its activities.

The ISIL used to ship at least 50 tanker truckloads a day from Qayyara and nearby Najma oilfields to neighboring Syria. A sign remains on the main road announcing prices of crude in places like the Syrian city of Aleppo, 550 km (340 miles) west of Qayyara.

Rudimentary refineries once used to refine oil for local consumption have been abandoned on the side of the road leading east out of the town.

The smell of petrol now overwhelms the area, wind carrying the smoke from well fires into the town center. More than a few minutes in the area leaves one's throat burning, and children walking the streets have quickly developed coughs.



Oil fires cast black cloud over Iraqi town retaken from ISIL

Iraq says it has put out fires at four oil wells in the Qayyara region, but Reuters could not locate any such efforts at the wells closest to residential areas.

Around a dozen separate plumes of smoke were still distinguishable across the horizon as night fell, when a convoy of fire trucks approached the town.

It was not immediately clear how long it will take to extinguish the flames. When Iraq's military torched hundreds of Kuwaiti oil wells in 1991 ahead of advancing U.S.-led forces, most fires burned for around two months but some wells were not capped for almost a year.

The oil ministry said it does not expect to resume production from the Qayyara region before Mosul's recapture. The two main fields, Qayyara and Najma, used to produce 30,000 barrels per day of heavy crude before the takeover by the ISIL.

People in the streets

Despite the well fires, Qayyara remains full of inhabitants. Whereas civilians in most other areas recaptured

from ISIL fled ahead of or during government offensives the majority of Qayyara's roughly 20,000 residents have stayed put.

A counter-terrorism officer said that was partly due to the speed with which the army recaptured Qayyara, surprising the ISIL terrorists before they were able to dig in. Qayyara is also located near a military airfield, so many residents in the area have relatives in the army.

With no power and no more fear of punishment from ISIL's harsh rule, much of the population was in the streets on Monday, waving to military vehicles that handed out basic supplies like cooking oil, sugar and canned food.

Children flashed peace signs and some played in the black reflective pools of oil that spilled into main streets after ISIL blew up pipelines and wells next to a main hospital in a likely attempt to obstruct visibility for coalition air strikes.

Commanders are confident electricity

can be restored soon in Qayyara and said booby trapped streets and buildings are less of a concern than they were in the western cities of Ramadi and Falluja.

"We surrounded them quickly, so they didn't have time to lay many IEDs (improvised explosive devices)," said the officer from the elite counter-terrorism service (CTS), which spearheaded the Qayyara operation along with the army's 9th armored division.

"There were a lot on the main street they thought we would use to enter but instead we came in from the desert."

The militants still managed to put up a fight, he said, quickly mustering five vehicle-borne IEDs to attack the forces.

The approach to the city shows signs of the fighting that followed, with many buildings collapsed by aerial bombardment. The U.S.-led coalition said it had launched more than 500 air strikes in support of Iraqi forces, nearly as many as in last year's battle for the much larger city of Ramadi.

Qayyara and its nearby airbase - where the bulk of a 560-strong U.S. troop reinforcement will be based - will form the main staging base for the anticipated offensive on Mosul, 60 km (35 miles) to the north.

Many neighborhoods in Qayyara appear mostly or completely intact, and civilians, many of whom appeared to have recently shaved the beards that ISIL requires men to grow, said they feel safe in their homes.

After showing off the body of an ISIL terrorist crushed when the building he was in was hit by an air strike, two men from Qayyara alerted soldiers to a possible suicide bomber hiding in a nearby home, which they proceeded to investigate.

A hundred meters from the decomposing corpse, a well fire burned, spewing smoke and bright flashes into the sky.

(Source: Reuters)

JUMP

No big change of tack in Turkish foreign policy after coup: expert

➔ If Russia were to operate out of Incirlik, this might cause some strain among troops stationed at the base, but is unlikely to affect Turkish relations with NATO over time. Members of NATO have made it clear that Turkey is an important ally and closer ties with the Russians will not change this. It does make some of the other NATO countries a little skittish, but this is a function of Turkey attempting to establish closer ties with Russia and not directly related to the offer to use the airbase. NATO is wary of Russia due to recent aggressive actions by the country, but if anything this is strengthening NATO rather than diminishing the strength of the alliance.

Do you think improving relations between Iran and Turkey after the coup will make inroads into the Syrian crisis?

A: While the Turkish-Iranian relationship has improved somewhat after the coup, it is doubtful that this will be particularly helpful in dealing with problems in Syria. Iranian forces would face difficulties in combat operations, but would specifically have problems being integrated into current operational planning and the actual operations of coalition forces for a variety of reasons. They have not been part of operational planning and have no history of working with coalition forces including United States or regional military forces. This would limit their usefulness in helping to resolve the conflict in Syria. Iran continues to contribute to the fight against the Islamic State in certain geographic areas, but integrating forces into operations in and near Syria are more problematic. I do not see improved relations as contributing to the resolution of the conflict in Syria.

How bilateral ties between the U.S. and Turkey will be influenced by Fethullah Gulen's extradition?

A: The Turkish government has been trying to extradite Gulen for years now, and the United States is unlikely to hand him over to Turkey now. The Secretary of State made it clear that the request would have to go through the normal administrative channels and there is no reason the United States will decide to extradite him without clear and convincing evidence that he was involved in illegal activities. This evidence is lacking and the United States will not extradite individuals for political prosecution. Fortunately, this is unlikely to have a significant effect on Turkish-American relations since the countries are strong allies and the United States and NATO fully support Turkey. The Turkish government, or certain elements of it would like to have him extradited, but I do not feel this is a priority for them therefore it is unlikely to cause much strain in the relationship between the two countries.

Taliban appoint military chief as the new leader settles in

The Taliban have appointed a new military chief as the insurgents try to gain more ground in Afghanistan rather than talk peace under a new leadership, Taliban officials said in telephone interviews.

They said that the appointment of Mullah Ibrahim Sadar, once a close ally of Taliban founder Mullah Mohammed Omar, heralds a commitment to confrontation at a time when multiple governments are trying to coax the Taliban to the negotiating table.

Sadar is a battle-hardened commander, who gained prominence among Taliban foot soldiers following the movement's overthrow in 2001 in the United States-led invasion. The two officials both spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly for the Taliban.

