

# TEHRAN TIMES

Repeating unfounded claims won't change historical facts, Iran tells UAE



16 Pages | Price 10,000 Rials | 38th year | No.12658 | Monday | SEPTEMBER 26, 2016 | Mehr 5, 1395 | Dhul Hijjah 24, 1437

## Yemen air strike kills nine family members

A House of Saud regime's air strike in Yemen killed nine members of the same family, including several children, on Sunday in the southwestern city of Ibb, witnesses and medics said.

Eleven neighbors were also wounded when the family's house, on the southern edge of the mountain city, was hit during a night of intense Saudi air strikes, witnesses said. Medics at the city's main hospital confirmed they had received nine bodies, including those of women and children.

The air strikes came amid growing international criticism of the House of Saud regime over the mounting toll of civilian casualties in its campaign against the defenseless Yemeni people.

Since the coalition intervened in March last year, government forces have pushed rebels out of five southern provinces, including the port city of Aden.

Earlier, Saudi jets attacked the Kamaran district and an Air Force Base in Yemen's western and coastal province of Hudaydah and the Political Security Office in the northwestern province of Sa'ada.

The House of Saud regime has been incessantly pounding Yemen since March 2015, with the United Nations putting the death toll from the military aggression at about 10,000. The offensive was launched to reinstate Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi, a Saudi staunch ally who has resigned as Yemen's president.

(Source: agencies)

## Europeans united with Iran against U.S.: Nahavandian

**POLITICS** TEHRAN — Presidential spokesman Chief of Staff Mohammad Nahavandian has said that the European countries have joined Iran in its criticism

against the United States for failing to respect its obligations under the nuclear deal, officially called the JCPOA, ISNA reported on Sunday.

"Once the European countries were against us, but now, they have joined the Islamic Republic in its criticism of the Americans over the JCPOA," Nahavandian said. →2

## Iran launches mass production of missile with 700-km range



Ministry of Defense

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## 'Clean caves day' added to Iran's environmental calendar

**SOCIETY** TEHRAN — Iran's environmental calendar has registered September 23 as the clean caves day on its national environmental calendar.

"With the purpose of raising public awareness about the value of caves and creating a culture of protecting these ecosystems we have decided to mark September 23 as the national clean caves day," said Asghar Mobaraki, an official with the Department of Environment.



Alisadr cave, Hamedan Province

To underline the importance of caves a working group tasked with protecting these valuable heritage was formed in 2010, the Department of Environment website quoted Mobaraki as saying.

"Caves are not only great historical heritage to us but are natural habitat to species endemic to these ecosystems and some wild animals' lives such as bats, bears and leopards depend on them," he added.

"Over the past two years we've taken some practical measures in preserving and managing the caves," he said.

Drawing up, adopting and enforcing instructions for protecting the caves in the current year, forming working groups for preserving caves at provincial level, holding numerous workshops nationwide, and cleaning up some 100 caves with participation of some 2,000 spelunkers and speleologist which has also resulted in being lauded by the International Union of Speleology are of the measures taken by Iran to protect the caves, Mobaraki highlighted.

## Great power rivalry have made UN ineffective: academic

William Beeman says 'UN troops are not proactive'

**INTERVIEW** By Javad Heirannia

TEHRAN — Head of the anthropology department at the State University of Minnesota believes that the rivalries between great powers, especially those between the United States and Russia, have made the United Nations unable to be an influential player in ending bloody conflicts like the one in Syria.

"For example, Russian and the United States both have different interests in Syria, and so a UN Peacekeeping force would have to have the agreement of both Russia and the United States, since both have veto power in the Security

Council," Prof. William O. Beeman tells the Tehran Times.

Following is the text of the interview:

**■ Do you agree that the United Nations has not been very successful in managing or resolving major global crises? If so, why?**

A: The United Nations has been successful in the past in achieving cease-fires and maintaining them in several conflicts. The most important was in the long conflict in the former Yugoslavia in the 1990s. However recent crises have had more limited success. The fact is that the United Nations has not initiated a peacekeeping operation in the last few years, the most recent



operations have been in Africa—in Mali and in the Central African Republic. (Until next year), the current mission in the South Sudan has been marred by misconduct on the part of the UN Troops.

United Nations peacekeeping missions have to be authorized by the UN, and are almost always post-conflict deployments involving the monitoring of cease-fire

agreements. What this means is that UN troops are not proactive. They only come in after the fighting is over. Occasionally they are deployed when there is a threat to civilian life. Because they must be authorized by the Security Council, they are also caught up in political conflicts between Security Council members. For example, Russian and the United States both have different interests in Syria, and so a UN Peacekeeping force would have to have the agreement of both Russia and the United States, since both have veto power in the Security Council. Since 2012 it has not been possible to get that agreement. <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/missions/unsmis/> →13

## Iranian theater troupes line up for Armenia High Fest

**ART** TEHRAN — Eight Iranian theater troupes will perform during the 14th High Fest International Performing Arts Festival, which will be held in Yerevan, Armenia from October 1 to 8.

"Immortality" by director Nima Dehqan, "Macbeth" by Ofoq Iraj and "What Time Is It?" by Elaheh Purjamshid will go on stage in various sections of the festival, the organizers have

announced.

"Bride of the Acacias Clusters" by Meisam Sadra and "The Third person" by Ehsan Kheirmand will also be performed in the official competition.

Aria group led by Zohreh Behruzinia will stage "And He Said: You Will See Today You Will See Tomorrow and the Day After Tomorrow" in the puppet theater section. This section will also host Deemak theater group led

by Albert Beigiani for "The Suitcase and the Lapdog".

Director Keivan Nakhai's troupe Moalef will also stage "The Wastes" in the street performance section.

In addition, Nakhai is scheduled to hold a workshop on acting in street performances.

Over 50 plays from 20 countries will be staged during this edition of the festival.

## Nature schools to double in Iran by March

**SOCIETY** TEHRAN — Nature schools in Iran will be doubled by the end of the current Iranian calendar year, falling on March 20, an official with the Department of Environment has said.

"So far 20 nature schools are up and running in the cities of Tehran, Rasht, Mashhad, Tabriz, Kermanshah, Hamedan, and some other cities, and we are planning on increasing them to 40, twice as many as the current number by the end of the year," Mohammad Darvish said, ISNA



news agency reported on Sunday.

"We have to bring up a generation who will not trade on natural resources and that would happen in nature schools," Darvish said, adding, "These schools can also create job opportunities for the experts in the field of environment."

Nature school is not interfering with the normal school operating under Education Ministry's supervision, rather it is a place for the children to spend their free time and enjoy environmental activities there with their parents.

## Australian trade minister to lead a business delegation to Iran this week

Australian Trade Minister Steven Ciobo is leading a business delegation to Iran this week in a bid to secure an early advantage for Australian companies looking for deals as the market of 80 million people re-enters the global economy.

The trade mission to Tehran is the first to the Islamic republic by an Australian trade minister since 2002,

and follows the trip by Foreign Minister Julie Bishop in April in which she sought to recalibrate the relationship.

Mr Ciobo will use his visit to talk about trade with his Iranian counterpart, Mohammad Reza Nematzadeh, and reopen Austrade's office in Tehran to help Australian companies in doing business in Iran.

Executives from GrainCorp,

WorleyParsons, LiveCorp, Oil Search, Qantas, Sydney University and Rubicon Water will travel with Ciobo tomorrow.

"Now that the UN and in particular the U.S. have brokered an agreement with Iran, the opportunity now is for economic reintegration," he said.

"In many respects this is going to provide with me an insight of

the world view inside Iran and we'll provide an indication of what future opportunities there might be on an economic and trade front."

Ciobo said that promising opportunities for Australia were to be found in mining and mining services, food and agribusiness, health and medical services and education and training.

(Source: theaustralian.com.au)

## Korean cultural festival bringing more pleasant autumn to Tehran

By Manijeh Rezapoor

TEHRAN — Tehran will have an exceptional opportunity to become acquainted with Korean art and culture at a festival that will span the entire season of autumn.

The festival focusing on cultural, sports, academic and even economic events, has been organized to mark Korean National Day, which falls on October 3 every year.

The vice minister of culture, sports and tourism of South Korea, Kwan-Joo Jung, who is expected to arrive in Tehran on Friday, will be visiting parts of the festival, South Korean Ambassador Kim Seung-ho told the Tehran Times on Saturday.

"The Embassy of Korea has arranged more than 17 events to put emphasis on cultural activities between Iran and Korea to make relations more stable," he added.

The festival taking place in Tehran's Milad Tower will begin this afternoon with a presentation of Korean TV dramas.

A selection of modern Korean paintings will next be shown beginning on September 27 and running until October 2. →16

## Saudis sees legitimacy tied to U.S. support: Zarif

Iran's foreign minister says the Al Saud regime is doing everything to keep the support of the United States as the kingdom sees its existence tied to such patronage.

Mohammad Javad Zarif made the remarks in a Saturday meeting with US-based Iranians in New York, where the 71st Session of the United Nations General Assembly is underway.

"The attitude maintained by some regional rulers like the Saudis is so that they risk life and limb not to lose US support and keep lobbying them [the Americans] as they consider all their legitimacy and existence to be tied to US backing," he said.

The likes of the monarchy rely on foreigners, instead of their own people, to ensure their own safety, he said. "That is what separates them from us."

"Why don't regional countries enjoy security like us despite all the weapons they buy? Because they do not have democracy and their nations' support," stated the top Iranian diplomat.

Iranians have, however, refused to bow to pressure and threats, said the Iranian minister.

"Iranian people are our security," said Zarif, stressing that sanctions "cannot separate Iranians from their causes and beliefs."

He further said the Islamic Republic has now returned to positive economic growth as it managed to turn to its advantage the same sanctions that caused fluctuations in global oil prices.

The economic progress came about, "while we are yet to witness [all] the positive consequences of the JCPOA due to the United States' addiction to sanctions," he concluded.

Zarif was using an acronym for the 2015 deal on the Iranian nuclear deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Actions, under which Tehran agreed to roll back certain aspects of its nuclear program in exchange for the removal of its nuclear-sanctions.

Some international banks, however, still shy away from financing trade deals and processing transactions with Iran fearing U.S. penalties.

(Source: Press TV)



MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS



**Saudi Arabia deletes Mina crash data: ISNA**

**POLITICS TEHRAN** — Saudi Arabia just deleted the data related to the 2015 Hajj stampede, ISNA reported on Sunday.

The deletion took place one year after the incident took hundreds of lives including more than 460 Iranians, the news agency said.

The Saudi government removed the data from its health ministry website this week.

On the Saudi health ministry's website, which the country had last year named as the only official account for information of the victims, there exists no more data about the tragedy, the news agency observed.



**Russia seeking Iran's long-range drone technology: top commander**

**POLITICS TEHRAN** — The commander of Iran's General Staff of Armed Forces said on Sunday that Russia is seeking to use Iran's technology in manufacturing long-range drones.

Mohammad Baqeri broke the story as he was addressing a ceremony marking the new academic year in the National Defense University.

"We have long-range drones which can target positions with one-square-meter surface. Russians are seeking the knowhow for making these drones," the general remarked.

Elsewhere in his speech, he said Iran owes much of its scientific progress to the war that Iraq imposed on the Islamic Republic in the 1980s.



**Iran-Italy war game does not mean cooperation with NATO: Tehran**

**POLITICS TEHRAN** — Iran's Navy commander said on Sunday that a joint drill on Saturday with an Italian warship doesn't mean Iran is cooperating with NATO.

However, this was an important event indicating the European countries' interest to form maritime relations with the Islamic Republic, Habibollah Sayyari told IRINN TV on Sunday.

Iran's Navy hosted an Italian warship in southern port city of Bandar Abbas on Saturday and also Iranian warships will most likely visit Italian ports in the near future, he added.



**'Rouhani's UN speech put U.S. in passive position'**

**POLITICS TEHRAN** — The secretary general of the Society of Islamic Solidarity has said President Hassan Rouhani's speech at the UN General Assembly "put America in the passive position."

"They had nothing to say anymore which indicates the Islamic Republic of Iran's successful foreign policy," Mohammad Hosseini Montazer told IRNA on Sunday.

Elsewhere he said Rouhani and Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif's smiles "are signs of victory".

He praised Rouhani and Zarif's side meetings in New York, saying they showed "Iran's power".



**Rouhani to visit Armenia**

**POLITICS TEHRAN** — Armenia's ambassador to Tehran told a press conference on Sunday that Iranian President Hassan Rouhani will visit his country in the near future.

Artashes Tumanyan did not give an exact date for the trip, Fars reported.

Tumanyan also referred to the Karabakh conflict, saying, "Iran's position on the issue of Karabakh is very sensitive and decisive."

The Armenian diplomat also said that Armenia will hold a special exhibition in Tehran from October 5 to 8.



**Syrian parliament speaker to visit Tehran Monday**

**POLITICS TEHRAN** — The Majlis speaker's special advisor for international affairs has said that Syrian Parliament Speaker Hadih Khalaf Abbas will pay an official visit to Iran on Monday.

"Hadih Khalaf is the first female parliament speaker invited by her Iranian counterpart Ali Larjani to come to Tehran," Amir-Abdollahian said on Sunday, ICANA reported.

He pointed out that the Syrian parliament speaker will discuss the latest parliamentary and political ties with Iran during her visit to Iran.

# Rouhani calls Kenya a friend of Iran

## Expanding ties with Africa is Iran's 'principled policy', president says

**POLITICS TEHRAN** — Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said on Sunday that expanding and deepening ties with the African countries, especially Kenya as a friendly country, is Iran's principled policy.

"Tehran welcomes expansion of Tehran-Nairobi cooperation in economic sphere," Rouhani said during a meeting in Tehran with Justin Bedan Njoka Muturi, the speaker of the National Assembly of Kenya.

Rouhani added, "Kenya is a friendly country to the Islamic Republic of Iran in Africa and the ground to increase cooperation between the two countries has been provided after the conclusion of the JCPOA (the official name for nuclear deal) and removal of sanctions."

He said that Iran is ready to help Kenya in energy sphere and suggested that the Nairobi government can facilitate investment by Iranian private sector.



Rouhani also highlighted the importance of expanding relations in areas of science, technology and tourism.

Elsewhere, he attached importance to expansion of parliamentary relations.

Commenting on terrorism, Rouhani described the issue as an "international problem" and called for eradicating it.

Iran and Kenya can cooperate in fighting terrorism, he added.

For his part, Muturi said that Kenya is determined to expand ties with Iran in various areas.

He added that implementing the JCPOA has laid the ground to expand relations with Iran.

Iran and the 5+1 group (the five permanent members of the UN Security Council plus Germany) finalized the text of the JCPOA in July 2015. The nuclear agreement took effect in January 2016.

## Iran launches mass production of surface-to-surface missile with 700-km range

**POLITICS TEHRAN** — Iran on Sunday officially launched the production line of a surface-to-surface ballistic missile with a range of 700 kilometers.

The missile called Zolfaqar uses solid-fuel technology. The missile is capable of hitting its target with a pin point accuracy.

The mass production of the missile was launched as Iran is marking the anniversary of its "sacred defense" against the invading Saddam Army in 1980.

The missile is capable of evading jamming signals in electronic warfare.

Defense Minister Hossein Dehqan attended the launching ceremony.



## Europeans united with Iran against U.S.: Nahavandian

Iran and six world powers — the United States, Britain, France, China, Russia and Germany — signed the JCPOA on July 14, 2015, thereby resolving a long-running dispute over Iran's nuclear program.

Under the agreement, Iran has agreed to roll back some of its nuclear activities, and in return, the six world powers pledged to terminate all nuclear-related sanctions against Iran.

However, as Nahavandian and other Iranian officials have said on numerous occasions, some international banks still steer clear of making trade deals and processing transactions with Iran, fearing a U.S. penalty.

Nahavandian accused Washington of not keeping its side of the bargain. "The banking sanctions against Iran have been lifted, but none of the big banks are eager to enter Iran, due to the fact that the primary U.S. sanctions against Iran are still in place."

"Iran, on the other hand, has taken a laudable stance by fulfilling all of its commitments," the top official said.



He went on to say, "The big European banks are worried that their presence in Iran could lead to U.S. penalties."

Nahavandian, an economist educated in the U.S., added that the Europeans want the financial risks to be eliminated, so that they can expand ties with Iran.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Nahavandian said that Iran seeks to expand ties with countries that want to have friendly relations with Tehran.

"As the Supreme Leader have stated, whoever extends the hand of friendship, Iran would accept it," Nahavandian remarked.

## Regional states duty bound to fight terrorists: Larjani

**POLITICS TEHRAN** — Iranian Majlis Speaker Ali Larjani said on Saturday that all the countries in the Middle East region are duty bound to fight the terrorist groups.

"Some regional countries' support for the terrorists has undermined security in Iraq and Syria," he said during a meeting with Iraqi Planning Minister Salman Ali Al-Jumaili in Tehran.

Larjani highlighted the importance of finding "diplomatic" and "political" solution to crises in the region.