Sadar's appointment coincides with an uptick in Taliban attacks against Afghan security forces. The United States has sent additional troops to Afghanistan's southern Helmand province, where its capital, Lashkar Gah, is under pressure. The provincial council head Kareem Atal earlier said roughly 80 percent of Helmand is already under Taliban control.

So far this month, Taliban fighters have attacked Afghan security forces in northern Kunduz province, briefly taking control of a district headquarters. The militants also overran a district in northern Baghlan province and in eastern Paktia province. Meanwhile, in eastern Nangarhar province, Taliban militants are fighting pitched battles with security forces. Afghanistan's Ministry of Defense says its security forces are waging operations in 15 provinces.

Mohammad Akbari, a member of Afghanistan's High Peace Council, which is tasked with talking peace with insurgent groups, said there has been no progress in talks since Taliban leader Mullah Akhtar Mansour was killed in a U.S. drone strike in May in Pakistan. Mansour was succeeded by Mullah Haibatullah Akhundzada, and the notorious Haqqani network gained a prominent role in the leadership structure.

The Haqqani network, which has been branded a terrorist organization by the U.S., has been behind some of the most brutal attacks in the past 15 years of war in Afghanistan. The Haqqanis are wealthy, and able to attract funding even as competition among Islamic organizations grows. With their recent ascendancy in the Afghan Taliban, the Haqqanis have moved to unify the fractured insurgency.

"I can't see any green light toward peace by the Taliban for Afghanistan and instead we have seen an increase in their fighting in the provinces," Akbari told The Associated Press.

Since Mansour's death, Pakistan's Interior Ministry has launched a stepped-up campaign to verify the identity of roughly 1.5 million Afghans living in Pakistan, many possessing Pakistani identity cards, some legally obtained and others illegally acquired. Mansour was carrying a Pakistani passport and identity card under an alias. (Source: AP)

Brazil: Defiant Dilma Rousseff appears at Senate trial

Brazil's suspended President Dilma Rousseff has appeared before the Senate to testify at her impeachment trial, denying allegations of breaking budget rules and saying the future of the country was at stake.

"My government made mistakes, but never betrayed voters," she said on Monday. "I did not commit the crimes that I am accused of in an arbitrary and unjust manner."

Rousseff is accused of having taken illegal state loans to patch budget holes.

The suspended president reiterated her claim that the trial was a "coup d'etat" aimed at removing her from office and destroying her Workers' Party.

"There is no justification for removing me from power," she said.

"I am innocent. I am an honest person and I have never committed a crime."

She later made a reference to her imprisonment and torture by the military dictatorship in the 1970s for belonging to a far-left group.

"I was very strong then, and at almost 70, I am still strong now," Rousseff said.

She explained that she previously refused to resign, because she was committed to democracy and the rule of law.

"This has been a very dramatic beginning to the trial as many Brazilians expected," said Al Jazeera's Lucia Newman, reporting from the capital, Brasilia.

"But Rousseff did not say one thing that everyone was expecting to hear; she did not say what would have happened, what would be different, if she were to be reinstated."

Earlier on Monday, Rousseff, 68, was greeted by



cheering supporters as she arrived at the Senate to testify for the first time in her defense, just hours before senators were to start voting on her fate.

"Dilma, warrior of the Brazilian homeland," the crowd of supporters shouted.

Momentum to push her out is also fuelled by deep anger at Brazil's historic recession, political paralysis and a vast corruption scandal centered on state oil giant Petrobras.

Rousseff came to the senate accompanied by heavy-weight allies, including her presidential predecessor Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, and a dozen former cabinet members.

A small crowd of loyalists gathered from early morning outside the Senate and supporters shouted "Dilma come back!" from cars as they drove past the building's entrance.

Closing arguments will begin after her testimony on Monday, followed by voting, possibly extending into

Wednesday.

Opponents say they will easily reach the necessary two-thirds majority, 54 of 81 senators, to remove her from office.

In that case, Rousseff's former vice president turned political enemy, Michel Temer, will be confirmed as president until elections in 2018.

Temer, from the center-right PMDB party, has already been acting president since May. He is hardly more popular than Rousseff, according to opinion polls.

Temer faces harsh questioning over his legitimacy as an unelected president and was loudly booed at the recent Olympic opening ceremony in Rio de Janeiro.

The impeachment case rests on narrow charges that Rousseff took unauthorized state loans to bridge budget shortfalls during her 2014 election to a second term.

Allies have spent the Senate trial arguing that these loans were nothing more than stop-gap measures frequently employed by previous governments.

Opponents, however, have broadened the accusation to paint Rousseff's loans as part of her disastrous mismanagement, contributing to once-booming Brazil's slide into recession.

Brazil's economy shrank by 3.8 percent in 2015 and is forecast to drop a further 3.3 percent this year, the worst performance since the 1930s.

Inflation stands at about nine percent and unemployment at 11 percent.

Rousseff's side says that decline was caused by forces far beyond the president's control, notably a worldwide slump in commodity prices, which hit exports hard.

(Source: agencies)

The Danish PM is seeking an emergency law to reject asylum seekers at borders

The Danish government on Tuesday proposed adoption of a law that would enable police to reject asylum seekers at the borders in times of crisis such as that in 2015 when thou-

sands of migrants sought to enter the country.

Denmark has already implemented tough immigration policies since a heavy influx of refugees last year, including bor-

der controls and a "jewelry bill", allowing the police to confiscate refugees' valuables.

The government seeks to create a statutory power to reject asylum-seekers

at the border to prevent a recurrence of the refugee crisis in September last year, the Ministry for Immigration, Integration and Housing said.

(Source: Reuters)

Libya ships out last stocks of chemical weapons

Libya has shipped the last of its chemical weapons stocks out of the country under a United Nations-backed plan to ensure the arsenal does not fall into the wrong hands, officials say.

An unnamed senior Libyan security official said on Tuesday that the stocks were shipped to Germany on a Danish vessel on Saturday from the western port of Misrata.

"We as Libyans did not want these weapons, especially during the current security situation and with the presence of ISIL (Islamic State In Iraq and the Levant/Daesh) in the region," AFP quoted the security official as saying.

Meanwhile, the deputy prime minister of Libya's Government of National Accord (GNA), Mussa el-Koni, has confirmed the operation, which took place under the supervision of the UN-backed Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW).

The deputy prime minister added that the stocks had been stored in the central Jafa area, about 200 kilometers (125 miles) south of Sirte, where Libyan pro-government forces are battling the ISIL terrorists.

The move will ease fears that extremists such as ISIL could gain access to the weapons in the violence-racked country.



The Danish government had earlier this month offered to send a container vessel, support ship and 200 staff to handle the operation.

In an emailed statement, the OPCW has said, "We are not in a position to disclose operational details of an ongoing effort."

The OPCW, specified, however, that the stocks in question "are industrial chemicals in wide use as well as precursor chemicals that are several stages away from being actual chemical weapons."

A German Defense Ministry spokesman said the ship-

ment, which contains "about 500 tons of toxic chemical products," would arrive in Germany "in the coming weeks."

The spokesman added that the arsenal would be destroyed by GEKA, Germany's state-owned company for disposing of chemical weapons.

The UN Security Council on July 22 unanimously endorsed a resolution calling on the international community to assist the destruction of chemical weapons in Libya, where ISIL has gained a foothold over the past months.

The 15-member council authorized UN "member states to acquire, control, transport, transfer and destroy chemical weapons ... to ensure the elimination of Libya's chemical weapons stockpile in the soonest and safest manner."

Libya, which joined the UN convention on eliminating chemical weapons in 2004, has been dominated by violence since a NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) military intervention followed the 2011 uprising that led to the toppling and killing of longtime dictator, Muammar Gaddafi.

ISIL has taken advantage of the political chaos in Libya to increase its presence there.

(Source: agencies)

TENNIS

Djokovic advances but new concerns rise over fitness

Novak Djokovic opened the defence of his U.S. Open title with a 6-3 5-7 6-2 6-1 win over Poland's Jerzy Janowicz on Monday, but the laboured performance gave rise to fresh concerns about the world number one's fitness.

After a sizzling start to the season that brought grand slam wins No.11 and 12 at the Australian and French Opens, Djokovic's form has plummeted, with a third-round loss to Sam Querrey at Wimbledon followed by a first-round exit at the Rio Olympics.

The Serb might have been in trouble on another day at Flushing Meadows but Janowicz, ranked 246 places below Djokovic, has advanced from the first round just once in four previous U.S. Open visits and looked unlikely to do it again on Monday.

Djokovic, a U.S. Open finalist five of the last six years, next faces Czech Jiri Vesely, a five-set winner over Indian qualifier Saketh Myneni.

Djokovic arrived in New York having been hampered by a left wrist injury and distracted by undisclosed "private matters" and on Monday trainers were called out early in the opening set to work on his right forearm.

Several times during the two hour, 37 minute match, Djokovic could be seen grimacing when hitting his powerful forehand, while his serve rarely looked threatening, stuck at around 100 mph.

"It was just prevention, it's all good," Djokovic told reporters. "Look, each day presents us some kind of challenges that we need to accept and overcome."

"After all I've been through in the last couple of weeks it's pleasing to finish the match and win it."

Up 3-2 in the opening set, Djokovic called for a medical time out during the changeover as Janowicz took a seat in the stands while the world number one had his forearm massaged.

When play resumed, Djokovic immediately broke the pole and held serve on way to taking the first set.

But in the second frame Djokovic's discomfort became even more evident as he double faulted and then sent a wild forehand long as Janowicz broke to take control and level the match.

Normal service was resumed in the third and Djokovic moved in for the knockout punch, breaking Janowicz to open the fourth before wrapping up the match.

The year's final grand slam got off to a glitzy Hollywood-style start, with a performance from Phil Collins to mark the arrival of the \$150 million retractable roof at the stadium.

"It's hard to put on show after Phil Collins," said Djokovic, before breaking into one of Collins' hits during his on court post-match interview. "The U.S. Open is the most entertaining grand slam."

"It was wonderful to come back and play a night session that is undoubtedly the most special night session we have in our sport."

(Source: Reuters)

Arsenal's Serge Gnabry to join Bayern and move to Bremen on loan - father

Serge Gnabry's father has confirmed the Arsenal winger is set to join Bayern Munich before moving to Werder Bremen on loan.

Sky Sport in Germany had reported on Tuesday morning that Gnabry, who impressed for Germany at the Olympic Games, was set to return to his homeland with Bayern and make a temporary switch to Bremen.

Asked to confirm the report, the player's father, Jean-Hermann Gnabry, told Stuttgarter Zeitung: "Yes, it's like that."

German publication kicker reports that Bayern will pay more than €8 million (£6.8m) to sign Gnabry.

Gnabry's Arsenal contract is due to expire at the end of the season and Arsene Wenger had said he wanted to prolong the deal.

The 21-year-old, who joined Arsenal from Stuttgart five years ago, is highly rated but has struggled to make an impact at club level so far.

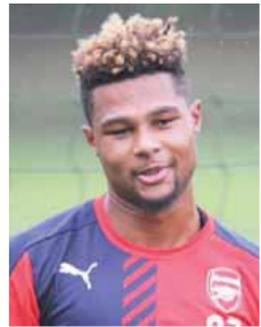
Gnabry made nine league appearances as an 18-year-old in the 2013-14 season, when the Gunners struggled with injuries, but then missed the following campaign with his own fitness problems.

He was sent on loan to West Bromwich Albion last season, but was only given one league appearance by Tony Pulis before returning to Arsenal in January, spending the rest of the campaign playing for their under-21s.