He also said that historic and religious commonalities between Iran and Iraq are "firm support" for expanding political, parliamentary, economic and cultural relations.

He said that removing banking obstacles, facilitating economic interaction between the private corporations and wavering visa for the Iranian and



Iraqi pilgrims will help expansion of economic and cultural interaction.

For his part, the Iraqi minister highlighted the importance of removing obstacles to expand relations between the two countries in various areas.

Al-Jumaili also praised Iran for sharing its experiences in fighting terrorist groups.

The Iranian and Iraqi people are "like brothers" and Iran's supports have been effective in countering extremism and Takfiri ideology in Iraq, the minister said.

## Salehi visits Vienna to partake in IAEA conference

**POLITICS TEHRAN** — Ali Akbar Salehi, chief of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, arrived in Vienna on Sunday to participate in the 60th General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), IRNA reported.

The annual conference is set for Sept. 26-30 at the Vienna International Centre (VIC), where high-ranking officials and representatives from IAEA member states will consider a range of issues.

At the meeting, IAEA members will deliberate on the agency's work in the previous year, set priorities and review budgetary matters.

At the opening session, IAEA Director General Yukiya Amano will report on the IAEA's work and achievements since last year and also mark the major achievements



of the body since its establishment 60 years ago.

Earlier this year, Amano invited Iran to participate actively in the agency's activities and meetings following the implementation of the JCPOA, a nuclear deal that was clinched between Iran and six world powers last year.

Amano stressed that the IAEA has found "no indication of diversion in Iran's nuclear program" since the official implementation of the JCPOA on January 16, 2016.

## Repeating unfounded claims won't change historical facts, Iran tells UAE

Foreign Ministry spokesman says UAE has turned into a war provocateur

**POLITICS TEHRAN** — The Iranian Foreign Ministry cautioned the United Arab Emirates on Sunday that repeating unfounded claims against Iran will not change "historical facts."

The statement by the Iranian Foreign Ministry came as UAE Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah, in a speech to the UN on Saturday, repeated his country's ownership claims over the three Iranian islands of Abu Musa and Greater and Lesser Tunbs in the Persian Gulf and accused Tehran of "aggravating conflicts" in

the Middle East.

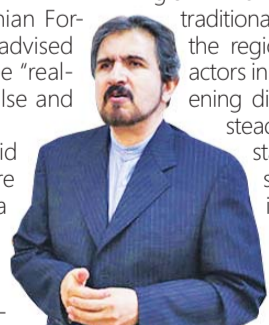
Bahram Qassemi, the Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson, advised the UAE foreign minister to be "realistic" and "avoid repeating false and unfounded accusations".

The spokesman also said the UAE has taken a departure from its past and turned into a war provocateur.

"The Emirati foreign minister is making efforts to accuse others of destabilizing the re-

gion while Abu Dhabi has abandoned its traditional conservative role in favor of the region's war mongering extremist actors in recent years and sought deepening divisions and provoking war instead of reducing tension," Qassemi stated. He added that Iran considers support for Takfiri terrorism as the main reason behind the crises in the region.

Qassemi highlighted the importance of adopting "realistic" and "anti-violent



policies by the regional countries to "pass the current turmoil".

According to the UN News Center, Sheikh Abdullah said, "Regional interference in Arab affairs, mainly perpetrated by Iran, the only country in the world with a constitution that explicitly calls for exporting its revolution, has aggravated conflicts in the region."

The foreign minister also claimed that Iran's policies are violations of the principles of sovereignty, and constant interference in the internal affairs of its neighboring countries.

## Iran computerizing trip to Arba'een, the biggest human gathering

**POLITICS TEHRAN** — Iran has devised a computerized procedure for those who would like to apply for a visa for the Arba'een pilgrimage.

Arba'een is a Shia mourning ceremony held at the shrine of Imam Hussein (AS) in Karbala, Iraq.

The event was named the biggest human gathering of all history when it drew some 20 million mourners from various countries in 2015. The religious observation falls on October 20 this year.

Those who have not applied on the special website designed for the purpose will not be allowed to go on the pilgrimage, Mohsen Nezaefati, a Hajj and Pilgrimage Organization official, said on Sunday.

This year the fee that they have to pay for the visa is \$40, plus 250,000 rials (about \$7) for medical insurance, he said.

Last year and the year before situations verged on chaos around border checkpoints between Iran and Iraq as huge numbers of people stormed the passages to

go to Karbala. Official records said over 2 million Iranians visited Karbala for Arba'een in 2015. But unofficial reports said many people made the pilgrimage without a visa.

This year no one will be able to go on the journey without acquiring a visa and signing up on the website, the official underlined.

Many saw last year's Arba'een as a show of solidarity in the face of repeated terrorist attacks by Daesh which still holds swathes of land in Iraq.



# 60 ISIL terrorists killed in Iraq's Anbar province: reports

At least 60 members of the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Daesh) terrorist group have reportedly been killed in Iraq's western Anbar Province.

Iraq's al-Sumaria news website quoted Major General Qassim al-Mohamadi, the commander of al-Jazeera Operations, as saying on Sunday that the Iraqi forces had managed to foil an attempted attack by ISIL elements on the city of Hit in Anbar, killing 40 ISIL terrorists in the counter-strike.

The Baghdad-based War Media Cell said that the other 20 ISIL terrorists were killed in an airstrike conducted by the Iraqi air force.

Amin Shekhani, a spokesman for a unit of the Iraqi army, said that nine ISIL-linked boats were also destroyed in the south of Nineveh Province.

The Takfiris used the vessels to transport foodstuff and guns between five villages around the Tigris River, Shekhani said, adding that the boats and their occupants were targeted by the Iraqi



army in the river. He did not specify how many people were on board the boats and whether they died or were merely injured.

Elsewhere in the northeastern city of Ramadi, which is Anbar's provincial capital, rocket attacks by the Iraqi military left a number of terrorists dead and de-

stroyed three of their cars.

## ■ Blast kills six in Iraqi capital

In another development on Sunday, six people were killed and 16 others sustained injuries in an explosion that rocked the district of Eskan in western Baghdad.

Iraq's Shafaq News reported that the casualties came as an assailant set off his explosives among a crowd of people.

The northern and western parts of Iraq have been plagued by gruesome violence ever since the ISIL terrorists mounted an offensive in June 2014. The Iraqi army and fighters from the Popular Mobilization Units (al-Hashd al-Sha'abi) have been engaged in joint operations to retake militant-held areas.

The Iraqi forces are said to be gearing up for an offensive in early October to liberate Mosul, the last remaining bastion for the terror group in the north of the country.

(Source: Press TV)

## China, Cuba agree to deepen ties during PM Li's Havana visit

Chinese Prime Minister Li Keqiang met with Cuban President Raul Castro during a two-day trip to Havana, and the two leaders oversaw the signing of around 30 agreements on economic cooperation in various sectors, Cuban state media reported.

Li is the first Chinese premier to visit Cuba since the two countries established diplomatic relations 56 years ago, although President Xi Jinping visited in 2014.

China is Cuba's second largest trading partner after Venezuela. The two countries traded \$1.6 billion in the first nine months of 2015, a 57 percent increase on the same period the previous year, official Cuban data shows.

Li said in an interview with the Cuban Communist Party newspaper Granma that his trip aimed to deepen the two countries' relationship, forge new areas of economic cooperation and



"intensify the mutual political trust."

The two countries signed agreements on collaboration in the science, environmental, industry, energy, public health and agricultural sectors, Cuban state TV said. China also agreed to extend lines of credit for certain projects, it added, but did not specify how much.

Cuba has become a hot destination for tourists, foreign investors and leaders alike since the government embarked on business-friendly reforms and Havana and Washington announced a detente nearly two years ago after decades of hostility.

(Source: Reuters)

## Baltimore police: 3 gunmen shoot, wound 8 in attack

Three gunmen shot and wounded eight people including a 3-year-old girl on an east Baltimore street on Saturday night, police said, adding the suspects fled and the victims were all expected to survive.

The shooting erupted outside some row houses about 8:30 p.m. after the three armed men converged on the group from different points, Baltimore Police Commissioner Kevin Davis told The Associated Press.

Davis, who went to the scene, said the shooting was a premeditated act of retaliatory violence in response to a Labor Day weekend shooting in which a person was fatally shot and two others were wounded, including a pregnant woman. He did not immediately explain how investigators believed the shootings were linked.

Davis said the victims could have recognized the gunmen but authorities

haven't immediately been able to identify the suspects and were still searching for them hours afterward.

According to the commissioner, one of the armed men emerged from an alley and two others ran down the street, stopping just short of the victims before they opened fire. He added that the 3-year-old girl and her father were standing a slight distance away from the others and that the child was not an intended target.

Authorities have said one of the attackers had a shotgun and the other two had handguns.

Davis said that in addition to the girl, one of the victims was a woman and the rest men ranging in ages from 26 to 39.

Baltimore Police Spokesman T.J. Smith tweeted earlier that none of the injuries was life-threatening but he didn't elaborate further.

(Source: AP)

## Gunman kills Jordanian writer charged over anti-Islam cartoon: report

A gunman on Sunday killed prominent Jordanian writer Nahed Hattar outside a court where he was facing charges for sharing a cartoon deemed offensive to Islam, state news agency Petra reported.

Hattar was struck by three bullets before the assailant was arrested, said Petra. Witnesses told AFP that a man had opened fire in front of the court in Amman's Abdali district.

The 56-year-old Christian was arrested on August 13 after posting a cartoon mocking extremists on his Facebook account.

Jordan's attorney general had imposed a blackout on media coverage of the case.

Hattar removed the cartoon from his Facebook page after it triggered outrage on social media.



The cartoon features an illustration of God under the title "God of Daesh", using an Arabic acronym for the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Daesh) terrorist group.

He explained on Facebook that the cartoon made fun of "terrorists and how they imagine God and heaven, and does not insult God in any way".

Jordan is a leading member of the United States-led so-called coalition claiming to fight the ISIL in neighboring Iraq and Syria, and was the target of a June 21 suicide bombing that killed seven border guards.

The kingdom has carried out air strikes targeting ISIL terrorists and hosts coalition troops on its territory.

(Source: AFP)

## Finland: Tens of thousands march in anti-racism rallies

Tens of thousands of people, including the Finnish prime minister and a former president, have taken to the streets of several cities across Finland to demonstrate against racism and violence in the country.

Saturday's marches under the banner "Enough is enough" were staged in response to the fatal assault on a 28-year-old man earlier this month in the capital Helsinki who had protested against a neo-Nazi group, according to Finnish

broadcaster YLE.

The man died on September 16 of his injuries, almost a week after he was involved in an altercation with members of the Finnish Resistance Movement.

The man was kicked and hit his head on the ground after reportedly spitting in front of members of the neo-Nazi group.

A 26-year-old man, who police said was an active member of the neo-Nazi group, was on Wednesday remanded in custody on suspicion of involuntary man-

slaughter.

Leading politicians, including Prime Minister Juha Sipila, condemned the incident, amid calls to ban racist organizations.

Police in Helsinki estimated that 15,000 people joined Saturday's march to Senate Square.

The rally concluded with short speeches by, among others, former president Tarja Halonen, music and a moment of silence for the deceased 28-year-old.

Two anti-immigration protesters were arrested at two other locations in Helsinki, police said.

Sipila, the prime minister, attended an anti-racist protest on Saturday in the city of Kuopio.

He said the government would soon announce new measures "concerning extremist groups", YLE reported.

Anti-racist events were also staged without incident in Tampere, Joensuu and Jyväskylä.

(Source: agencies)

## Turkey willing to join battle for Syria's Raqqa: Erdogan

Turkey's president has claimed that Ankara is willing to join a battle for the liberation of the Syrian city of Raqqa from the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Daesh) terrorist group.

"Turkey wants to join ... in a military operation to push IS (ISIL) from its Syrian stronghold of Raqqa, as long as it excludes Kurdish rebel forces," President Recep Tayyip Erdogan was quoted by private broadcaster NTV as saying on Sunday.

Erdogan said, "Our foreign minister and military authorities are in talks with the United States discussing the matter of Raqqa."

Earlier on Friday, Erdogan had addressed the United States officials, saying, "If you think you can finish off Daesh with the YPG and PYD, you cannot, because they are terrorist groups too."

Turkey regards the Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG/Yekineyên Parastina Gel?) and its affiliate, the Dem-



ocratic Union Party (PYD/Partiya Yekîtiya Demokrat?), as terrorist forces allied with the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK/Partiya Karkerên Kurdistanê), which has been fighting for an autonomous Kurdish region on Turkish soil for

more than three decades.

Turkey has been hitting Kurdish positions in northern Syria in the recent past without getting the permission of the government in Damascus, and has also been pounding Kurds in Iraq, which considers Turkey's military operations as violation of its sovereignty.

Syria has been the scene of a foreign-backed crisis since March 2011. Turkey is said to be among the main supporters of the militant groups active in Syria, with reports saying that Ankara actively trains and arms the Takfiri elements there and facilitates their safe passage into the conflict-ridden country.

The Turkish military started a campaign into the Syrian territory last month with the alleged goal of fighting ISIL and containing Kurdish militants. The operation has been faced with criticism, with critics saying that Ankara is busier fighting Kurds than the ISIL terrorists.

(Source: Press TV)

## Amid pressure, Charlotte police release videos in shooting of Keith Lamont Scott

Police officials relented amid increasing pressure on Saturday and released two videos showing the shooting death of a black man by police five days ago that has sparked several nights of sometimes-violent protests.



The videos — one taken from an officer's body camera and another from the dashboard camera of a police vehicle — show Keith Lamont Scott, 43, exiting his vehicle and falling to the ground. But they do not answer a crucial question about whether Scott was holding a gun as police have said and Scott's family has denied.

The police department also offered fresh insight into how the encounter happened. Plainclothes officers were sitting in an unmarked car at an apartment complex preparing to serve an arrest warrant against someone else when Scott pulled in beside them, the department said. The officers initially noticed that the 43-year-old was rolling a marijuana "blunt" in his car — and then saw him raise a gun, the police said. The combination of the gun and the marijuana created a public safety hazard, the officers concluded. The officers left and returned in vests and equipment that identified them as cops.

That is when the encounter began, police say. "There was a crime that he had committed [possessing marijuana] that caused the encounter, and then the gun exacerbated that encounter," said Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Chief Kerr Putney at a news conference.

Putney's office also released photos of a gun, an ankle holster and a "blunt." The gun was loaded and had Scott's fingerprints and DNA, according to police.

Scott's widow, who was standing nearby when the shooting occurred, remains unconvinced that the gun was in her husband's hand or pointed at officers when he was shot, the family's attorney said.

The fatal shooting has turned Charlotte, considered by many the beacon of the "New South," into the latest United States city to face tough questions about the treatment of minorities by police. Hundreds of protesters have descended on the city's uptown for the past five nights, prompting the state's governor to call in the National Guard and the city's mayor to put in place a midnight curfew.

The city was still healing from the shooting death of Jonathan Ferrell, an unarmed black man who was shot by a white police officer in 2013 when Scott's death reopened old wounds, protesters have said.

The chief focus of protesters had been the release of the police videos, but now even that doesn't appear to be enough.

Charlotte officials appeared to acknowledge that the controversy surrounding the shooting would continue. No matter what the police department releases it will not satisfy Black Lives Matter protesters, Bill James, a 10-term commissioner for Mecklenburg County, which includes Charlotte, said in a Twitter post. "You cannot satiate a mob with facts. Not in Ferguson, Baltimore, or Charlotte," he said.

The release of the videos came one day after footage shot by Scott's wife, Rakeyia Scott, showing her pleading with officers not to shoot her husband of 20 years, was made public. In the video, Rakeyia Scott can be heard yelling to the officers that her husband was unarmed and had a traumatic head injury. "Don't shoot him," she says.

Officers say Scott pointed a gun at them; Scott's family has disputed that he was armed and that, if he was, that he raised the weapon.

That dispute is not settled by these videos, and it is unclear how long it will be before the State Bureau of Investigation completes its examinations.

Putney said that he has no plans to charge any of the officers involved in the fatal shooting with a crime but left open the possibility that charges could come from the state investigation. "If laws were violated I would be taking different action," he said.

Many stores in uptown Charlotte have been closed since violent demonstrations began on Tuesday evening, and even those that are open are seeing little business or closing early. Bank of America and Wells Fargo, which have thousands of employees in the area, told them to stay home most of the week. Restaurants and businesses in the city popular uptown Epicenter closed early, by 4 p.m. in most cases, most of the week.

Hundreds of protesters have spent hours snaking their way through uptown Charlotte over the past few days, continuing to demonstrate hours past the city's midnight curfew. Police officers on bicycles have watched close by, directing traffic away from major highways, and National Guard troops stood in front of major city markers, including Bank of America Stadium, the home of the Carolina Panthers.

Unlike the early days of protests, when demonstrators broke windows and police arrested dozens of people, marches over the past several evenings have remained relatively calm. Several local clergy members, who wore yellow ribbons on their arms to distinguish themselves, say that after the initial violence, they are focused on defusing any potential conflicts.