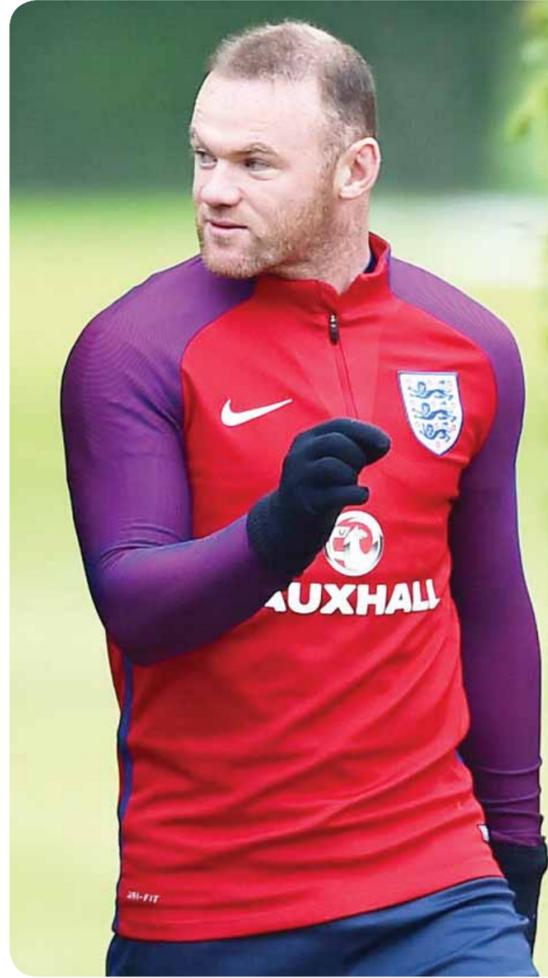
Several German clubs, including Hertha Berlin and Schalke, had expressed an interest in signing Gnabry on loan this season.

Schalke sporting executive Christian Heidel said last week: "All Bundesliga clubs except Bayern are looking at him."

(Source: ESPN)



Wayne Rooney to retire from England after 2018 World Cup



England captain Wayne Rooney has confirmed that the 2018 World Cup in Russia will be his last act in international football.

Rooney, 30, kept hold of the England captaincy as new manager Sam Allardyce named his first squad since replacing Roy Hodgson as boss ahead of the opening 2018 World Cup qualifier in Slovakia on Sept. 4.

And the Manchester United forward, who played as a deeper-lying midfielder at Euro 2016, told a news conference that he would retire from international football at the age of 34.

"Realistically I know myself that Russia will be my last opportunity to do anything with England. Hopefully I can end my time with England on a high," he said.

"I said before the Euros I enjoyed playing in this team, and that's the case still. There were some questions about whether I should stop playing, but I am looking forward to getting back on the pitch."

"I made my mind up before the Euros, whether we did well or not, that I was going to continue. I've had nothing to think about since then. My mind is made up... Russia will be my last tournament."

Having been deployed as a mid-fielder at Euro 2016, where England were sent home by minnows Iceland, eyebrows were again raised when Allardyce's squad to face Slovakia included Rooney's name among the midfielders.

Allardyce moved to clarify Rooney's position in Monday's news conference, stressing he was still considered an attacking player, and the former Everton striker insists he is happy playing anywhere for his country.

"It's the manager's decision," added Rooney. "We haven't spoken about that, in the next few days we'll speak about it more, whether it's as a mid-fielder or attacker."

"It's only a day we've been together, but you can see he's a relaxed guy, and since we've been here the camp has been good. It's just a matter of getting on the training pitch."

"I'm looking forward to getting back on the pitch. We have bad memories from the last game obviously. We have to put it behind us."

"It was disappointing the way we went out of the tournament, you can't forget it, but it's a new era for us, a new manager."

(Source: ESPN)

Barcelona, Luis Enrique agree to delay new contract talks



Barcelona and coach Luis Enrique have agreed to put off talks on a contract extension until early next year, club President Josep Maria Bartomeu said.

Luis Enrique is in his third season in charge of Barca and recently said he would only consider his future at the end of the campaign when his current deal runs out.

Barca are determined to keep the 46-year-old, who has won eight trophies out of a possible 10 in his two years as coach, beyond next year.

"We will not discuss Luis Enrique's renewal now or at Christmas," Bartomeu told local radio station Catalunya radio.

"The right time will be in February or March as he said that he didn't want to talk about it until the end of the season."

"Now we are thinking about the domestic league and the Champions League."

Luis Enrique, a former Barca player, won the treble in his first season at the Nou Camp and in his second they successfully defended the La Liga title and

retained the King's Cup.

Barca are also planning to offer new deals to forwards Lionel Messi and Luis Suarez, and midfielder Ivan Rakitic before the end of the year.

Croatian Rakitic is under contract until June 2019, just like Uruguayan Suarez, who scored 40 goals in La Liga last season to win golden boot as Europe's leading scorer for the second time in his career.

Messi is Barca's all-time top scorer and his deal expires in June 2018.

"We will speak to Messi just as we will talk to Suarez and Rakitic," Bartomeu said. "We will do so in the next few months because we want them to renew their contracts."

No player is more precious for Barca than the 29-year-old Messi, who is under contract until June 2018.

"Leo is the world number one," Bartomeu said. "Leo is very strong, he is a winner and he has come back better than ever."

"He is looking forward to making the fans happy."

(Source: Reuters)

Bastian Schweinsteiger: MLS an option but Man United stay is my dream



Manchester United midfielder Bastian Schweinsteiger insists that his "dream" would be to stay at Old Trafford but hinted at a future move to Major League Soccer in the United States.

Schweinsteiger, 32, was signed by United last summer by previous boss Louis van Gaal but the arrival of Jose Mourinho saw the Portuguese coach exclude him from the first-team squad and tell him to look for a new club.

The former Bayern Munich midfielder said in a statement last week that United would be his last club in Europe, and pledged he would be ready to play if called upon by Mourinho.

"My absolute dream would be to play for Manchester United and help them reach their goals," Schweinsteiger told a news conference ahead of his final match for Germany, a friendly against Finland in Monchengladbach on Wednesday.

"We've held talks. I don't have a problem with Jose Mourinho. We had a good

exchange, he explained his standpoint to me. I know what Manchester United want. But I also know what I want. You will have to wait and see what happens in September, October. It's a respectful dialogue. I will definitely not stop playing football."

"One thing is for sure: I'm not going to stop playing football. I still believe in my own ability. I could still help United if given the chance."

Regarding a move to the U.S., he added: "The transfer window there is already closed. That's why it's not possible now."

"My dream still is to play for Manchester United. If I get a fair chance, I believe in it. I believe in my abilities. Until my suspension it went really well last year, after that the two injuries happened. But America is naturally an option."

Meanwhile, Schweinsteiger has said he is looking forward to his final Germany match on Wednesday and admits he will miss joining up with his country.

(Source: Soccernet)

Hart joins Torino on season-long loan deal - agent

Manchester City goalkeeper Joe Hart has joined Serie A side Torino on loan until the end of the season, the player's agent confirmed on Tuesday.

The 29-year-old has been out of favour at Manchester City since the arrival of new manager Pep Guardiola and dropped to number three in the pecking order behind 17 million pound signing Claudio Bravo and Willy Caballero.

Hart's agent Jonathan Barnett told Tuttosport: "Yes, Joe Hart will play at Torino. It's done."

"He has said 'yes' to the club and now Manchester City have given the OK. It's all true, it's certain."

Hart is on international duty with England this week but

has been given permission to fly to Italy to resolve his future with the British media reporting that he was due to arrive in Turin later on Tuesday.

A loan move to Premier League Sunderland was also listed among his options in the media but Hart has opted for a new start in Italy, where he will become the first English goalkeeper to play in Serie A since the league began in 1929.

Torino thrashed Bologna 5-1 on Sunday in their latest Serie A start and are seventh in the standings on three points after two matches.

(Source: Reuters)



Asia's final twelve seek early advantage on the road to Russia 2018



This coming Thursday will see Asia's twelve remaining Russia 2018 hopefuls do battle across the length and breadth of the continent in the hope of getting off to the perfect start in the final Group Stage.

Group A

Iran v Qatar Azadi Stadium, Tehran

Iran have regularly had the better of Qatar in recent years and haven't lost to their West Asian counterparts in a competitive encounter since 1997, but Qatar have shown steady improvement and were the equal highest scorers in the first Group Stage with 29 goals.

Team Melli's squad is one of considerable quality; midfield stars Ashkan Dejagah and Andranik Teymourian are still going strong and the young talent in Carlos Queiroz's squad is equally exciting.

Wingers Alireza Jahanbakhsh and Mehdi Torabi have already shown their quality on the Asian stage, as has 21-year-old starlet Sardar Azmoun, who has been in sparkling form for FC Rostov in UEFA Champions League qualifying.

Azmoun's 19-year-old Rostov teammate Saeid Ezatollahi became Iran's youngest international goalscorer when he found the net against Turkmenistan in the first group stage of 2018 qualifying.

Qatar's 3-0 promising win friendly win over Thailand last week suggests they will arrive at one of Asia's most imposing venues, the Azadi Stadium, confident of a favourable result against Asia's highest-ranked national team.

Veteran striker Sebastian Soriano netted a hat-trick in Qatar's 3-2 win over Jordan a week earlier, and the 32-year-old is now within four caps of Wesam Rizik's all-time national team appearance record.

Korea Republic v China Seoul World Cup Stadium, Seoul

The Taeguk Warriors haven't missed a World Cup for over thirty years, appearing in eight successive tournaments since 1986, and Uli Stielike's current crop are widely expected to continue that streak by qualifying for Russia 2018.

By way of contrast, China have tasted

the rarified air of the World Cup finals just once, on Korean soil in 2002, but football is undergoing a rapid growth in the world's most populous country, one that would be enhanced further by a second appearance on the global stage.

Korea Republic were the only team to win all eight matches in the first Group Stage, scoring 27 unanswered goals in the process, and their squad includes Europe-based stars Son Heung-min, Ki Sung-yueng and Koo Ja-cheol as well as uncapped 20-year-old striker Hwang Hee-chan.

China's squad all play for locally-based clubs, except for 19-year-old Vitesse forward Zhang Yuning, with red-hot Shanghai SIPG winger Wu Lei likely to cause headaches for the Korean defence.

Wu is no stranger to the majority of Korea's defenders, four of whom play for Chinese Super League clubs themselves.

Uzbekistan v Syria Bunyodkor Stadium, Tashkent

Uzbekistan recovered from a shock 4-2 loss to DPR Korea to comfortably advance from the first Group Stage and give themselves another shot at history in 2018 after narrowly missing out on qualifying for their first ever FIFA World Cup four years ago.

Their opponents, Syria, defied the odds, and immense obstacles at home, to win six from eight matches in the first Group Stage, and qualify for Asia's final 12 as one of the best runners-up.

Uzbekistan feature an imposing mix of experienced stars such as former AFC Player of the Year Server Djeparov and long-term goalkeeper Ignaty Nesterov as well as a new wave of young talent, headlined by Beijing Guoan pair Igor Sergeev and Egor Krimets.

Syria are largely devoid of such high-profile names, but possess a genuine goal threat in Omar Khribin. The 22-year-old has already scored seven goals on the road to Russia 2018 and looms large as Syria's key player in the first competitive meeting between the two nations since the 1996 AFC Asian Cup.

Group B Australia v Iraq

Perth Rectangular Stadium, Perth

Like Qatar, Ange Postecoglou's team scored 29 goals in the first qualifying Group Stage, but a poor performance in a home friendly loss to Greece in June brought the 2015 AFC Asian Cup winners down to earth somewhat.

Still, Australia are undoubtedly a force to be reckoned with.

Goalkeeper Mat Ryan is closing in on undisputed number one status at Valencia, China-based central defensive pairing Trent Sainsbury and Matthew Spiranovic complement Postecoglou's game plan perfectly, creative midfielders Tom Rogic and Aaron Mooy are making waves in the United Kingdom, and the Socceroos still have all-time top scorer Tim Cahill at their disposal.

Cahill, who has just joined Melbourne City in the A-League, is one of just two locally based players in a 23-man squad spread throughout Europe and Asia.

Iraq's squad features a number of players fresh from a promising, but ultimately frustrating Rio Olympics campaign where three draws, including one against gold-medallists Brazil saw them eliminated in the group stage.

Saad Abdulameer was the outstanding player of Iraq's Rio 2016 campaign and he will be joined by talents like England-based Yaser Kasim and Udinese star Ali Adnan.

Interestingly, Iraq will feature a player with Australian citizenship in their ranks; Pohang Steelers recruit Ali Abbas holds dual nationality after spending seven years playing in Australia's A-League.

Japan v United Arab Emirates Saitama Stadium 2002, Saitama

On a fixture list brimming with quality and interest across Asia, the Japan-United Arab Emirates meeting is, perhaps, the most-see game of the opening Matchday.