On Saturday, hundreds of protesters emerged again, this time chanting "release the full tapes."

Instead of satisfying protesters' questions about the incident, the limited video release generated new suspicions among some.

(Source: The Washington Post)



## Tehran Intl. Industry Expo slated for Oct.

**ECONOMY** TEHRAN — The 16th Tehran International Industry Expo (TIE 2016) will be held in Tehran on October 5-8, Tasnim news agency reported on Sunday.

More than 400 domestic companies and 574 foreign companies from 27 different countries will be attending this international exhibition to introduce their latest products, equipment and services.

The event will be hosting exhibitors from various countries including Czech Republic, Sweden, Germany, Belgium, Austria, Thailand, Hungary, Italy, South Korea, Romania, the United Arab Emirates, Bulgaria, Ukraine, Greece, the Netherlands, Poland, Spain, France, South Africa, India, China, Japan, Taiwan, the UK, Switzerland, Finland and Turkey.

Several trade delegations including industrial, economic and foreign investors from various European and Asian countries are scheduled to visit the exhibition to hold talks with Iranian companies and industries.

## Cash is king as correlations cloud asset allocation

By Alasdair Pal

Stocks and bonds are moving in lock-step more than at any time since the financial crisis, making life difficult for asset allocators and driving investors into the one asset guaranteed to bring zero return - cash.

Years of ultra-loose monetary policy and asset-buying stimulus programs have driven up equity valuations, despite tepid earnings growth, and created such demand for bonds that investors are prepared to pay countries and companies to borrow.

Over a rolling two-year period, the positive correlation between stocks and bonds, which usually move in opposite directions, is at its highest levels since the financial crisis, according to Thomson Reuters data.

This was illustrated weeks ago after the European Central Bank did not extend its asset-purchase program, confounding expectations of many market participants. Stocks and bonds fell sharply across the globe in a sell-off that lasted several days.

Such moves are not ideal for investors, who can face sharp shifts in their portfolios as assets rise or fall together, or for money managers who need to generate return consistently.

What both want are assets that go up as others go down - a negative correlation.

"For the moment that negative correlation, which is what you want as an investor, has gone," said Rory McPherson, head of investment strategy at Psigma Investment Management.

In response, investors are keeping near-record levels of cash. The latest Bank of America Merrill Lynch survey of global fund managers found cash made up 5.5 percent of portfolios.

Psigma's McPherson has taken the average client's cash levels to seven percent, an all-time high, while waiting for any opportunities created if prices continue to fall.

What September's sell-off may illustrate is that the industry-standard "60/40 model" - where a fund manager holds a portfolio of 60 percent stocks and 40 percent bonds - can no longer protect against volatility in all scenarios.

These so-called "balanced" funds have suffered in a time of rising correlations, according to strategists at Goldman Sachs.

"If you look at returns over time, 60/40 has been a great product," said Roger Sadewsky, director of multi-asset investing at Standard Life Investments. "[But] mathematically, we are all aware you have to assume government bonds must keep going negative for that to work as a strategy."

Instead, investors have to look more closely at individual corners of the market for uncorrelated returns.

Finding those opportunities has become "the holy grail" for multi-asset investors, said Ana Cuddeford of M&G Investments.

"The last few days are a case in point," she said. "It is extremely difficult and makes the environment a lot more challenging."

"We are trying to make sure our portfolios are constructed to find assets that are least correlated."

Those assets will differ depending on whether investors see the recent sell-off as the start of a trend or a short-term blip - a "head fake," as Sadewsky called it.

In a world where bonds fall, potentially taking stocks with them, banks may be one of the few sectors that would do well given they benefit from higher bond yields.

M&G's multi-asset portfolio has one of its highest conviction positions in Japanese banks, that tend to be uncorrelated with many other assets, said Cuddeford. McPherson too has positioned portfolios in more cyclical sectors like banks and commodities.

In Europe, there is broader evidence of this trend: Bank of America said some fund managers have deployed cash to cover their underweight positions in financials and commodities in September.

Banks outperformed the broader index during similar market conditions - the 2013 "taper tantrum" when U.S. Treasury yields surged as the Federal Reserve began to reduce the amount of money it was pumping into the economy, and a period in 2015 when stocks and bonds fell.

But they have struggled with profitability and regulatory issues, particularly in Europe - and anyway, are unlikely to generate positive returns in volatile markets, McPherson said.

More esoteric strategies can also help. Sadewsky said relative value strategies, that involve playing off markets against each other, can provide uncorrelated returns, although they tend to only be available to more sophisticated investors.

"If the moves are as sharp as they have been, both stocks and bonds will suffer, McPherson said. "It's why we have a lot of cash." (Source: Reuters)

# Iran, China sign fishery co-op MOUs

**ECONOMY** TEHRAN — Iran and China signed two memorandums of understanding (MOU) for investment in Iran's fishery and aquaculture industry, Fars news agency reported.

Iranian Agriculture Minister Mahmoud Hojjati and his Chinese counterpart Han Changfu signed the MOUs in Tehran on Sunday, based on which the Chinese side will invest 20 billion yuan (around \$3 billion) in Iran's fishery and cage-based aquaculture projects.

At the signing ceremony, Changfu who is visiting Iran at the head of a 20-member trade delegation, noted that the fund will be invested especially in developing docks and harbors, boosting infrastructures, as well as building cold storage facilities.



Iranian Agriculture Minister Mahmoud Hojjati (2nd R) and his Chinese counterpart Han Changfu shaking hand in the signing ceremony in Tehran on Sunday.

## Iran Telecom 2016 kicks off in Tehran

**ECONOMY** TEHRAN — The 17th International Exhibition of Telecommunications, Information Technology & Innovative CIT Solutions of Iran (Iran Telecom 2016) opened in Tehran on Sunday and will run for four days.

The opening ceremony was held at the Tehran Permanent International Fairgrounds, attended by Minister of Communication & Information Technology Mahmoud Vaezi, Tasnim news agency reported.

The exhibition is aimed to showcase the country's latest achievements and innovations in communications and information technology (ICT) will be showcased in the exhibition.

This year's event covers a variety of areas including



equipment and infrastructure vendors, satellite operators, wholesale carriers, value-added service (VAS) solutions suppliers, operations support systems (OSS) and business support systems (BSS) vendors and more.

Based on the event's website the exhibition enjoys the official support of the Ministry of ICT, the Communications Regulatory Authority, the Telecommunications Infrastructure Company (TIC) and the Telecommunications Company of Iran (TCI).

According to the event's manager, representatives from 22 countries including Spain, Slovenia, the United Arab Emirates, Britain, South Africa, Germany, Czech Republic, China, Russia, Japan, Sweden, France, Finland, Kazakhstan, Canada, South Korea, Kuwait, Poland, the Netherlands, India, Vietnam and Greece are attending this year's exhibition.

## No respite for battered Saudi stocks as IPO pipeline shrinks

Add this to the reasons why 2016 isn't the year for Saudi stocks: the IPO pipeline is drying up.

Two companies have announced plans for initial public offerings this year, down from six in 2015, putting the Saudi market on track for its slowest lineup since 2004. That compares with nine in Malaysia, another energy-dependent developing economy whose main stock index is poised for its third straight annual drop following the retreat in oil prices.

The dwindling IPO lineup is a complication for the kingdom as it plans to double the size of its \$371 billion stock exchange

and boost the number of traded companies by about 50 percent to 250 in seven years.

The nation is overhauling its economy to reduce its dependency on energy, and that includes cutting government spending and selling shares in state-owned oil giant Saudi Arabian Oil Co., or Aramco, in early 2018.

"You can forget about new companies wanting to go public," said Mohammed Alsuwayed, the Riyadh-based head of capital and money markets at Adeem Capital. "Reduction in spending, contractionary policy and austerity measures are not good for the market and if it's not good for the market, then it's not going to provide any

good valuation or sentiment for companies that were considering IPOs."

While the head of the nation's Capital Market Authority says the equity market is ready for Aramco's IPO, potentially the world's biggest, the Tadawul All Share Index is the worst performer across the Middle East and North Africa this year, even after the kingdom allowed foreigners direct access to its stock market for the first time in 2015, and further relaxed the rules two weeks ago.

### Foreign money

Al Yamamah Steel Industries Co. announced its plan to go public at the end

of March and LAZurde Co. for Jewelry followed more than a month later. With the number of deals worldwide almost halving this year to about 1,290 compared with all of 2015, Saudi Arabia's dwindling IPO pipeline isn't unique. But unlike most nations, the kingdom prohibits foreigners from participating in share sales.

That will soon change. As part of its plan to open one of the world's most closed equity markets, the Tadawul Stock Exchange will allow foreign investors to subscribe to initial public offerings in the kingdom for the first time starting Jan. fiest.

(Source: Bloomberg)

### PICTURE OF THE DAY IRIB/Behzad Abdolbaghi



The 12th Iran International Water and Wastewater Exhibition (Watex 2016) kicked off on Sunday at the Tehran Permanent International Fairgrounds. Iranian Energy minister Hamid Chitchian attended the opening ceremony.

## Iran-Oman joint economic panel to meet today

The Iran-Oman Joint Economic Committee will hold its 16th session in the Iranian capital, Tehran, today.

The Omani side will be chaired by Ali bin Mas'oud al-Sunaidi, Minister of Commerce and Industry with participation of representatives of governmental units and businessmen from both sides.

The meeting will discuss a range of important topics, such as increasing the trade exchange between the two countries, as well as overcoming obstacles impeding trade, industrial and investment opportunities in the two countries.

In a statement to Oman News Agency (ONA), al-Sunaidi explained that both sides will sign three memoranda of understanding (MoU) for three various agreements in trade, industry and insurance sectors. "The MoU in the insurance sector is very important in this stage as it will facilitate the insurance on goods, as well as facilitating the movement of vehicles between the two countries via ferry journeys as the insurance companies in both countries will cover the insurance of those vehicles," al-Sunaidi pointed out.

(Source: Oman News Agency)



**EDF, Britain to sign Hinckley point contracts Thursday: Les Echos**

French state-controlled utility EDF has agreed to sign contracts with the British government for its Hinkley Point nuclear project on Thursday, French financial daily Les Echos reported.

The signing ceremony will take place in London, not in Somerset as it had been planned in July before the British government asked for a delay. Chinese utility CGN, which has a one-third stake in the project, will also be present, the paper said.



**Former employees file class action against Wells Fargo**

Two former Wells Fargo & Co employees have filed a class action in California seeking \$2.6 billion or more for workers who tried to meet aggressive sales quotas without engaging in fraud and were later demoted, forced to resign or fired.

The lawsuit on behalf of people who worked for Wells Fargo in California over the past 10 years, including current employees, focuses on those who followed the rules and were penalized for not meeting sales quotas.



**Canada Unifor Union sets tentative strike deadline for Fiat Chrysler**

Canada's Unifor union has set a tentative strike deadline of midnight Oct. 10 for talks with Fiat Chrysler Automobiles NV, the labor group said on Saturday as it prepares to vote on a related deal with General Motors Co.

Unifor, which represents close to 10,000 Fiat Chrysler workers in Canada, said in a statement the strike deadline of 11:59 p.m. will stand if talks with Fiat Chrysler begin "immediately" after the union ratifies its contract with General Motors Co on Sunday.



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## Charlotte, North Carolina and presidential politics

Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton announced that she is traveling to Charlotte, NC, today, Sunday, the day before her scheduled TV debate with Republican candidate Donald Trump. She and her policy advisors have taken a page out of Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel's political "playbook." When he was White House Chief of Staff during President Obama's first term his political strategy and "mantra" was "You never let a serious crisis go to waste. And what I mean by that it's an opportunity to do things you think you could not do before."

For more than a year the Black Lives Matters Movement, including white people and other People of Color who supported them, have been crying out for national, State, and community leaders to intervene to stop the repeated shootings of Black men by police. They pleaded for their attention to stop the repeated actions of police in choosing lethal force as their first option in seeking to effect an arrest, that might, in some cases, have otherwise been lawful.

President Obama convened meetings at the White House between Chiefs of police and other law enforcement representatives with select community leaders from across the country. Police killings of Black men continued.

During the Democratic National Convention in Charlotte, North Carolina this summer Presidential candidate Hillary Clinton invited "Mothers of The Movement" to come to the Convention. The mothers of Eric Garner, Sandra Bland, Jordan Davis, Trayvon Martin, Michael Brown, Dontré Hamilton, Hadiya Pendleton, Blair Holt and Oscar Grant took the stage to speak about the deaths of their

children and express their support for Hillary Clinton to become president.

Republican candidate Donald Trump began speaking about the living, education, and lack of jobs conditions in Black communities, asking Black Americans publicly, based upon his perception of life in their communities, "What have you got to lose?"

Against this background, our initial reaction to the news that Hillary Clinton plans to go to Charlotte today was "beware of Greeks bearing gifts"; a phrase used to warn against possible deception by an adversary.

Then we read the Op Ed column by Rev. William Barber, II, in today's New York Times. He is President of the NAACP in Charlotte. He reminds them

"That systemic violence, which rarely makes headlines, creates the daily traumatic stress that puts our communities on edge, affecting both those of us who live there and outside observers who often denounce "black-on-black" crime. We cannot have a grown-up conversation about race in America until we acknowledge the violent conditions engendered by government policy and police practice."

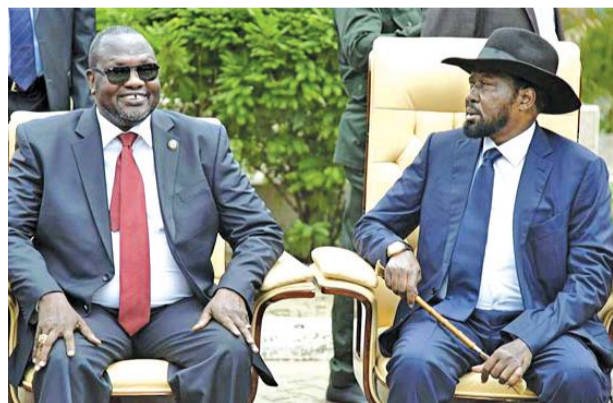
"Anyone who is concerned about violence in Charlotte should note that no one declared a state of emergency when the city's schools were re-segregated, creating a school-to-prison pipeline for thousands of poor African-American children. Few voiced outrage over the damage caused when half a million North Carolinians were denied health insurance because the Legislature refused to expand Medicaid."

So, we will have wait and see what difference, if any, candidate Hillary Clinton visit to Charlotte will make on the issues recited by Reverend Barber and the repeated pleas by the Black Lives Matter Movement for the conscience of America to stop the police killings of black men.

(Source: Huffington Post)

## South Sudan's top-down disaster

The results of a two-year investigation into kleptocracy in South Sudan, published this month by a group called the Sentry, lifts the veil on widespread plundering of the young nation by its leaders.



President Salva Kiir (R) and former first vice president, Riek Machar (L)

The investigation found that family members of top officials often live abroad in multimillion-dollar mansions, stay in five-star hotels, reap the benefits of shady deals and drive luxury cars while the country suffers from the brutal aftermath of civil war and widespread near-famine conditions. The report also shows that the kleptocracy depends on a network of lawyers, banks and arms brokers who facilitate the pillaging.

Make no mistake, the problems in South Sudan would be formidable even with enlightened leadership. But the fact is that the misery of the past few years — civil war, human rights atrocities, massive flight and internal displacement and widespread theft from state coffers — has been inflicted by President Salva Kiir and his rival and former first vice president, Riek Machar, and their supporters. This is a top-down disaster. The Sentry report suggests that not only ethnic rivalry divided Kiir and Machar, but also corruption and greed aggravated the tension.

The leaders of South Sudan, starting with Kiir, may lack the willpower to improve life for citizens — but they can certainly make it a lot worse.

➔13

# Syrian crisis reveals how the UN failed

A recent ceasefire in Syria is in tatters. The humanitarian situation is dire and the UN appears to be out of moves to change anything. Ban Ki-moon, the outgoing UN secretary general, also addressed the assembly for the last time in the job. His comments speak volumes about the health of the international body and its ability to live up to its mandate.

"Present in this hall today are representatives of governments that have ignored, facilitated, funded, participated in or even planned and carried out atrocities inflicted by all sides of the Syria conflict against Syrian civilians," Ban told the assembly before listing several other conflict areas in the Middle East where the UN has failed to achieve a lasting peace.

The UN's failure to engineer an end to the Syrian conflict is evidence of its inability to efficiently maintain peace and security in the international community. There is nothing especially unique about the Syrian civil war from an international perspective. There have been other crises that involved the disintegration of nation states, the targeting of civilians and migration problems.

The Syrian crisis is, however, the first such event of the 21st century and despite decades of globalization that have led to a shrinking world for many, the UN has not been able to forge a path out of the mire. There are many reasons for this but Ban's final statement to the assembly highlights the major themes.

As we shortly welcome a new secretary general it is fitting to reconsider



**The UN's failure to engineer an end to the Syrian conflict is evidence of its inability to efficiently maintain peace and security in the international community.**

the role of the UN in resolving conflicts and living up to its founding principles. There are many successful projects such as sustainable development and

the facilitation of international cooperation on health issues that the UN oversees. The world will be a better place if our collective resources are

used for projects that help people instead of arguing over hollow rhetoric that is regularly undermined.

(Source: The National)

## Are U.S.-Turkey military ties under threat?

Until two years ago, deep-rooted U.S.-Turkey military relations were cited as a model of strength in the defense industry, military training and exercises, global peace support operations, global struggle against terror, NATO missions, and joint operations in Afghanistan. These were all signs of the high level of cooperation and interoperability between the U.S. military and Turkish Armed Forces (TSK).

In those good old days, billions of dollars' worth of defense projects between the two countries moved forward despite minor hiccups and, financed by the International Military Education and Training Fund, hundreds of Turkish officers and noncommissioned officers went to the United States for training. Every year, the two sides carried out about 20 bilateral or multilateral exercises and maneuvers, organized high-level military summits, and they even awarded each other medals of outstanding service.

The traditional model of U.S.-Turkish military relations resembled a sort of "high politics" shaped behind closed doors by the Turkish General Staff and its U.S. counterpart, where societal dynamics and the elected civilians of Turkey did not have much say. The relations were also an anchor of Turkey's untouchable links to the Western security bloc, thereby directly affecting Ankara's foreign policy choices.

Today, this traditional paradigm appears to be withering, as one can easily feel the cold winds blowing against U.S.-Turkish military relations on the ground and at the diplomatic-strategic levels.

Ali Bilgin Varlik, a retired army colonel and an assistant professor of international relations at Esenyurt University in Istanbul, points to the societal dynamics that have begun to affect U.S.-Turkish military ties, particularly after the July 15 coup attempt. Varlik told Al-Monitor that the Turkish public's lack of confidence in the United States has been overtaken by outright anger.

Varlik said because of popular pressure, the TSK cannot engage in close relations with the U.S. military anymore, even it wanted to. He added that unless Fethullah Gulen is extradited and put on trial in Turkey, the pressure the TSK feels in its relations with the U.S. military will not ease.

### ■ Civilian-military relations

Ugur Gungor, a retired army colonel and associate professor of international relations, noted the government's strengthening hand in civilian-military relations. "Now it is the civilian politicians of Ankara who determine the bilateral relations between the TSK and the U.S. military and their cooperation in the field," he said.

Retired Gen. Ahmet Yavuz agrees with Gungor. Yavuz believes the United States, which sees the Syrian Kurdish group People's Protection Units (YPG) as a reliable partner in the struggle against the Islamic State (IS) terrorist group, is likely to maintain that relationship in the future. But Washington also knows it needs the TSK's military support primarily for its Incirlik and Diyarbakir air bases in the war against IS.

Sources close to the U.S. Embassy in Ankara, who asked not to be identified, view this perceptible weakening of U.S.-Turkey military ties primarily as a structural issue rather than a result of daily issues, such as developments in northern Syria, the status of the PYD/YPG or the extradition of Fethullah Gulen. An American source in Ankara told Al-Monitor, "The constant daily changes in Turkey's attitude, the way Ankara comes up with excuses to turn down the alternatives we offer makes Turkey an unpredictable and at times incomprehensible actor. This ambiguity makes it hard for us to devise a robust structure for our military relations."



**Varlik said because of popular pressure, the TSK cannot engage in close relations with the U.S. military anymore, even it wanted to. He added that unless Fethullah Gulen is extradited and put on trial in Turkey, the pressure the TSK feels in its relations with the U.S. military will not ease.**

Another U.S. source who also did not want to be identified said the transformation of civilian-military relations in Turkey that now allots a more prominent role to elected officials has been causing problems for the United States to identify the proper interlocutors in Ankara and in the field. "In the past, we had only one counterpart: the chief of staff. But now we don't know who we should be dealing with anymore. Shall we ask the chief of staff, the ministry of defense, the ministry of foreign affairs or directly the presidency?" he added.

A source in Turkey's security bureaucracy told Al-Monitor that the same problem also exists on the U.S. side. In the past, the Turks generally knew who to approach in their military relations, but now that has become truly difficult: "In the old days, we used to coordinate NATO issues with the U.S. European Command [EUCOM] and Iraq with Central Command [CENTCOM.] But today in Syria, for example, you have EUCOM, CENTCOM, Pentagon, CIA, the State Department and others. This complex structure creates issues of coordination between two countries and unnecessary misunderstandings."

Another U.S. source said, "The U.S. does not need to ask for Turkey's permission for steps it will take against [IS]. We still can't comprehend Ankara's intentions and final objective in combating [IS]. This is one reason for the loss of transparency and institutional deficiency in confidence between the two countries."

U.S. sources note that when the civilian government in Turkey gains the upper hand, passionate narratives for domestic political consumption rather than rational reasoning take center stage.

### ■ Selling out, back stabbing

They note U.S. officials resent the use of terms such as "selling out, back stabbing" in military relations between the two countries.

"I think the U.S. is still confused about its relationship

with the PYD. The views of U.S. Department of State officials who talk with us in Ankara do not mesh with signals we get from CENTCOM or the Congress," a source told Al-Monitor on the condition of anonymity.

In short, there is a major paradigm shift in U.S.-Turkish military ties, but neither Ankara nor Washington appears to be aware of it. The following dynamics characterize the shift:

- This new paradigm is more complicated than before, with multiple actors. This causes confusion and problems in identifying the proper interlocutor.

- The decisive effect of the civilian government and popular pressure on the TSK is increasing. Washington seems to be having problems adapting to this change.

- Ankara tends to exploit the relationship excessively in the daily routines of domestic politics.

- Ankara's incessant rejection of U.S. proposals and refraining from looking to find models and solutions disturbs Washington.

- Mere references to cooperation are not enough anymore. When the parties do not notice the divergences between what is said and what is done in the field, crisis in confidence becomes inevitable.

- Washington still has not comforted Ankara over the PYD matter, while Ankara has not persuaded Washington that it is giving priority to fighting IS.

- Washington is not aware that the extradition of Fethullah Gulen is about to become a major crisis that will affect its military relations with Turkey.

Finally, because of both Ankara's and Washington's obliviousness to these massive changes, there is no joint mechanism envisaged to manage and coordinate the new paradigm. This naturally means more crises, more confusion and ambiguity, and worse, disintegration of confidence in U.S.-Turkish relations.

(Source: Al Monitor)



## EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

By Marjohn Sheikhi

In an exclusive interview conducted by Tehran Times, Finian Cunningham, an expert on international affairs and an analyst of the current Syrian crisis, shed light on the various aspects of the U.S. war agenda in Syria. He believes that the recent U.S.-led airstrikes on a Syrian army position which killed at least 60 soldiers was carried out deliberately. Furthermore, he asserts that the attack, contrary to U.S. claims, had not been coordinated with the Russian side, and that the call for no-fly zones by John Kerry this week – which demands that Russia stop its airstrikes while the U.S. warplanes would continue their own air campaign – is “a foil to salvage the terrorist proxies from what promises to be a historic defeat.” The Irish political commentator, who is currently based in East Africa, also maintained that the ceasefire failure proves that “Washington is an accomplice in the state-sponsored terrorist war on Syria.”

The following is our interview with Mr. Cunningham, who has worked for over 20 years as an editor and writer in major news media organizations, including The Mirror, Irish Times and Independent:

On 17 September, the U.S.-led coalition airstrikes killed about 80 of Syrian soldiers and wounded at least 120 others near Deir Ezzor Airport in an eastern part of Syria. The U.S. military said it was targeting ISIL militants and if it hit Syrian troops, it was ‘unintentional’; meanwhile, Russia and Syria said the strikes prove the U.S. and its allies are defending ISIL. How do you evaluate this development?

In believing American official claims that the attack on the Syrian Arab Army base at Deir Ezzor was an “accident” – as the Western media automatically did without question – is stretching credulity to breaking point. This is a major Syrian army base with hundreds of troops and an airfield. The American military were reportedly observing the site for two days before the attack, which was launched with at least four warplanes

and a drone. It was a sustained attack lasting up to one hour. The American air raid was also accompanied by ISIL militants on the ground assaulting the base. Since we know that Washington has been covertly sponsoring, arming and training terrorist proxy groups in its dirty war for regime change in Syria since March 2011, one has to conclude that the American action at Deir Ezzor was a deliberate murderous attack on the Syrian army to augment the regime-change proxy terrorist forces on the ground. Russia and Syria are correct in their skepticism towards U.S. claims to the contrary. Such U.S. claims are contemptible deception to cover up what is in actual fact a war crime.

Furthermore, U.S. claims that they have conferred with Russian military before the strikes and they immediately halted the airstrikes when the coalition was informed by Russian officials that they might be hitting Syrian troops. On the other hand, Russia blamed the U.S. for failing to coordinate with them on the airstrikes. What is exactly going on here?

U.S. claims of communicating details ahead of the attack sortie to the Russians are also hard to take seriously. The U.S. and Russia have a “deconfliction” arrangement whereby they are supposed to notify each other of their respective aircraft maneuvers. On the Deir Ezzor incident, the Americans may have given some vague notice of aircraft operating in that part of the country. But it is doubtful that the information would have been detailed and precise in such a way as to have properly alerted the Russians to a pending “mistaken attack” on the Syrian army at the Deir Ezzor base. This would contradict the conspicuous and steadfast refusal of the Americans to coordinate with the Russians over the past year in Syria

operations supposedly to combat the terror groups. After a year of refusing to coordinate with the Russians on this, now we are expected to believe that the Americans suddenly did a U-turn on their de facto policy of non-cooperation. Again, the Russian version of the incident is much more credible and logical.

Diplomatic quarrels between the U.S. and Russia grow more heated as escalating violence in Syria has left a ceasefire reached earlier this month in tatters. Now John Kerry has proposed a “no-fly” zone over the Syrian battle zones in order to prevent the Syrian government from attacking “civilian targets with the excuse that it is just going after Nusra.” As it is now proved that Al-Nusra is connected to and affiliated with Al Qaeda, this proposal



**“The American action at Deir Ezzor was a deliberate murderous attack on the Syrian army to augment the regime-change proxy terrorist forces on the ground.”**

seems to be giving more credibility to the argument that the U.S. is backing terrorists in Syria. What is your opinion on that?

Yes, that is a sensible deduction. U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry’s calls for a no-fly zone seem to be a desperate bid by the American state-sponsoring terrorist coalition to afford much needed cover for their proxy fighting assets on the ground. The implementation of no-fly zones has long been a demand by the Turkish and Saudi regimes, and now Washington appears to be endorsing such a move as well. The situation is this: The U.S.-led coalition’s covert war for regime change in Syria is facing defeat from the formidable combined forces of the Syrian army, Russia, Iran and Hezbollah. The battle of

Aleppo portends the ultimate defeat of the U.S.-led international conspiracy to terrorize the nation of Syria into submitting to its hegemonic designs for regime change. Given the high stakes, the U.S. is now showing growing frustration over losing its covert war. The call for no-fly zones by John Kerry this week – under the cynical guise of protecting humanitarian aid convoys – is a foil in order to salvage the terrorist proxies from what promises to be a historic defeat.

Speaking of humanitarian aid convoys, one such convoy of the UN and the Red Crescent came under an air attack on the Castello Highway on 19 September. The UN first claimed it was an ‘airstrike’, but the Russian delegation noted that neither the Russian nor the Syrian air forces have attacked the convoy, which made the UN revise the statement to say ‘an unknown attack’. The U.S., on the other hand, is accusing Russia or Syrian government for the attack, without presenting any evidence. What is your evaluation of this? Can one conclude that it has been an airstrike, carried out by the U.S. forces and UN has revised the statement under Washington’s pressure as it has done it in the case of Yemen and under Saudi pressures?

This is typical Western propaganda technique. Accusations are leveled and amplified by the Western mass news media, without any facts or supporting evidence. It is bombast that relies on forceful and repeated assertion in order to give it a veneer of credibility. The Al Nusra terror group’s media helpers known as the White Helmets – who pose as first aid responders – were conveniently in place and at precise time to make a video of the aid convoy trucks having been attacked. The video, as usual, was then disseminated by the West-

ern mass media, without question or verification. The nature of the damage to the aid trucks suggests that they were set ablaze or fired upon from the ground, according to reliable sources. That negates the claims made by the American government and Western media that the aid convoy was hit by a Russian or Syrian air strike. Besides, the Syrian and Russian authorities have categorically refuted that allegation. Also, Russian drone video footage shows that the aid convoy passed unharmed from Syrian government-held western Aleppo into the militant-held eastern quarter. A mortar-carrying vehicle belonging to the insurgents passed near the convoy. For the past week, since the ceasefire was implemented on September 12, the various illegally armed insurgent groups – the U.S.-led coalition’s terrorist proxies – were shelling and sniping at the proposed aid route into eastern Aleppo. The militants were even warning that they would attack forthcoming humanitarian convoys in protest over the proposed ceasefire. What actually happened to the attacked convoy is not clear. But it would be highly conceivable that it was raided by the U.S.-sponsored terror groups and the incident was then misattributed to Syrian or Russian forces in a false-flag propaganda exercise. The nearly six-year Syrian regime-change covert war has seen numerous false flags, such as the massacre at Houla back in May 2012 and the alleged chemical weapon atrocity at East Ghouta in August 2013, which were followed by saturated Western media coverage alleging that the Syrian government forces were to blame, whenever in fact it was the Western-backed surrogate terror brigades. Given the systematic behavior, it is entirely probable that the attack on the aid convoy last week in Aleppo was another such false flag to smear Syria and Russia in order to extract political concessions, such the demand now from Washington for no-fly zones to be established, which as noted above, has the real purpose of providing protective cover for its terrorist proxies.

→13

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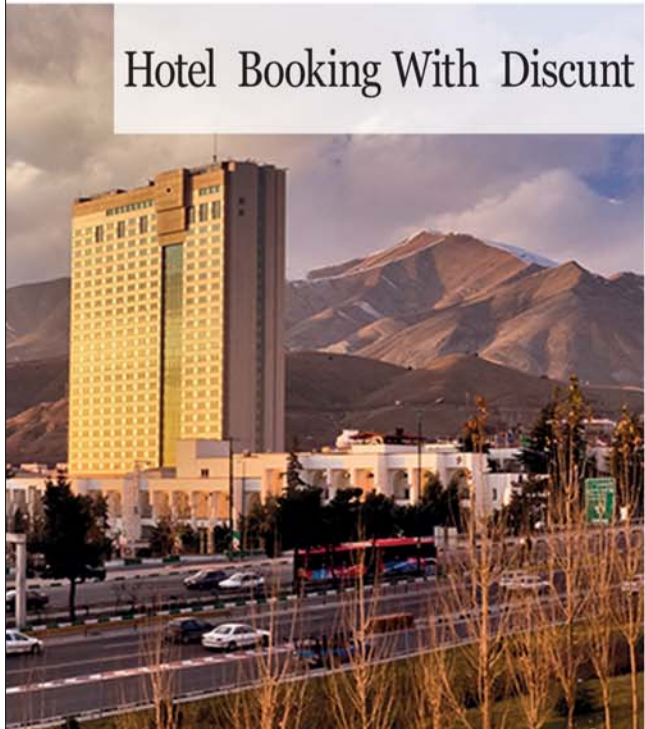
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## Iran's first online general census through smart government's national port services

By Shataw Naseri

For the first time, the Iranian users could taste web-based national general census and fill out the available electronic forms through smart government's national port services (IRAN.GOV.IR), Khabaronline News Agency reported.

Iran's Deputy ICT Minister Nasrollah Jahangard said that in this process physical presence would be eradicated, consequently, and the so-called national project would be time and cost efficient.

"In web-based population and housing census, information would be registered through electronic platform and National Information Network, as well," he added.

Through macro-coordination among mobile communications along with data communication operators, the entire communications capacity would be used to provide high-quality electronic services to the public in National Information Network platform, according to Jahangard.

## 8th IST2016 to be held in Tehran

By Shataw Naseri

8th International Symposium on Telecommunications (IST2016) is due to be held in Tehran by ICT Research Institute on September 27-28, Khabaronline reported.

The head of IST2016 Mahmoud Kamarei, said at a press conference on Saturday, "some 401 articles from Iran, Canada, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Singapore, Italy, Ireland, Germany and the U.S.A. have reached the symposium's secretariat and 167 articles have been picked out by two internal and international committees."

"29 meetings as well as 5 workshops are due to be held at the symposium," he maintained, adding, "we hope IST2016 achievements will be effective in developing telecommunications industry as well as in carrying out joint ventures with universities."

IST2016 is the eighth in a series of biannual events organized by ICT Research Institute (ITRC) with the aim of exchanging scientific information as well as tasting its achievements in Iran.