Mahdi Ali's Emirati team pulled off one of the shocks of the 2015 AFC Asian Cup by eliminating the star-studded Samurai Blue on penalties after a 1-1 draw in Sydney, and will be hopeful of an equally strong performance in Saitama.

History aside, each team features genuine stars of Asian football and the likes of

Keisuke Honda, Shinji Kagawa and Shinji Okazaki going to head to head with Omar Abdulrahman, Ali Mabkhout and Ahmed Khalil is a mouthwatering prospect for fans of the Asian game.

Japan recovered from an early 0-0 draw with Singapore to comfortably advance from the Group Stage and are expected by many to qualify for a sixth successive FIFA World Cup, while United Arab Emirates haven't appeared on world football's biggest stage since 1990.

With a highly talented generation of players reaching their peak, 2018 may be the tournament that breaks the drought for the Emiratis, but the journey begins with one of the most challenging away trips in Asian football.

Saudi Arabia v Thailand King Fahd International Stadium, Riyadh

Once regular qualifiers for the FIFA World Cup, Saudi Arabia missed out of South Africa 2010 and were eliminated in the first Group Stage of qualifying four years later, but will be looking to return to the big stage in Russia.

The Saudis have been impressive so far in qualifying, winning a tricky group - with a last-gasp win over United Arab Emirates in Jeddah, and prolific striker Mohammad Al-Sahlawi's 14 goals the highlights.

Their opponents, Thailand, are looking to become the first team Southeast Asian team to appear at a FIFA World Cup since Indonesia (as Dutch East Indies) broke new ground in 1938.

The War Elephants - under the stewardship of former star player Kiattisak Senamuang - surprised many in the first group stage by going unbeaten, and topping a group featuring Iraq, Vietnam and Chinese Taipei.

Recent warm-up matches have seen sharply contrasting results for the two sides, with the Saudis thumping Laos 4-0, while Thailand suffered a 3-0 defeat at the hands of Qatar.

Interestingly, in something of a rarity in modern international football, every player in each of the two squads plays their club football on home soil.

(Source: AFC)

VOLLEYBALL

Iran climbs to 7th place in FIVB World Ranking

TIPS Iran national Volleyball team has climbed to seventh place in the latest FIVB Men's Senior World Ranking.

Iran have moved to 7th place with 163 points ahead of World's giants like France, Serbia and Canada. Iran has collected 50 points at Rio 2016 Olympic Games, 32 points at 2016 World League, 25 at 2015 World Cup as well as 56 points at 2014 World Championship.



Iran volleyball team who qualified for the Olympics for the first time in history made a great performance by finishing fifth in the tournament. The Persians even advanced to the quarterfinals where they lost 3-0 to the tournament's silver medalist Italy.

Meanwhile, USA moved three places up in the world ranking after they finished with a bronze medal in Rio 2016, while Olympic silver medalists Italy held on to the No.4 position.

London 2012 gold medalists Russia failed to get a medal in Rio de Janeiro, as they lost grip of the bronze medal against USA; and dropped two places to No.5.

Argentina reached the Olympic quarterfinals but lost to their South American rivals Brazil. However, they retained their hold on the No.6 position with their joint-fifth finish in Rio 2016.

After a breakthrough performance in 2015, France somehow lost its drive as they only managed a joint-ninth finish in the Olympic Games. The European squad, however, still moved up two places in the world ranking at No.9.

Egypt had the biggest leap in the rankings as they scaled eight places to reach No.12, while Cuba also jumped from No.17 to No.14.

NORCECA squad Mexico also made a break through, as they entered the top 20, which was a leap of seven places.

African team Ghana made the biggest drop of 17 places in the men's world ranking.

Iran vanquishes Kyrgyzstan 9-0 in AFC U-16 Women's Championship 2017 qualifier

Iran's national under-16 football team has thrashed Kyrgyzstan in its second showdown at the preliminary round of Asian Football Confederation (AFC) U-16 Women's Championship 2017 Qualifiers.

On Monday, the Iranian squad, which had sustained a 3-0 defeat against Bangladesh two days earlier, routed the Kyrgyz contingent 9-0 in a Group C game staged at Bangabandhu National Stadium in the Bangladeshi capital city of Dhaka.

The Iranians started the match vigorously, and asserted their dominance from the beginning.

It was in the 18th minute that forward Fatemeh Ghaseemi grasped a fine opportunity and placed the ball at the back of the Central Asians' net to open up the scoring for the Persians.

Midfielder Maral Torkaman doubled Iran's lead eight minutes later, and Fatemeh Makhdomi scored the third goal for Iran in the 42nd minute.

Roghayeh Jalal Nasab netted the fourth goal of the day for the national Iran under-16 football team two minutes into the injury time.

After the interval, Iranians continued to exert pressure on Kyrgyzstan's net, and Ghaseemi scored a brace in the 54th minute.

Ghaseemi was on the target in the 71st and 80th minute and made it 6-0 for the Iranian outfit.

Another goal by Makhdomi in the 85th minute and Ghaseemi's fifth goal two minutes later took the score to 9-0.

Iran's national under-16 football team is pitted against Chinese Taipei, Bangladesh, United Arab Emirates, Kyrgyzstan and Singapore in Group C of the AFC U-16 Women's Championship 2017 Qualifiers.

Thailand, Myanmar, Jordan, Guam and Laos form Group A. Group B consists of South Korea, India, the Philippines, Malaysia and Northern Mariana Islands.

Uzbekistan, Australia, Vietnam, Hong Kong, Palestine and Iraq are drawn in Group D.

Each group will play a one-round league. The winner from each group (total four teams) will qualify to the finals (eight teams in total).

If Thailand finish top of their group in the qualifiers, the second-placed team from the same group will also qualify to the final competition.

(Source: PressTV)

Iran opens doors to women motorcyclists



TIPS The Motorcycle and Automobile Federation of the Islamic Republic of Iran (MAFIRI) has allowed the Iranian women to take part at the motocross race.

Mahmoud Seydanlou, the head of Iran's Motorcycle and Automobile Federation, paid tribute to the motorcyclists women at the Azadi complex motocross race in Tehran.

"We hope to see the Iranian women in

the country's championships. It can pave the way for our women to participate at the world championships. The talented women are interested in taking part in the sport and we are happy in order to facilitate them to participate in the sport," Seydanlou said.