Here, some 24 issues will be covered in fields such as wireless telecommunications, cognitive networks, wireless networks, wireless sensor network, space and satellite telecommunications, optical telecommunications, broadband networks, software-based networks, systems and telecommunications network security, information security, Internet of Things, Big Data, Cloud-based networking, microwave, millimeter waves and terahertz, waves emission and antennas, smart computing, signal processing in telecommunications, social networks, green telecommunications and, finally, strategy- and regulation-creating in ICT.

## Trains with brains

GE Transportation and Intel Corp have announced a partnership to offer GoLINC, a modular onboard computer package which acts as a 'superbrain' by integrating, storing and communicating the data produced by the hundreds of GE and third-party sensors now found on a locomotive.



The system is about 'leveraging data from the locomotives', GE Transportation President & CEO Jamie Miller told Railway Gazette.

GoLINC integrates with GE's Predix system which identifies trends and enables operators to act before a failure occurs. The aim is to create a smart ecosystem for railways, helping operators meet current market challenges.

The GoLINC mobile data centre 'saves time and lowers costs by reducing the amount of data transferred over cellular connections', said Val Stoyanov, Intel's General Manager, Global Transportation.

GE needs 'deep partners', said Miller, and 'Intel is an incredible partner'. GE benefitted from early access to the sixth-generation Intel Core i7 processor, and has developed a fan-free cooling system for the rugged onboard computers.

Miller said she was also 'very excited' about a partnership with DB, which is testing GE's predictive maintenance systems with non-GE locos. The pilot is going extremely well, and DB has held 'great discussions' during InnoTrans.

Across the rail sector, GE was 'working with customers everywhere'. In South Africa there is a strong commitment to skills development and localisation, where GE is producing 'the most African locomotive' in the market with 55% local content. Chinese suppliers have been winning orders in Africa, but Miller said GE was a strong company which 'has the most advanced technology', ensuring its products offer high performance, reliability and maintainability, at a highly-competitive total cost of ownership.

Miller said GE's primary focus 'has been and will continue to be' on freight, and the company has no plans to enter the high speed sector. (Source: railwaygazette)

# The future of smart toys and the battle for digital children

New gadgets are launched every day in San Francisco, but this personal assistant has a twist: it is the first intended purely for children.

"The best way to describe it is Amazon Echo for kids," explains Sparks, the co-founder of Silicomic Home. Addressing the audience at a recent conference in San Francisco on digital technology for children, she said Smarty is designed for kids aged between five and 12. It will answer their questions, remind them when homework assignments are due, wake them in the morning, control their bedroom lighting, and stream music and audio books. Parents can monitor the child's activity through a web-accessible dashboard. "It is something a child can use from the moment they wake up to the moment they go to bed," Sparks says.

Annual smart-toy sales worldwide are expected to grow from about \$2.8bn in 2015 to \$11.3bn by 2020, according to UK-based analyst firms Juniper Research. Digital toys and internet-connected devices for children, such as Smarty, are a rapidly growing part of that, along with intelligent building blocks, smart racing cars and drones, robots that teach kids how to code, and even a smart rubber duck aimed at the very young. There is now a \$200 trainable robot dog called Chip on the market, a \$200 SuperSuit for laser tag that will begin seeking crowd-funding later this month, and ROXs, a \$129 system to entice kids to run around the back garden that will launch soon.

"The industry is getting away from just the screen," says Tonda Bunge Sellers, who organises the Digital Kids event. "The app is going to the background and the toy is where you interact." Smart toys are gaining in popularity, partly because of a concern about kids spending too much time looking at screens, she says. "The physical is making it make more sense to the parent," Bunge Sellers says. "Last year the connected toy was an outlier, this year it is a trend, and by next year syncing



your phone or tablet to a toy will be as common as putting double-A batteries in," says Warren Buckleitner, editor of the Children's Technology Review website. He welcomes the crossover between toys and screens, saying that when the technology becomes less visible, play comes to the fore. "We can begin talking about the quality of play and child development and not just whether screens are good or bad," he says.

But while physical toys certainly have appeal, swapping screens for connected toys doesn't necessarily mean better experiences for children. Stuart Brown, an expert on play and founder of the not-for-profit National Institute for Play based in Carmel Valley, California, says that kids need real, authentic play - activity done for no purpose other than its own sake and where the outcome is secondary to the experience.

Pure play with a side effect of learning is key to creating balanced people in life, he argues. And authentic play experiences with technology are possible if the technology is designed properly, he says.

Mark Schlichting is a children's design specialist, CEO of NoodleWorks Interactive and author of the forthcoming book Understanding Kids, Play and Interactive De-

sign: How to Create Games Children Love. The hit screen-based games Minecraft and Pokémon Go show that technology can enable pure play, he argues, engaging kids using classic, hard-wired "play patterns". Minecraft appeals to the builder-creator instinct, while Pokémon Go appeals to children's collector spirit - and both involve social play. These play patterns help to keep children engaged beyond the initial novelty of a device or game. But Schlichting warns that most connected toys aren't there yet, and that "we are only at the beginning" of designing them for authentic play.

Schlichting reminds parents of the importance of choosing age-appropriate toys that match the age and stage of children (too hard is frustrating, too easy is boring) and put them in control; he says young minds open up when empowered. Kids want to know what it is, what it can do and what they can do with it, he says, and also like surprises and unexpected connections.

Others worry that some digital worlds are too controlling and don't encourage a child to use his imagination - one of the criticisms levelled at the Mattel conversant connected doll Hello Barbie, released last year. "I find some connected toys very up-

setting," says Dorothy Singer, a Yale University psychologist who studies imaginative play. She explains how if a child is given a stuffed animal he or she can use their imagination to talk to it, give it a name and use a voice for it. If the toy already comes with a voice and personality there is less room for a child to be creative and make up the story themselves. "It takes away the child's contribution," Singer says.

Both Schlichting and Brown would like to see parents less concentrated on making their kids digital diets too full of overtly educational content. "For children play is serious learning; it is the real work of childhood," says Schlichting.

Sparks thinks that Smarty can navigate all these challenges, improve kids lives and optimistically predicts she could sell 2m units annually in the US at \$99 a unit. She is already preparing for concerns about privacy and data usage when Smarty does see the light of day. Most connected toys are able to send the manufacturer data on how kids are using them, but Sparks says the information Smarty gathers will be stored anonymously and never offered to a third party.

The National Institute for Play's director of development, Kristen Cozad, likes the concept of Smarty. Programmed to provide what is asked of it, "the experiences are driven by the child, not the toy". But others worry about a machine interposing between parent and child.

"We've been worried about parents handing off the iPhone or iPad ... Are we going to do the same thing with this?" asks Chip Donohue, director of the Technology in Early Childhood Center at the Erikson Institute in Chicago. Just like adults when Siri first appeared, it won't be long before kids are trying to trick Smarty, says Schlichting. In the name of keeping up with kiddie humour, it had better do something impressive when asked to make a fart sound, he says.

(Source: Guardian)

## Mali-G71 GPU in the Galaxy S8 next year

A senior official from Samsung was recently arrested by the South Korean police officers while trying to steal the company's confidential information related to 14nm and 10nm technology. The report contained information that Samsung is planning to use a 10nm Exynos chipset in the Galaxy S8 next year. Now, we've come across more details regarding the next high-end Exynos chipset from Samsung.

According to the information we've received, the Galaxy S8 could use an Exynos 8895 processor with ARM's new Mali-G71 GPU. The new GPU is said to be up to 1.8 times as powerful as the Mali-T880 MP12 GPU used in the Exynos 8890-powered Galaxy S7. Moreover, this GPU is reportedly faster than the one from the Snapdragon 830 according to GFXBench results.

The Mali-G71 GPU uses ARM's brand new Bifrost architecture, which is claimed to offer high-end 4K and VR experiences. It is also compatible with Vulkan, OpenGL ES 3.2, GPU Compute, and Android RenderScript APIs. Running at 850MHz, the 16nm GPU can provide a throughput of 27.2Gpix/s, which is double than that of the Mali-T880 GPU running at the same frequency. However, it needs to be seen what frequency Samsung ends up using.

It is being rumoured that Samsung might use a 4K display in the Galaxy S8 and Galaxy S8 edge for a better VR experience. You should take this with a pinch of salt as it is preliminary information, and things can change by the time Samsung unveils the Galaxy S8 early next year.

(source: sammobile)

## Google or Salesforce, which one will be new owner of Twitter?

According to some unnamed sources cited in a new report, Twitter might be for sale. Not only that, but potential suitors for the ailing social network are said to include Google and Salesforce, among other tech companies. A "formal bid" may be on the table very soon. It's no secret that Twitter isn't doing very well lately, or that Google's efforts in the social space haven't been able to create a real competitor for Facebook. So such an acquisition, if it happens, does have the potential to help both parties. Then again, it could just turn Twitter into Google's latest failed attempt at getting social right.

The aforementioned anonymous sources have also revealed that Twitter's board is "largely desirous of a deal". That said, a sale isn't imminent at this point, and there's no assurance a deal will actually happen. If it does, though, then it might go through before the end of this year. (Source: cnbc)

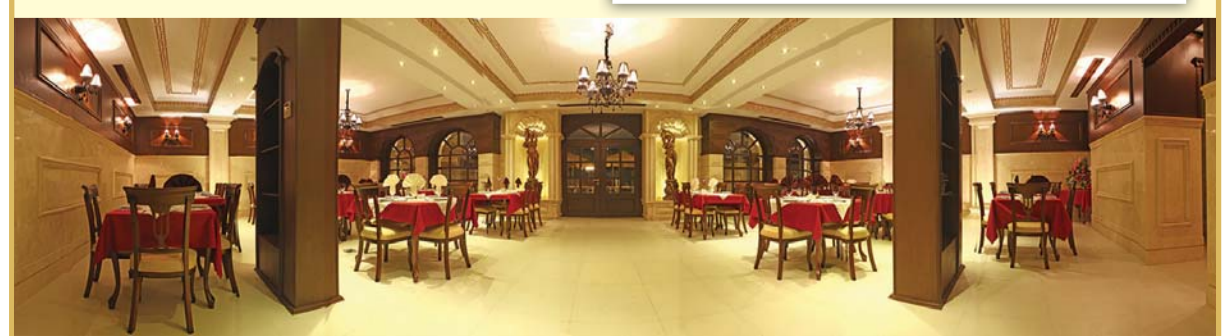
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# Horses can learn to tell us how they feel

Twenty-two horses in Norway can tell you whether they want to wear a blanket or stick with bare backs, according to a new study.

This is, needless to say, a handy skill for anyone who resides in a northern nation that gets a lot of snow. But its discovery is also an important addition to understanding of horse smarts and learning abilities, according to researchers at the Norwegian Veterinary Institute. They taught the horses to use symbols to indicate their blanket-wearing preference — and the equines' easy mastery of the task suggests they understood that the symbols had meanings that led to outcomes.

"Our aim was ... to develop a tool to 'ask' horses whether or not they prefer to wear a blanket under different weather conditions," the authors wrote in *Applied Animal Behavior Science*. In the end, they added: "Horses chose to stay without a blanket in nice weather, and they chose to have a blanket on when the weather was wet, windy and cold."

## ■ Answering complex math

More than a century ago, a German horse nicknamed Clever Hans became a celebrity in Europe for his whiz-like ability to answer complex math, reading



and spelling questions by tapping his hoof. Today, he's an example of some of the pitfalls of scientific studies involving people and animals: Hans, it turned out, was stumped when his human testers

didn't know the answer to the question — which meant he was actually clever at reading the unconscious cues of people.

Horse cognition research has come some way since then, and the animals

**Horse cognition research has come some way since then, and the animals have shown savvy at recognizing shapes and telling objects apart.**

have shown savvy at recognizing shapes and telling objects apart.

The subjects were 23 ordinary riding horses with charming names including Poltergeist, Virvelvind and Romano (one horse died shortly after the training, leaving 22 in the end). All had previous experience wearing blankets when their owners deemed them necessary. To help the horses express their own preferences, the researchers created three simple boards: One with a horizontal bar meant "put blanket on"; an unmarked board meant "no change"; and a board with a vertical bar meant "take blanket off".

Then the horses went through a methodical literacy course of sorts. First, the trainers introduced the symbols one at a time. Horses that touched it with their muzzles would be rewarded with a thin slice of carrot, and then the corresponding action would be carried out — the blanket taken on or off. Once the horses had that down, they were shown both symbols at the same time, but they only got their treats if they touched the "relevant" one. In other words, if a horse wearing a blanket touched the symbol that meant "put a blanket on," he'd get nothing.

(Source: *The Washington Post*)

## China's giant telescope may lead to "discoveries beyond wildest imagination": U.S. expert

China's 500-meter Aperture Spherical Radio Telescope (FAST) may help better understand the origin and structure of the universe and accelerate and even revolutionize the search for life beyond Earth, a renowned U.S. alien intelligence expert said Saturday.

FAST, the world's largest single-dish telescope with a diameter of a half kilometer, is expected to go online on Sunday. It is located at the Dawodang depression, a natural basin or "karst" in Pingtang County in the mountainous southwestern Chinese province of Guizhou.

The telescope, nicknamed Tianyan, or the Eye of Heaven, can accurately image twice as much the sky as the Arecibo Observatory in Puerto Rico, which had previously been the world's largest single-dish radio telescope, with double sensitivity and five to 10 times the surveying speed.

Douglas Vakoch, president of METI International, an organization promoting messaging outer space in the search for extraterrestrial intelligence, noted that astronomers worldwide will be invited to use the facility through a competitive review of observing proposals.

"By opening FAST to use by the broader international community, China is demonstrating its commitment to fostering astronomy as a global scientific enterprise," he



told Xinhua, saying it may lead to "discoveries beyond our wildest imagination."

## ■ Complex organic

As for FAST's scientific missions, Vakoch said it will be used to look for the signatures of complex organic molecules in interstellar space, which will show how widely the basic building blocks of life are distributed throughout the cosmos.

"For over a half century, astronomers have been using radio telescopes to answer the haunting question, 'Are

we alone?' But astronomers face a daunting challenge: the signals they seek are so weak that an incredibly sensitive telescope is needed to detect them," he said.

"FAST's innovative design and huge collecting area give it unsurpassed speed and sensitivity, making it vital to the search for extraterrestrial intelligence in the coming decades," said Vakoch. "We can expect China to become a world leader in the search for extraterrestrial intelligence because of its demonstrated commitment in building FAST."

However, FAST will not initially be outfitted with the signal processing capabilities to search for aliens, he said. This technology will be added at a later stage, and when that happens, FAST will be able to scan the heavens for signals that "can't be created by nature, but only by advanced civilizations," Vakoch said.

Based on the recent history of radio telescopes, he also predicted that FAST will lead to a "dramatic increase in the number and variety of pulsars discovered."

This could also provide scientists with the capability to detect gravitational waves, or ripples in space-time, from pairs of massive black holes, since FAST has the potential to precisely measure tiny changes of the pulsing rates of pulsars as the gravitational waves pass by.

(Source: *Xinhuanet*)

## Were dinosaurs corycats? This ancient, domed skull suggests so.

Dinosaurs might not have been so special after all.

"People always think that these dinosaurs that you see in the Jurassic and the Cretaceous are so unique and so different, and there's nothing ever like that before or after," says Michelle Stocker, a vertebrate paleontologist at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. "But it's actually not true."

And a 230-million-year-old skull Dr. Stocker and colleagues pulled out of a drawer at the Texas Vertebrate Paleontology Collections at the University of Texas at Austin shows just that, she says.

Stocker and her colleagues came upon the skull when sorting through specimens collected across Texas by the Works Progress Administration in the late 1930s and early 1940s. "We were just go-

ing through the drawers and found this blob, essentially," she recalls in a phone interview with *The Christian Science Monitor*. "It was still covered in mud. It had never been washed off."

New, but also familiar. When the paleontologists began to examine the skull, they quickly noticed the remarkable thickness of the roof of the skull. The dome-shaped skull struck them as particularly similar to those of animals that lived about 140 million years later: the pachycephalosaur dinosaurs.

And when the team CT-scanned the specimen, they also found three different zones of bone growth and structures of the brain case much like the pachycephalosaurs.

## ■ Key features

So did the paleontologists have on their

hands a dinosaur that lived before its time? No, Stocker says. "It's missing some key features, certain features of the way the brain case is set up" to be a dinosaur, she says.

Instead, the specimen was a relative of dinosaurs and crocodylians, Stocker says. And that means this is a prime example of convergent evolution, a process by which two different animals independently evolve a similar feature.

The team dubbed the extinct animal, *Triopticus primus*, in a paper describing the specimen published Thursday in the journal *Current Biology*.

When Stephen Brusatte, a paleontologist at the University of Edinburgh who was not part of the study, saw a cast of the fossil, "my first inclination was that it was a dinosaur — a small dome-headed pachycephalosaur," he tells the *Monitor* in an email.

And when he learned it was from the Triassic — over 100 million years earlier than those dinosaurs roamed — he was particularly confused. "Finding a small reptile with a domed head in Triassic rocks was totally unexpected. It would be like finding a monkey living in the cornfields of the Midwest."

"It tells us that dinosaurs didn't invent that body type, but rather they were just copying it from their ancient cousins," Dr. Brusatte says.

*Triopticus* wasn't the only animal of its time with traits that reappeared in later animals. A Triassic reptile called a phytosaur looks just like crocodiles that live today, Stocker says. The only visible difference is the location of the nostrils.

(Source: *The CSM*)

## SARMAYEH BANK New Chief Executive Appointed

At the proposal of the Board of Directors of SARMAYEH Bank and approval of Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran (CBI), Dr. Mohamad-Reza Khani was appointed as Chief Executive

of the bank, Public Relations Dept. of SARMAYEH Bank reported.

Earlier, he was the member of the Board of Directors of the Bank.

Moreover, having experience in monetary and banking field, he has served as teacher, the issue of which has turned him as suitable option for managing directorship of Farhangian Bank.

## First Contract Sustaining Foreign Capital Established at PGPIC

The first contract sustaining financial resources from international markets was established at the Persian Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company (PGPIC), the largest petrochemical holding, in Iran.

Through pivotal planning on the basis of developmental objectives of the PGPIC, the CEO of the mentioned company could put into practice all the previously given vows.

Nejad Salim could build confidence in international exports insurance institutions, credit-providers and banks via the right-moment attendance at international conferences such as Geneva, Vienna, Berlin and Frankfurt Conferences. He also accomplished the structures to quench the requested financial data

in this respect.

Consequently, this decision made by exports insurance institutions for admitting PGPIC was attained merely depending on the name of holding without taking any other guarantees in the format of corporate guarantee. Accordingly, the first contract sustaining financial resources in terms of USANCE from Japan under the NEXI exports insurance coverage and the signed contract with MAROUBENI to the value of 320 million euros was signed in Tokyo, Japan on the first of September.

Following the insight of exports insurance institutions with the aim of sustaining financial resources from short-term to mid-term, the holding CEO has finalized negotiations with

several Japanese companies to encourage utilizing loans to a similar value increasable to 640 million euros, which will be most probably signed in the forthcoming future.

His activities regarding sustaining financial resources are not limited to these subjects and required financial principles based on IFRS were achieved by continuous pursuits, meetings and telephone conferences so that concurrently structural negotiations with international credit-providers sustaining long-term financial resources are at a delightful stage. This will be achieved upon the arrival of banks.

He hopes to sustain financial resources to the value of 1 billion euros in the format of USANCE and the mid-

term one to the amount of 500 million euros in this year. Long-term structures precautions will be facilitated upon the arrival of banks in the following year and the accomplishment of sustaining financial resources over 2.5 billion euros is foreseeable through a syndicate of banks and exports insurance institutions.

In addition to sustaining financial resources, foreign cooperation with accredited international companies to the investment of 10 billion dollars is the future objective of the PGPIC.

It is worth saying that the mentioned contacts sustaining finance have been achieved solely by relying on the name of the PGPIC without international exports contacts pledge.

## Earth could reach critical climate threshold in a decade, scientists warn

The planet could pass the critical 1.5°C global temperature threshold in a decade—and is already two-thirds of the way to hit that warming limit, climate scientists warned on Thursday.

Speaking at a University of Oxford conference last week, led by leading UK climate researcher Richard Betts, scientists said global greenhouse gas emissions are not likely to slow down quickly enough to avoid passing the 1.5°C target.

The goal of limiting global warming to 1.5°C was agreed to in the landmark Paris agreement negotiated by 195 nations last year.

But the planet is continuing to experience unprecedented heat month after month, setting 2016 on track to be the hottest year ever recorded. In fact, the scientists said, Earth is currently on a trajectory to hit at least 2.7°C in global temperature rise.

Pete Smith, a plant and soil scientist at the University of Aberdeen in Scotland, said mass lifestyle change must be undertaken to combat rising temperatures, such as developing more sustainable diets, reducing food waste and red meat intake, and importing fewer greenhouse gas-heavy vegetables.

"There are lots of behavioral changes required, not just by the government ... but by us," he said. He also warned that controversial geoengineering techniques such as sunlight blocking could become the norm in some countries.

The warning came the same day that Oil Change International released a report that found we have 17 years left to get off fossil fuels, or else face unprecedented and irreversible climate catastrophe.

Yet more bad news also emerged Thursday as a new study published in the journal *Science* found that the Earth is soaking up carbon at a far slower rate than previously estimated — which could mean a massive setback for environmental efforts.

(Source: *EcoWatch*)

## Stable isotopes in hair reveal how bonobo diets may vary with rank and reproductive status

Stable isotope analysis of hair from bonobos shows that the diet of these great apes may vary with social rank and reproductive status, according to a study in the open-access journal *PLOS ONE* by Vicky Oelze from Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Germany, and colleagues.

Great ape diets vary with environmental conditions as well as with sociodemographic factors, and the former can obscure the impact of the latter. Bonobos, however, are ideal for assessing social and physiological influences on diet because they live in the Congo Basin's ecologically steady evergreen rainforest, which has relatively little seasonal variation. Oelze and colleagues analyzed stable nitrogen and carbon isotopes in local plant foods and 101 hair samples collected from 23 adult bonobos between 2008 and 2010.

The researchers found that social rank may have affected diet only in male bonobos: nitrogen was low in hairs from adolescent males, which are low-ranking and commonly excluded when meat is shared. In addition, nitrogen and carbon in hairs from females varied with reproductive status, presumably reflecting varying dietary needs and physiological conditions. Notably, nitrogen isotope values were high during pregnancy, which may reflect the mobilization and metabolism of body-own proteins.

Likewise, during pregnancy, carbon isotope values were particularly low -- suggesting a high protein diet based on terrestrial herbaceous vegetation. In contrast, carbon isotope values were high during lactation -- suggesting an energy rich diet based on high calorie fruits when energy demands increase to nurse and carry dependent offspring. The researchers recommend testing their findings in other primate species.

(Source: *EurekAlert*)

## The universe is expanding in all of the directions all of the time

The universe is expanding in all directions all at once, scientists have discovered. In fact, a study has shown there is just a one in 121,000 chance it is not uniform in its entire observable 93 billion light-years.

Scientists from University College London and Imperial College London used maps of cosmic microwave background (CMB) radiation — the light that was produced just after the Big Bang — to look at the polarization, or orientation, of light at our cosmic dawn.

On a small scale, the universe appears disordered, with planetary systems making up larger galaxies that when put together become galaxy clusters. However, when we zoom out, the universe largely looks the same whichever way you look at it.

However, there are some fluctuations in the CMB that could be the result of anisotropic expansion (where it expands in one direction more than another).

Whether or not it is truly uniform will impact theories of the universe, including Einstein's field equations. If it rotates or is not uniform, its expansion would vary with direction and we would need to rethink some cosmological models like inflation.

(Source: *ibtimes.com*)





# Invitation to the Korea Autumn Festival 2016

*On the occasion of the Korean National Day,*

*The Korean Embassy invites all Iranian friends to the following cultural, sports, economic, and academic events which will be held in coming weeks as an effort to strengthen comprehensive partnership between Korea and Iran*

■ **1. Presentation of Korean TV drama**

26<sup>th</sup> September 13:00~16:30, Milad tower (conference center), invitees only

■ **2. Exhibition of Korean modern paintings and try-out of Korean cultural activities**

27<sup>th</sup> September~2<sup>nd</sup> October 11:00~20:00, Milad tower (exhibition hall), free admission

■ **3. Korean music night with Tehran Orchestra**

30<sup>th</sup> September 21:30~23:00, Vahdat hall, invitees only

■ **4. Joint performance of Iranian Naqqali and Korean musical drama**

1<sup>st</sup> ~2<sup>nd</sup> October 18:30~20:30, Milad tower (conference center), free admission (first come first served) with priority for invitees

■ **5. Roundtable on the Korean Peninsula and the Middle East**

4<sup>th</sup> October 10:00~12:00, Tehran University, invitees only

■ **6. Exhibition of Iranian calligraphy on friendship of Korea and Iran**

5<sup>th</sup>~10<sup>th</sup> October 14:00~21:00, Iranian Artists Forum (Iranshahr st.), free admission

■ **7. Launching ceremony of Korean economic institutions' research on Iranian economy**

5<sup>th</sup> October 09:00~12:00, OIETAI headquarters, invitees only

■ **8. "Korean style" photo exhibition (photos taken by Iranian photographer Ehsan Sadigh)**

3<sup>rd</sup>~8<sup>th</sup> October 10:00~21:00, Niavaran cultural complex (blue hall), free admission

■ **9. Korea-Iran bio-medical equipment and service business meeting**

2<sup>nd</sup>~3<sup>rd</sup> October 09:00~16:00, Evin hotel (Kooeh Noor hall), invitees only

■ **10. Korea tourism photo and calligraphy exhibition with Korea-Iran FIFA World Cup football match**

11<sup>th</sup> October, Azadi stadium, football match ticket holders only

■ **11. "Study in Korea" conference and university exhibition**

20<sup>th</sup> October 10:00~17:00, Korean Ambassador's residence (2 Saidi st., Lavasani ave.), university students and staffs are welcomed

■ **12. 2016 Korean Ambassador's Cup Taekwondo competition**

24<sup>th</sup>~27<sup>th</sup> October 10:00~16:00, Tehran or Isfahan (to be confirmed), free admission

■ **13. TOPIK (Test of Proficiency in Korean)**

16<sup>th</sup> October 09:10~16:00, Korean Embassy and School in Tehran, applicants only

■ **14. K-Beauty (Korean cosmetics) business meeting**

19<sup>th</sup>~20<sup>th</sup> October 09:00~18:00, Esteghlal hotel (Yas hall), invitees only

■ **15. Math competition for Iranian university students**

27<sup>th</sup> October 09:00~15:00, Korean Ambassador's residence, invitees only

■ **16. Korean movies on every Thursday**

27<sup>th</sup> October 16:00~18:00, Korean Embassy (2 West Daneshvar st., Sheikhabai ave.), free admission

■ **17. Iranian traditional art (Moarak) exhibitions sponsored by Korea in cooperation with CHHTO**

16<sup>th</sup>~20<sup>th</sup> October 09:00~16:00, Naghsh Khane (Imam Khomeini sq., Isfahan), free admission

23<sup>rd</sup>~26<sup>th</sup> October 09:00~16:00, Moarak exhibition hall (CHHTO headquarters, Azadi st., Tehran), free admission



*Embassy of  
Republic of Korea in Iran*



Bahraini regime forces have fired tear gas canisters to disperse dozens of demonstrators, who were out on the streets in protest at the ruling House of Khalifah's decision to strip prominent Shia Muslim cleric Sheikh Issa Qassim of his citizenship.

On Saturday, protesters converged on a square in the northwestern village of Diraz, west of the capital Manama, chanting slogans in support of the 79-year-old spiritual leader of Bahrain's main opposition bloc, the al-Wefaq National Islamic Society.

Fierce scuffles erupted when regime forces stormed the protest site, and used tear gas to disperse the crowd. There were no immediate reports of casualties.

Elsewhere in the western coastal village of Dumistan, Bahraini soldiers raided a number of houses and ransacked them. They arrested a young man, identified as Ali Mohammed Habib al-Dhaif, and seized all his electrical devices.

Additionally, Bahraini regime forces broke into several houses in Manama's suburban neighborhood of Juffair, detaining a youth.

## Bahraini regime forces attack supporters of Sheikh Qassim



Bahraini authorities stripped Sheikh Qassim of his citizenship on June 20.

They have closed the offices of al-Wefaq, whose secretary general, Sheikh Ali Salman, himself a prominent Shia cleric, has been in prison since December 2014.

Regime officials also dissolved opposition al-Risala Islamic Association and Islamic Enlightenment Institution, founded by Sheikh Qassim.

The latest demonstration came a day after a Bahraini appeals court upheld the decision to dissolve al-Wefaq.

Leading human rights group Amnesty International strongly denounced the move as "a flagrant attack on freedom of expression and association and a brazen attempt to suppress criticism of the government in Bahrain."

Anti-regime protesters have staged numerous demonstrations in Bahrain on an almost daily basis since February 14, 2011, calling on the House of Khalifah regime to relinquish power.

Scores of people have been killed and hundreds of others injured or arrested in Manama's crackdown on anti-regime activists.

(Source: Press TV)

## Clinton, Trump in virtual tie ahead of first debate: poll

Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump are in a virtual dead heat in their bitter race for the White House on the eve of their first head-to-head presidential debate, a new poll showed on Sunday.



The Washington Post-ABC News poll found that Clinton's slim margin from last month has now vanished. Instead, the Democrat and her Republican rival tied at 41 percent support among registered voters, with Libertarian Party nominee Gary Johnson at seven percent and Green Party nominee Jill Stein at two percent.

In a two-way match-up, Clinton and Trump each got 46 percent among registered voters.

While some other national surveys show Clinton with a lead, poll averages show a low, single-digit margin.

Gender, race and education were clear markers between the two candidates.

Men back Trump by 54 percent to 55 percent of women who said they support Clinton, the poll showed. Some 53 percent of white voters back Trump, compared to 37 percent for Clinton, while non-white voters back her 69 percent to 19 percent for her Republican rival.

Trump is ahead of Clinton by more than four to one among white men without college degrees, a gap that narrows for white women without college degrees and college-educated white men.

Among college educated white women, Clinton leads Trump in the poll by 57 percent to 32 percent.

The two candidates are still grappling with high negativity among voters.

Around 39 percent of registered voters see Clinton favorably, compared to 57 percent who have an unfavorable impression.

For Trump, 38 percent had a positive impression and 57 percent a negative one, a rating five points lower than it was prior to the two parties' national conventions in July.

While voters find both candidates lacking in honesty overall, Clinton's ratings were worse, with just 33 percent of voters finding her honest and trustworthy and 66 percent saying she is not.

Some 42 percent of voters said Trump was honest and trustworthy, while 53 percent said he was not.

Most voters (53 percent) who do not see Trump as qualified to be president, while 58 percent said he lacks the temperament to be an effective president and 55 percent said he lacked the world knowledge required for the job.

Meanwhile, Trump threatened on Saturday to bring a former lover of Clinton's husband Bill Clinton to the debate, one of a series of references he has made to the ex-president's infidelities.

His gibe came after billionaire investor Mark Cuban, a vocal Trump critic who backs Clinton, agreed to sit at the front of the audience for the televised debate, which is expected to shatter audience records with up to 90 million Americans watching.

(Source: AFP)

## Man, 20, in custody after fatal shooting of 5 people at mall outside Seattle

A 20-year-old man was taken into custody on Saturday night in connection with a shooting that killed five people on Friday at a mall north of Seattle, the authorities said.

The authorities, speaking at a news conference on Saturday night, identified the suspect as Arcan Cetin of Oak Harbor, Wash. He was taken into custody without incident around 6:30 p.m.

Officials said that they had received numerous tips about the gunman and that surveillance footage had helped locate him.

Lt. Michael Hawley of the Island County Sheriff's Office said he had received a report that Cetin's car was less than a mile from his office and when he headed that way, he found Cetin walking on the sidewalk. Cetin was carrying a satchel with a computer inside and was in a "zombielike" state when he was taken into custody, the lieutenant said.

Charges were pending, said the authorities, who said it was too early to say what led to the shootings.

On his Facebook page, Cetin listed his hometown as Adana, Turkey. Officials said he was a legal permanent resident of the United States. He graduated last year from Oak Harbor High School and listed himself on Facebook as a bagger at the Whidbey Island Commissary.

The attacker at the Cascade Mall in Burlington, Wash., killed four women in the cosmetics section of a Macy's department store, the authorities said. A man was critically wounded in the shooting and was taken to Harborview Medical Center in Seattle, where he died. The youngest female victim was a teenager, law enforcement officials said at a news conference on Saturday morning.

The gunman, who was armed with a rifle, left the scene before the police arrived. Officials said they recovered the weapon at the scene. They declined to give details about the weapon or to say how many rounds were fired. Photographs of Cetin on a Myspace account showed him holding a handgun and a rifle.

A spokesman for the FBI's Seattle field office said on Saturday that there was no evidence to suggest that the shooting was an act of terrorism.

At the news conference on Saturday night, Mayor Steve Sexton of Burlington said the shootings happened at a time and in a setting that were ordinary: a Friday night at a mall.

The names of the victims had not yet been released by officials.

The FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigation) said early on Saturday that it had "no information to suggest that additional attacks" were planned in Washington State, and that it was coordinating intelligence efforts with the local authorities. More than 200 officers from at least 26 agencies responded to the shooting, the authorities said.

The attack was the seventh time this year in which at least four people were killed in a shooting in Washington, according to The Seattle Times.

(Source: The New York Times)

## China conducts military exercises in Western Pacific

China's Air Force has carried out a series of military drills and patrols in the Western Pacific region after passing through a strait between Japanese islands, a move that could escalate tensions in the region.

China's Air Force spokesman, Shen Jinke, said on Sunday that the sorties by more than 40 bombers and fighter jets were part of regular long-range drills in the Western Pacific and patrols over the East China Sea Air Defense Identification Zone (ADIZ) to protect China's sovereignty and national security.