State-run television rarely shows women's sports events though many Iranian women are avid sports enthusiasts and practitioners.

Iran World Cup qualifier slogan: "All Iranians for Team Melli"



TIPS TEHRAN — Iran national football team revealed its slogan ahead of the Qatar match, scheduled for Thursday.

Team Melli will host the Qatar football team in Group A of the 2018 FIFA World Cup Qualifiers in Tehran's Azadi Stadium.

The Iranian bus slogan has been revealed on Monday in the training

session in Tehran's Azadi Stadium.

South Korea, Uzbekistan, Syria and China are in the group as well.

Group B consists of Japan, Iraq, Australia, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Thailand.

The top two teams of each group will qualify for the 2018 FIFA World Cup, and the two third-placed teams will advance to the fourth round.



Poem of the day

"Why are you crying? You're the companion of an emperor! The entire nation is ranged out before you like stars that you can command!"
Rumi

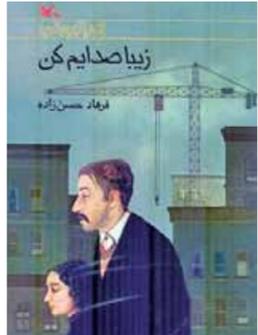
Prayer Times

Noon:13:05 Evening: 7:51 Dawn: 5:09 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:36 (tomorrow)

NEWS

Iran announces nominations for IBBY list

T A R T TEHRAN — The Children's Book Council of Iran has submitted four books to the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY) to register on the List of Outstanding Books for Young People with Disabilities 2017.



"Call Me Ziba" by Farhad Hassanzadeh are among the books that Iran submitted to IBBY to register on the List of Outstanding Books for Young People with Disabilities 2017.

The nominations include books specifically published or thought suitable for children with disabilities and books that feature disabled characters.

"The Red Short-Legged Hen" (author Parvin Dowlatabadi), made for disabled children by Setareh Eqtedari, "Call Me Ziba" written by Farhad Hassanzadeh, "Straw Hat" by Mostafa Kharaman and "Watch out! Take care of Rats... and others" by Seyyed Ali Shojaei are the four selected books.

Hassanzadeh, along with illustrator Pejman Rahimizadeh and children's literature expert Turan Mirhadi, has been nominated for the 2017 Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award, a prestigious Swedish honor to promote children's and youths' literature in the world.

In addition, the council has announced that researcher and historian on children's literature Zohreh Qaeini has been elected as member of the IBBY Executive Committee 2016-2018.

Qaeini was president of the 2008 and 2010 Hans Christian Andersen Award Jury.

Ammar festival honors Iranian filmmakers

T A R T TEHRAN — The Third Ammar International Popular Film Festival (AIPFF) honored three Iranian filmmakers for their anti-U.S. movies during a ceremony held at the Ibn-e Sina Hall of the University of Tehran on Tuesday.



Masud Jafari-Jozani, director of "Stone Lion", Behruz Afkhami "The Day of Satan" and Hossein Zandbaf "The Hand of Satan" received their lifetime achievement awards at the ceremony, Persian media reported.

In addition, Chilean filmmaker, screenwriter and novelist Miguel Ernesto Littin Cucumides, who was the guest of honor at the festival, was honored at the program.

Moreover, Littin's "Allende en su Laberinto" (Allende in his Maze) was screened for the audience before the ceremony.

"Allende in his Maze" was produced in 2014. It is an account of the last seven hours of the life of former democratically-elected Chilean President Salvador Allende and his close allies inside the Palace of La Moneda, during the brutal, U.S.-backed military coup d'état on September 11, 1973.

Revolutionary figures including Nader Talebzadeh, Abolqasem Talebi, Masud Shojai-Tabatabai and Ensieh Shah-Hosseini were among the participating guests.

The Ammar festival was established to take a global view of cultural, socio-economic, environmental and political issues that may endanger peace, freedom and justice in the world. It is named after Ammar Yasir, a close companion of Prophet Muhammad (S).

The third edition of the festival ran from August 24 to 26.

Vikander, Fassbender's love story powers "Light Between Oceans"

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) — What's a better bet than a Hollywood weepie based on a best-selling book? When the stars fall in love in real life while filming it.

That's the draw of "The Light Between Oceans," a heart-wrenching tale based on M. L. Stedman's 2013 novel of the same name that stars Oscar-winner Alicia Vikander and Michael Fassbender. It opens in U.S. theaters on Friday.

The story, set in Australia in the 1920s, is the tragic tale of a lighthouse keeper (Fassbender) and his wife (Vikander), who have suffered two miscarriages when a baby in a boat washes ashore their remote island. They decide to raise the child as their own, until they meet the child's real mother years later.

Sweden's Vikander, 27, one of the most sought-after young actresses even before winning an Oscar in February for her supporting role in "The Danish Girl," had briefly met Fassbender a year before filming on the movie began in New Zealand in late 2014.

Iranian cartoonist wins grand prix at Brazilian exhibition

T A R T TEHRAN — Iranian cartoonist Alireza Pakdel won the grand prix trophy Zelio Gold at the 43rd International Exhibition of Piracicaba Humor in Brazil, the organizers announced Saturday.

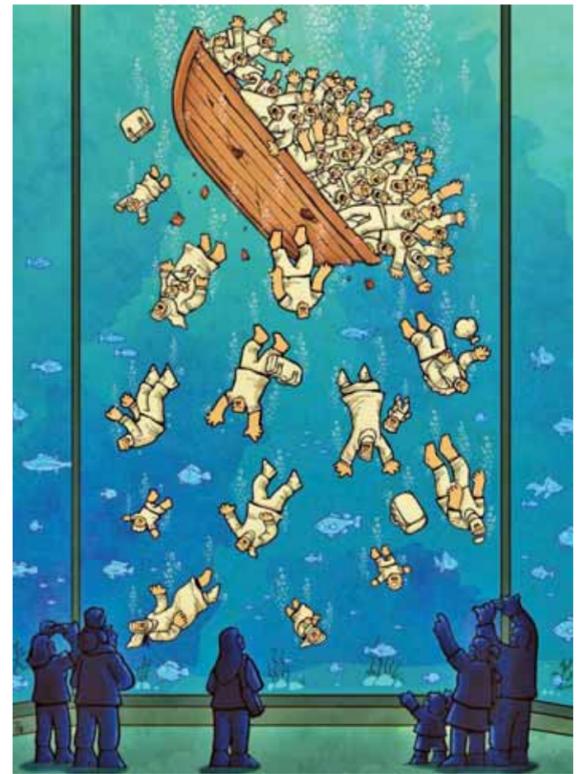
He received the prize for his untitled work, which shows some European people watching a group of Middle Eastern refugees drowning in an aquarium.