Jinke said in his statement on the

Ministry of Defense website that Chinese aircraft carried out the exercises in the Western Pacific after flying through a strait between the Japanese islands of Miyako and Okinawa.

He said the patrols were to "carefully monitor and judge the foreign military aircraft that enter the anti-aircraft defense zone, to take measures to respond to different threats in the sky and to protect national airspace."

The drills come amid heightened tensions over China's increasingly assertive presence in the South and East China Seas.



China is in dispute with Japan over a series of uninhabited islets in the East China Sea while similar disputes exist between Beijing and countries like Taiwan, Brunei, Vietnam, Malaysia and the Philippines over the South China Sea. The

United States has also become wary of China's activities in those seas and has supported claims against Beijing.

Japan and the U.S. reacted angrily to China's decision in 2013 to impose an ADIZ in the East China Sea, in which aircraft are required to identify themselves to Chinese authorities.

The Miyako Strait, which Chinese bombers and fighter planes used on Sunday to reach the Western Pacific, has been often used by China's Navy as a strategic pathway from Eastern China Sea to the Pacific Ocean.

(Source: Press TV)

## Yemen shoots down Saudi spy aircraft: report

Yemeni armed forces have shot down a Saudi unmanned aerial vehicle on an espionage mission in the country's airspace, media reports say.

The spy drone was brought down on Sunday in the west-central province of Sana'a, according to Yemen's al-Masirah television.

It was not clear if the aircraft was operated by the Saudi military or the militants it is supporting on the battle ground against the Yemeni army and the Ansarullah (Houthi) movement fighters.

Separately, reports said Saudi warplanes pounded different targets, including military bases, across the

province as well as the Baqim district in Sa'ada Province in Yemen's extreme northwest.

The air raids have killed dozens of civilians in the impoverished state in recent years, sparking fresh international criticism of Riyadh's military campaign.

The House of Saud regime has been incessantly pounding Yemen since March 2015, with the United Nations putting the toll at 10,000.

Ever since, Yemeni forces have brought down several such aircraft either in the Yemeni airspace or during retaliatory attacks in the southwestern Saudi Arabian region of Jizan.

(Source: Press TV)



## Analyst: U.S. call for no-fly zone in Syria foil to protect its terrorist proxies

While the U.S. had suggested that it can control armed groups in ceasefire, hundred cases of truce violation have been committed by them and Washington has failed to control them. Some believe the recent cessation of hostilities and its subsequent failure proves a discord among Americans and their former allies in region which are Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Qatar; they did not follow the U.S. demands and allowed terrorist and armed groups in Syria to violate the truce. What is your take on this and if this is the case, what can be the next scenarios for the U.S. in Syria?

I am not aware of any major rift between the U.S. and its co-conspirators for regime change in Syria - Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Qatar. There has always been tensions over tactics, with Turkey and Saudi Arabia usually being more gung-ho than Washington. My take on the ceasefire failure is simply that it proves beyond doubt that Washington is an accomplice in the state-sponsored terrorist war on Syria. The fact that Washington's appeal for "moderate rebels" to dissociate from "terrorists" was spectacularly shown to be futile indicates in turn that the official Western narrative about the Syrian

conflict is a load of lies. The Western claim of supporting a "secular, vetted opposition" in a "pro-democracy uprising" - while at the same time supposedly fighting terrorism - is demonstrated to be a mockery of the truth. The truth being that Washington and its NATO and Arab clients are guilty of waging a war on Syria with various terrorist brigades acting as their proxy ground forces. The ceasefire was immediately violated by all these insurgent groups and there evidently was no distinction between them as Washington and the dutiful Western mass media have been claiming for the past six years. That

glaring moment of truth was unbearable for Washington to allow, and in my opinion that was a pressing reason for the U.S. to "kill the ceasefire". With its terrorist proxies facing defeat, there is now a very imminent danger of the U.S. and its NATO and Arab dictator allies escalating military intervention directly. The recent occupation and annexation of Syrian territory by Turkish and American military forces is a grim harbinger that the covert war for regime change may be turning into an overt war - an international war no less involving NATO on one side and Russia and Iran on the other.

## South Sudan's top-down disaster

The tricky part will be holding them accountable while not impeding the flow of desperately needed humanitarian relief. The United Nations now estimates that more than 1 million refugees have fled South Sudan since the civil war began in December 2013.

The civil war was patched up in a peace agreement calling for a transitional government, but Machar recently fled South Sudan amid fresh instability and violence. Kiir is well on the road to despotism, cracking down on civil society and media. There are reports of a new campaign by government commanders to recruit child soldiers. On July 11, 50 to 100 armed men, who have been identified as government forces, entered the

Terrain Camp residential compound in the capital, Juba, where foreign aid workers lived, and went on a rampage, robbing, beating and assaulting them. A well-respected South Sudanese journalist was killed.

The United States played a critical role in South Sudan's independence, but Kiir no longer seems to be listening to

**The United States played a critical role in South Sudan's independence, but Kiir no longer seems to be listening to Washington.**

Washington. The situation should not lead to complacency. A point of the Sentry report is that further sanctions would threaten the kleptocrats. Separately, the United Nations Security Council has proposed a protective force of 4,000 troops on top of the 12,000 already there, but Kiir may not accept it. If the new force is obstructed, it will trigger an arms embargo, long threatened and overdue.

Five years ago, then-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton celebrated South Sudan's independence on these pages, saying it was a moment of "a new national identity and new national promise." Now, it is clear South Sudan's leaders have proved ruinous. That sound coming from Washington is one long, deep sigh of disenchantment.

(Source: Washington Post)

## Great power rivalry have made UN ineffective: academic

**Why hasn't the UN been successful in resolving conflicts in countries such as Syria and Yemen?**

?A: There are no new active peace missions in the Middle East, and have not been since 2012. The conditions for continuation of the mission in Syria were not met, and the operation there ceased. There is a continuous UN presence in the Golan Heights and in Lebanon, but this is only to monitor relations between Israel and the surrounding Arab states. The oldest active mission dates from 1948 and is charged with monitoring and maintaining a cease-fire between Israel, Lebanon and Syria.

No UN forces are currently involved in the Syrian conflict.

**Some argue that Ban ki-moon has been the least active secretary general in the history of the United Nations? Do you agree with this argument?**

A: It is true that there have been fewer military initiatives under Ban-ki moon. He has been criticized for being too solicitous of the Security Council core members, and not being willing to get involved when there are conflicts between them. He did initiate the Syrian peace talks in Geneva, but in the past few years has not been willing to work actively in the Middle East. Many criticize him for being too bureaucratic, and not being willing to exercise dynamic leadership. However, one should note that the UN is not just a military operation. It carries out many functions. Among those in which Ban-ki moon has taken an active role is global warming.

**"It is true that there have been fewer military initiatives under Ban-ki moon. He has been criticized for being too solicitous of the Security Council core members, and not being willing to get involved when there are conflicts between them."**



## Bekele claims Berlin win in near record time

Ethiopia's Kenenisa Bekele narrowly missed out on a new world record when he out-sprinted Kenya's Wilson Kipsang to win the Berlin marathon in the second fastest race of all time on Sunday.

The triple Olympic champion weathered Kipsang's blistering early pace before he attacked with two kilometres left, crossing the line in an official time of two hours, three minutes and three seconds, six seconds off Dennis Kimetto's world record.

Kipsang, a former world record holder who won in Berlin three years ago but like Bekele missed last month's Rio Olympics, could not match the Ethiopian's pace towards the end and finished 10 seconds adrift in the fourth-fastest time ever.

"I wanted to run a personal best, that was my first goal," Bekele, who shaved more than two minutes off his previous fastest, told reporters. "The time was fantastic but I am a bit disappointed as well, as I missed a few seconds in the end."

A strong early pace, with the leading runners passing the five kilometre mark in an eye-popping time of 14 minutes 20 seconds, meant the main contenders had the world record in their sights from the start.

Both Kipsang, who set his world record in Berlin in 2013 only to lose it to fellow Kenyan Kimetto a year later, and Bekele stuck behind the pacemakers, with the experienced Emmanuel Mutai joining them.

A lightning fast race was confirmed by the halfway mark with the leading pack more than a minute inside world record pace as Mutai, second in Berlin 2014, dropped off the pace.

It quickly became a two-horse race and after 30 kilometres it was Bekele's turn to drop some 30 metres behind the leader as Kipsang staged his first attack.

But the 34-year-old Ethiopian, still the world record holder for the 5,000 and 10,000 metres on the track, refused to buckle and caught Kipsang in the next two kilometres.

Bekele then drew on his strong finish from his days on the track and elegantly pulled away after the final drinks station as Kipsang failed to stay in touch.

"I was hoping to win it and run a personal best. I did it," said Kipsang, who was 10 seconds faster than his world record time of 2013.

"We both ran a fantastic race together and I missed him (Bekele) by a few seconds. Next time it will be another day."

Ethiopia enjoyed a sweep of the podium in the women's race with Aberu Kebede winning her third Berlin marathon with a time of 2:20:45. Her compatriots followed her home with Birhane Dibaba claiming second ahead of Ruti Aga.

(Source: Reuters)

## Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo not angry after substitution - Zidane

Real Madrid manager Zinedine Zidane has defended his decision to remove Cristiano Ronaldo in the second half of Los Blancos' 2-2 draw at Las Palmas on Saturday.

With 20 minutes remaining and his team 2-1 ahead, Zidane decided to remove Ronaldo and send on Lucas Vazquez, and the three-time Ballon d'Or winner did not look happy as he slowly took his place on the bench.



"It was not that [Ronaldo] was playing badly," Zidane told reporters after the match. "We are playing on Tuesday and Cristiano must rest too sometimes. It was just for that. He was playing well. Tonight I took him off thinking of Tuesday's game."

"Angry? That would be your interpretation. He always wants to be on the pitch. We have to take him out sometimes, and we did today. It does not change anything."

Zidane had criticised his team's first-half performance after their midweek draw at home to Villarreal, but rejected an idea that they had been similarly lacking in intensity for a second game in a row, adding that defensive issues leading to two goals conceded would have to be analysed.

"We had many chances in the first half tonight, also in the second," Zidane said. "I do not believe we lacked hunger -- just the opposite. We started well, pressing high, we did what we had prepared. But when they score twice -- well something has happened, and we must analyse it."

"The second goal was not just one player's mistake, it was a bit of everything. The team are working well, are committed to what we are doing. In football you cannot always win, but we are on the right path and we have a game on Tuesday which is coming up soon."

(Source: SoccerNet)

# Iran blanks South Korea with straight sets in 2016 AVC Cup for Men

Iran's national B volleyball team has trounced defending champion South Korea in straight sets at the preliminary round of the 2016 Asian Volleyball Confederation (AVC) Cup for Men in Thailand.

On Saturday, the Persians registered an emphatic win by seeing off the South Korean men's national volleyball team 3-0, with the set scores of 25-23, 25-17 and 25-16, in a Pool B match played at Nakhon Pathom Gymnasium in the central city of Nakhon Pathom.

The South Koreans got off to a decent start, and managed to notch up the first two points of the match to take an early lead over the Persians. The East Asians entered the first technical time-out 8-5.

The Iranians then narrowed the gap to 6-10, before the opposite side got a five-point advantage at the second technical time-out and both teams went out 16-11 for a breather. The Iranian volleyball players eventually won the set 25-23 despite the South Korean's spirited fight-back.

Iran's squad maintained its array in the second set of the game, and went into a stiff competition against South Korea.

The Iranian sportsmen did not seem to be capitulating, and raced out to an 8-7 lead at the first technical time-out of the second set.

The Iranians slammed fine spikes and blocked the ball well to grab the second time-out 16-12.

The Iranian team took up the available opportunities to surge ahead and finished



the set 25-17 at last.

The Persians began the third set energetically, and kept on earning points as both sides went into the second technical time-out 16-9. The Iranian team ultimately pulled out to a 25-16 victory.

South Korea's Hwang Kyungmin was named the top scorer of the match with 16 points. Reza Ghara tallied 13 points for Iran.

The national Iranian men's B volleyball team is scheduled to face Thailand in a

quarterfinal fixture on Monday.

The 2016 AVC Cup for Men, which marks the 5th edition of the cup, started in Nakhon Pathom on September 22 and will run through September 28.

(Source: PressTV)

## Iran's kurash wrestler Sheikholeslami clinches gold in Asian Beach Games



Iranian kurash wrestler Mohammad Hossein Sheikholeslami has demonstrated outstanding athletic and gripping qualities at the fifth edition of Asian Beach Games in Vietnam, and scooped a gold medal at the continental sporting event.

On Sunday and the first day of the tournament, Sheikholeslami emerged triumphant in his first bout against Indian rival Gaurav Tokas at the minus 60-kilogram weight class in the south-central Vietnamese city of Da Nang.

The 26-year-old Iranian sportsman then overcame his Vietnamese opponent Vo Pham Hoang An in the quarterfinal round, and marched into the final bout.

Sheikholeslami overwhelmed Mongolian Chinbat Otgon in the final contest, and was awarded the top honor.

The Turkmen national wrestling competition, kurash (also written as goresh), is a kind of wrestling on belts that has ancient roots, and dates back to as early as the 3rd century BC. Wrestlers need to earn points by forcing the opponent to touch the mat with any part of the body except a foot.

Kurash competitions are staged in four formats, namely round, shootout, mixed and team.

During the round format contests, athletes compete with all wrestlers in the same weight category. If there are many wrestlers in one weight division, the participants are divided into two groups. Wrestlers who earn the first and second places in each group will be in action for the final showdowns.

Wrestlers are eliminated from the rest of the competition once they lose in the shootout format.

In the mixed format, wrestlers start with the round format for the preliminary round and then shift to the shootout format.

According to the team format, only one athlete from each weight category of a team is allowed to participate. Participating teams will fight one-on-one in the competitions.

The 5th edition of Asian Beach Games opened in Da Nang, Vietnam, on September 24, and will run until October 3.

(Source: PressTV)

## Paris Saint-Germain miss Zlatan Ibrahimovic - Jerome Rothen



Ex-Paris Saint-Germain player Jerome Rothen has told RMC Sport that the French champions miss former talisman Zlatan Ibrahimovic because he "made the difference alone in complicated matches."

Les Parisiens' stuttering start to the Ligue 1 season continued on Friday with a surprise 2-0 loss away at Toulouse, and coach Unai Emery, who arrived in the summer, already finds himself under pressure from the French media.

Rothen, who was at PSG from 2004 to 2010, says people are "used to a team that dominates Ligue 1" and that, so far, his former club have fallen short.

"Yes, they look sluggish," Rothen said. "They were building a good run, their confidence was returning and then it quickly came to an end. It happened more because of a lack of efficiency up against [Toulouse goalkeeper Alban] Lafont than anything else, but the game then changed immediately in the second half."

"Losing 1-0, 10 men against 11, this

is never an easy scenario. Yes, PSG are in difficulty right now but I am not worried about that exactly."

"This team still lacks some things and it is true Ibrahimovic made the difference alone in complicated matches. He is no longer there. Lucas [Moura] and [Angel] Di Maria are not doing what they are supposed to be, though."

Ibrahimovic, who joined Manchester United in the summer, was in the French media earlier this week when L'Equipe reported that the ex-Sweden international owes PSG money because the club helped him settle a tax issue in Italy when he first arrived in Paris in 2012.

However, Le Parisien countered those claims, and reported instead that PSG are waiting for a bank document from their former star.

Ibrahimovic's agent, Mino Raiola, appeared to back up Le Parisien's claims by mocking L'Equipe on Twitter and saying that the newspaper should "give people their money back" because of "another wrong article about Zlatan."

(Source: SoccerNet)

## FIDE awards Iran's Maqsoodlou chess Grandmaster title

The Fédération Internationale des Échecs (FIDE) or World Chess Federation has awarded the Grandmaster title to junior Iranian chess player Parham Maqsoodlou over his commendable performance at the World Youth U-16 Chess Olympiad 2016 in Slovakia.

The 16-year-old Iranian athlete earned the title during the 87th FIDE Congress at the Fairmont Hotel in the Azerbaijani capital city of Baku, the Islamic Republic of Iran Chess Federation website reported on Sunday.

On July 29, Iran's national cadet chess team, comprised of 12-year-old Alireza Firouzja, Maqsoodlou and Arash Tahbaz, prevailed over the Romanian side by 2.5 points to 1.5 in the final round of the event at Arena Poprad in the northern city of Poprad.



Firouzja and Tahbaz achieved convincing victories over their Roman counterparts in their final showdowns, while the game between Maqsoodlou and his Central European rival ended in a tie.

Iran's national cadet chess team garnered 17 points out of nine rounds to stand atop the podium.

The Persians were followed by Russians in the second spot with 15 points. Armenians claimed the third place, having chalked up 14 points.

The World Youth U-16 Chess Olympiad 2016 started in Poprad on July 21 and finished on July 30. It was held under the supervision of the FIDE, and used the Swiss system for pairings.