This work also brought Pakdel first prize in the Charge Category dedicated to works with journalistic themes.

Winners were announced during the opening ceremony of the exhibition, which will run until October 8.

Pakdel's fellow artists, Nasrin Abdosheykhi and Mojtaba Heidarpanah, were also honored at the exhibition. Abdosheykhi won the first prize in the caricature category while Heidarpanah received an honorable mention.

In addition, Brazilian artist Ronaldo Cunha Dias received first prize in the cartoon section and Uzbek cartoonist Mohammad Ali Khoshkam won first prize in comic strips section.



This untitled cartoon by Alireza Pakdel won the grand prix trophy Zelio Gold at the 43rd International Exhibition of Piracicaba Humor in Brazil.

"Salesman" premieres in Iran today

T A R T TEHRAN — Asghar Farhadi's acclaimed drama "The Salesman" is having its countrywide premiere today.

Members of the movie's cast and crew are scheduled to attend the initial screening at Tehran's Kurosh Cineplex.

The movie is about Emad (Shahab Hosseini) and Rana (Taraneh Alidusti) who move into a new flat in the center of Tehran. An incident linked to the previous tenant dramatically changes the young couple's life.

"The Salesman" scooped the awards for best screenplay, written by Farhadi, and the Palme d'Or for best actor, won by Shahab Hosseini, at the 69th Cannes Film Festival.



Taraneh Alidusti acts in a scene from "The Salesman". (Photo by Habib Majidi)

Tickets for the first week of screenings at some of Tehran's theaters have already been sold out.

San Francisco Iranian filmfest set for Sep. 24, 25

CULTURE TEHRAN — The 9th Annual Iranian Film Festival in San Francisco is scheduled to be held on September 24 and 25.

A lineup of acclaimed movies, including "A Dragon Arrives" directed by Mani Haqiqi, "A Very Ordinary Citizen" by Majid Barzagar and "The Buffalo" by Kaveh Sajjadi Hosseini, will be screened at the festival.

The organizers plan to pay tribute to the recently-diseased Iranian filmmaker Abbas Kiarostami. "Tickets" directed by Kiarostami, Ermanno Olmi and Ken Loach is



scheduled to go on screen during a special program.

The festival also plans to commemorate Nureddin Zarrinkelk, a pioneer of animation cinema in Iran.

PICTURE OF THE DAY Honaronline/Yasmin Ravi



An art aficionado visits an exhibition of works by a group of august Iranian artists, including Aidin Aghdashlu, Mohammad Ehsai, Nasser Ovisi and Parviz Kalantari, at Tehran's Mah Gallery on August 29, 2016. The exhibition runs until October 1 at the gallery located at 26 Golestan Blvd., off Africa Ave.

Sculptor Neshan Tanik dies at 77

T A R T TEHRAN — Christian Iranian sculptor Neshan Tanik died of heart failure at his home on Tuesday. He was 77.

The sculptor who was of Armenian origin, was born in Urumieh, West Azarbaijan Province, and began to learn the art of sculpture when he was only 12. He later studied with many masters and made good progress.

Tanik was the founder of many museums across the country. Sculptures of Kamalolmolk, a court painter during the reign of Qajar king Nasser ad-Din Shah, and contemporary poet Shahriar are among his noteworthy credits.

His body will be buried in the Armenian graveyard in Tehran's Khavaran neighborhood on Thursday.

Gene Wilder, star of "Willy Wonka", "Blazing Saddles", dead at 83

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) — Gene Wilder, whose wild curls and startling blue eyes brought a frantic air to roles in the movies "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory", "Young Frankenstein" and "Blazing Saddles", died on Monday at the age of 83, his family said.

Wilder, whose best work included collaborations with director-writer Mel Brooks and actor-comedian Richard Pryor, died at his home in Stamford, Connecticut, from complications of Alzheimer's disease, the family said in a statement.

Wilder's nephew, Jordan Walker-Pearlman, said the actor had chosen to keep his illness secret so that children who knew him as Willy Wonka would not

equate the whimsical character with an adult disease.

Wilder's barely contained hysteria made him a go-to lead for Brooks, who cast him in "Blazing Saddles", "Young Frankenstein" and "The Producers" in the 1960s and '70s.

"Gene Wilder - one of the truly great talents of our time. He blessed every film we did with his magic & he blessed me with his friendship," Brooks said on Twitter.

Besides his classic collaborations with Brooks, Wilder paired memorably with comedian Richard Pryor in hits "Silver Streak" and "Stir Crazy".

Wilder also was active in promoting ovarian cancer awareness and treatment

after his wife, "Saturday Night Live" comedian Gilda Radner, whom he married in 1984, died of the disease in 1989.

He helped found the Gilda Radner Ovarian Cancer Detection Center in Los Angeles and co-founded Gilda's Club, a support organization that has branches throughout the United States.

Born Jerome Silberman to Russian immigrants in Milwaukee, Wilder studied at the Bristol Old Vic Theatre in Bristol, England, and then studied method acting at the Actors Studio.

A leading role in a play that also starred Anne Bancroft, who was dating her future husband Brooks, led to Wilder becoming a top member of Brooks'

stock company of crazies, some of whom branched out with Wilder into other film ventures.

Wilder's first movie role was a small part as a terrified undertaker who was abducted by Bonnie and Clyde in Arthur Penn's 1967 film of the same name.

The following year he was panic-stricken Leo Bloom to Zero Mostel's conniving Max Bialystock in Brooks' "The Producers", picking up an Oscar nomination for best supporting actor.

While it initially got a tepid response, the movie with its over-the-top song "Springtime for Hitler", went on to become a cult favorite and, years later with a different cast, a monster hit on Broadway.