(Source: PressTV)

## Iran ping pong teams move up in latest ITTF rankings

The national Iranian ping pong teams have climbed between one and six places in the September edition of the world rankings of the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF).

According to the latest monthly rankings released by the governing body for all international table tennis associ-

ations, the Iranian men's table tennis team collected 190 points to move up one place and land in the 28th spot.

The Iranian women's table tennis team maintained its position, staying in the world's 46th place with 120 points. Additionally, Iran's national under-18 men's table tennis

team earned 98 points to ascend six steps and claim the 38th position.

The Iranian national under-18 women's table tennis team climbed to the 55th place after having accumulated 50 points and improving by two spots.

(Source: PressTV)



# Iran to face Russia in Futsal World Cup semis

Islamic Republic of Iran clinched a FIFA Futsal World Cup Colombia 2016 semi-final place for the first time since 1992 as Ahmed Esmailpour struck deep into extra time to see off Paraguay 4-3 in an incredible climax during Bucaramanga's final game of the tournament.

With plenty of space to operate in, both sides moved the ball around fluidly in the opening minutes, but the final pass was lacking as neither was able to craft solid openings. While it was Iran who were applying most of the pressure early on, it was Paraguay who took the lead, with Francisco Martinez turning in Juan Salas' drive across goal.

This spurred the South Americans into life, threatening a second as space opened up at the back as Iran pushed for a quick equaliser. But it was in fact a well-tryed route to goal that brought the leveller, as an Esmailpour thunderbolt proved that persistence pays off.

With half-time almost upon them, Paraguay nipped ahead again, this time it was Juan Salas himself bundling in at the back post. And if there was any similarity between Paraguay's goals, that was entirely superseded as Iran drew level again, this time it was Mahdi Javid unleashing a hammer blow.

Rene Villalba would have trumped them all if his volley from inside his own half hadn't struck the frame of the goal, while Mohammed Keshavarz and Farhad Tavakoli did likewise, albeit from a great deal closer as the game opened up.



The game swung Iran's way on the tug of a shirt, though, as Gabriel Ayala saw red for pulling down Tavakoli, and Javid made it 3-2 with Iran a man to the good. But with time ticking down, Villalba, sporting the flying keeper's shirt, fired a low free-kick to

take it to extra time.

It looked all set for both sides to face penalties for the second time in successive games, but Esmailpour was on hand to hammer home from close range with 23 seconds to go. Even then, Villalba still had

time to hit the post, but now Iran will face Russia in the semi-final on Wednesday.

**Iran scorers:**  
Ahmad Esmailpour (15'33", 49'37")  
Mahdi Javid (22'29", 35'35")

(Source: AFC)

## Derakhshan elected as judo federation president



**SPORTS** Mohammad Derakhshan has been elected as the president of Iran's Judo Federation on Sunday.

In the presidential elections of the federation held at National Olympic Academy of Iran, Derakhshan secured

21 of the 39 votes available, followed by former Iran judoka Arash Miresmaeili with 18 votes.

Derakhshan replaced Mohammadali Rastegari who resigned as his post four months ago.

He will serve for a term of four years.

## Iran to participate in Asian Paracanoe Championships



**SPORTS** Three Iranian rowers will take part at the 1st Asian Paracanoe Championships.

The competition will be held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan from September 28 to October 2.

Shahla Behrouzi Rad, Eslam Jahe-

di and Akbar Tahmasbi will partake at the event.

The trio will be headed by Masoud Mahdavinia.

Behrouzi Rad represented Iran at the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games KL 200m as the first Iranian Paracanoeist.

## Iran women's U-19 soccer team falls to Thailand in friendly match

Iran women's national under-19 soccer team has conceded defeat against Thailand in a warm-up match for the qualifiers of Asian Football Confederation (AFC) U-19 Women's Championship 2017.

On Sunday, the young Iranian sportswomen sustained a 1-4 loss at the hands of their Thai counterparts in a match staged in Thailand's capital city of Bangkok.

Melika Motevalli scored the consolation goal for Iranian women's national under-19 soccer team.

The defeat came a day after Iranian teenage girls were held to a 1-1 draw against players from Chonburi football club.

The qualifiers for the AFC U-19 Women's Championship 2017 will be held from October 29 to November 6, 2016.

Iran has been pitted against India, the Philippines and



Vietnam in Group D of the qualification tournament.

Australia, Jordan, Lebanon, Singapore and the Northern Mariana Islands are drawn in Group A.

Group B comprises Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Kyrgyzstan, Myanmar, Palestine and Thailand are in Group C.

The 2017 AFC U-19 Women's Championship, which will be the 9th edition of the Asian tournament, will be held in China next August, with a total of eight teams competing.

The top four teams in the 2015 edition of the AFC U-19 Championship in China - Japan North Korea, South Korea and China - have received a direct qualification to the tournament.

(Source: PressTV)

## Iran storm past Vietnam into AFC U-16 Championship semi-finals

Allahyar Sayyad bagged a brace as Islamic Republic of Iran advanced to the semi-finals of the AFC U-16 Championship India 2016 after a resounding 5-0 quarter-final victory over Vietnam at Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium On Sunday.

Sayyad opened the scoring after 29 minutes before Mohammad Ghaderi doubled their advantage early in the second half and Alireza Asadabadi gave Vietnam a mountain to climb just after the hour.

A dominant Iran then put their opponents to the sword as Amir Khodamoradi and Sayyad's double wrapped up a comfortable win as Abbas Chamanian's side progressed to the last four and also ensured a return to India for the 2017 FIFA U-17 World Cup as one of the tournament's top four teams.

Vietnam began confidently and had their first chance of note on eight minutes when Nguyen Tran Viet Cuong's powerfully struck left-foot effort from 20 yards was tipped over the bar by goalkeeper

Ali Gholam Zadeh.

The custodian was again on hand in the 16th minute to save Vu Quang Do's volley from 10 yards after Nguyen Trong Long picked out the defender with a deep corner from the left.

Without their injured skipper Aref Alipour for a second game in succession, Iran came back into the tie and broke the deadlock in the shortly before the half hour.

Ahmad Jalali picked up the ball on the left and delivered an inch-perfect delivery towards Sayyad, who got in between two defenders to head home his second goal of the tournament from six yards out.

Iran then opened up a two-goal lead a minute after the restart as Ghaderi controlled stand-in captain Mohammad Sharifi's ball over the top with his chest before firing low into the bottom right corner from 15 yards.

And the game was all but over as a contest by the 61st minute when Iran

added another through Asadabadi's third of the campaign.

Sayyad robbed a hesitant Nguyen Thanh Binh of possession 25 yards from goal before racing into the box and, after Vietnam keeper Huynh Huu Tuan got down to block the forward's low drive, Asadabadi was on hand to tap into an empty net.

The Iranians were threatening to run riot as Ghaderi broke in from the left and crossed for Khodamoradi to side-foot home from 10 yards on 68 minutes.

Substitute Alireza Savari then had an instant impact when he found Sayyad four minutes later and the lively forward confidently dispatched into the bottom right corner from 12 yards.

The Southeast Asians almost grabbed a consolation with five minutes remaining but Nguyen Khac Khiem was narrowly off target from inside the penalty area as Iran claimed their biggest win of the campaign.

(Source: AFC)



## Chamanian hails Iran's superb second-half performance

Coach Abbas Chamanian hailed Islamic Republic of Iran's second-half performance as his side booked their place in the AFC U-16 Championship India 2016 semi-finals with a 5-0 quarter-final victory over Vietnam on Sunday.

Allahyar Sayyad gave Iran the lead just before the 30-minute mark at Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, before Mohammad Ghaderi added a second shortly after the restart.

Substitute Alireza Asadabadi and Amir Khodamoradi notched further goals and Sayyad's second of the afternoon rounded off the scoring as Iran progressed to the last four and with it secured their passage to the 2017 FIFA U-17 World Cup in India.



"Vietnam were the better team in the first 20 minutes, forced us back and had chances to score, but after that we began to control the game," said Chamanian.

"The first goal for us was very important, but after the substitution at half-time we were able to put on a much better performance."

"We identified our players after the 2014 tournament in Thailand and we have worked hard to get here. We are very, very happy with this result."

Iran began the continental tournament with a thrilling 3-2 win over Saudi Arabia before a 1-1 draw with United Arab Emirates was followed by a 3-0 scoreline over India as Chamanian's team ousted the hosts.

The Iranians now return to the semi-finals for the first time since 2012 after penalty shootout elimination at the hands of eventual winners DPR Korea in 2014.

"When we came to India our first goal was to reach the semi-finals and qualify for the World Cup," added Chamanian.

"Today everyone worked very hard for the result. The players had a lot of responsibility as they knew how important this game was."

"We will now prepare for the next match and will absolutely keep trying to get even better."

Vietnam were competing in only their second ever quarter-final at the AFC U-16 event but were unable to match the feat of the class of 2000, who reached the semi-finals in their maiden appearance.

"We lost the match but we must accept this result because Iran are a very strong team," said coach Dinh The Nam. "They are fitter, faster and taller and today our players couldn't keep up with them."

"It was a pity we couldn't score in the first half because in the first 30 minutes we were very good. After that our formation didn't stick and we made some mistakes."

After a 7-0 opening-day drubbing at the hands of Japan, Vietnam twice fought back from behind to claim 3-2 and 3-1 scorelines against Australia and Kyrgyzstan respectively.

But the Southeast Asians were unable to pull off yet another comeback victory as Iran proved too strong in the second half.

"We came back before but Iran are a completely different opponent, much stronger than Australia and Kyrgyzstan, so we couldn't do it again. When the second goal went in our spirit went down," added The Nam.

"The biggest target from this tournament was to gain experience. The level is much higher at AFC competitions and my players have learnt a lot."

(Source: AFC)

## Mesut Ozil: Arsenal doubters proved wrong with Chelsea performance

Mesut Ozil says Arsenal proved their critics wrong with their display in the 3-0 win against Chelsea on Saturday.

The Gunners scored three goals inside the game's opening 40 minutes as they recorded their first victory over their London rivals since 2011.

Arsenal started the Premier League season slowly, picking up just one point from their first two matches, but having now recorded four league wins in a row, Ozil believes they are progressing well.

"Many so-called experts had already written us off after the second matchday," Ozil told Goal. "But a Premier League season is long and we're currently improving from game to game."

"In the first half we played exactly the kind of football we want to play -- quick combinations so that our opponents didn't even get the chance to tackle."

Arsenal next face Basel in the Champions League on Wednesday and Ozil says it is vital they produce a similar display to that of the Chelsea game.

"All the more, we have proved now that this wasn't a one-off and we'll have to perform equally as well against Basel," he said. "If our fans support us on Wednesday like they did today we'll be in the best conditions to play."

(Source: ESPN)







### Poem of the day

THE nightingale with drops of his heart's blood  
Had nourished the red rose, then came a wind.

Hafez

### Prayer Times

Noon: 11:56 Evening: 6:13 Dawn: 4:33 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 5:56 (tomorrow)

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■ **Subscription & Distribution Dept.:** Tel: (+98 21) 43051603  
■ **www.eshtarak.ir** Distributor: Padideh Novin Co. Tel: 88911433  
■ **Webmaster:** webmaster@tehrantimes.com  
■ **Printed at:** Kayhan - ISSN: 1017-94

SEPTEMBER 26, 2016

## NEWS IN BRIEF



### Arnavaz benefit concert to aid disabled animals

**T E H R A N** — Arnavaz, an d e s k ensemble composed of some young musicians who perform traditional Iranian music, plans to do a benefit concert to raise funds for disabled animals.

The concert will be performed at Tehran's Andisheh Cultural Center today, the center announced in press release on Sunday.

All the money, which will be raised at the concert will be donated to the Rasa Animal Shelter, a center for handicapped animals located in the town of Qarchak near Tehran.

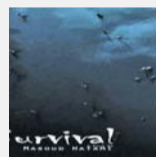


### Iranian bookstores host "Hunting and Gathering"

**T E H R A N** — A Persian version of French award-winning novelist Anna Gavalda's "Hunting and Gathering" has recently been published by Parseh Book Publications in Tehran.

Translated by Khojasteh Keyhan, the story follows an anorexic young woman who struggles with the neuroses, both of her own and people around her.

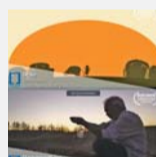
French director Claude Berri made a screen adaptation of the novel in 2007.



### Iranian shorts to compete in Italian festival

**T E H R A N** — Two Iranian movies d e s k will go on screen at the 19th CortoLovere International Short Film Festival, which will be held in the Italian town of Lovere from September 28 to October 1.

"Survival" by Masud Hatami and "Nobody" by Elham Toroqi will compete with 14 movies from Italy, Spain, France and Brazil.



### Turkish festival awards Iranian films

**T E H R A N** — Two Iranian films d e s k have won awards at the 10th Istanbul International Architecture and Urban Films Festival in Turkey.

"Darkened Water" by Alireza Dehqan won the third prize for best documentary while "Scale" by Amin Rahbar received the second prize for best animation.

The festival is organized in two categories of animation and documentary and entries will be screened from October 7 to 15.

## Gazan painter makes art with henna

**GAZA (Reuters)** — An artist in Gaza is using henna to create a series of stunning drawings of historically important sites in Jerusalem and the Palestinian territories.

Painting with a paper cone filled with henna, 36-year-old Fatima al-Ghoul brings historic and religious monuments to life on canvas as a way to express her thoughts about the Palestinian cause.

"Since henna is part of our culture, we chose to draw these Palestinian cities in henna, because the color of henna is the closest color to mud. I specifically drew the Palestinian cities and the refugee camps because we are working on a project to make an album about the Palestinian cause. This album contains the refugee camps and the historical Palestinian," explained al-Ghoul, who's been painting with henna for the past eight years.

She works closely with Suheil Atta-Allah, who supervises her project and markets her paintings, which are sold for between \$500 to \$2,000 each.

The Gazan artist says she tries to be prolific but faces the same impediments as others living in Gaza, including a shortage in painting materials and constant power cuts.

"In the beginning, we faced difficulties in choosing the fabrics and the henna. We reached this result for painting after several attempts. One of the difficulties I face is physical exhaustion, it is really exhausting to sit and keep painting for four to five hours a day. I also face difficulties in obtaining henna. It is not always available on the market. The constant electricity cut also has an impact on how long it takes me to finish the painting," al-Ghoul added.

Electricity blackouts disrupts the daily life in Gaza and cripples businesses, as many stores reduce working hours to save on spending, and families have to reschedule social events to whenever power is on.

# Korean cultural festival bringing more pleasant autumn to Tehran

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The Tehran Symphony Orchestra under the baton of conductor Shahrdad Rohani will be performing a selection of Korean classic and folk songs on September 30 in Vahdat Hall.

A Korean troupe has also been invited to perform Basilla, a spectacular and fantastic tale involving heroic characters, about a love story between a Persian prince and a Silla (Korean) princess that takes a place in the 6th century A.D.

The performance is due to be followed by Iranian naqqali, a style of storytelling dedicated to epic stories from the Ferdowsi's Shahnameh.

Another highlight of the festival is an exhibition of calligraphy promoting the friendship of Korea and Iran opening in the Iranian Artists Forum on October 5.

A number of Iranian calligraphers have inscribed the sentence "Iran and Korea Are Good Friends and Companions" in Persian. The exhibit will continue until October 10.

Moreover, Niavaran Cultural Center will be hanging photos taken by Iranian photographer Ehsan Sadiq in an exhibition running from October 3 to 8.

Promoting academic activities, a number of Korean scholars have been invited to meet Iranian academics to discuss the topic of the Korean Peninsula and the Middle East during a session to be held at the University of Tehran on October 4.

A number of other activities have been arranged during the lengthy programs such as film screening sessions to be held every Thursday at the Embassy of Korea to promote Korean films.



The Jeongdong Theater performs Basilla at the Gyeongju World Culture Expo Culture Center Performance Hall running until December 2106.

## Mess-Negar to showcase works by masters of Iranian embossing art

**T E H R A N** — d e s k Mess-Negar Gallery plans to put on display a collection of embossing works by some Iranian masters of this form of art in an exhibition, which will open on Friday.

Works by Mansur Hafezparast, Akbar Bozorgian, Reza Qaderan, Majid Bahramipur, Mohammad-Mehdi Babakhani, Mostafa Mirfakhrai, Mohammad Heidari and Mostafa Noruzi have been selected

for the exhibition, which will run for three weeks, the manager of the gallery, Mohammad-Hassan Golchinpur, said in a press release on Sunday.

The exhibition has been organized to promote the younger generation of artists in this field, he added.

A collection by about 20 young artists, including Sadaf Mirfakhrai, Reza Abedi, Kamal Lotfi and Omid Saei, will also be showcased at the

exhibit.

"Artists have stimulated great development of this art form over the past two decades," said Golchinpur whose gallery is dedicated to indigenous Iranian arts.

"The development has increased the younger generation's motivation for staying in this field," he noted.

The gallery is located at No. 5 in the Park Prince Building on Molla Sadra Highway.



An embossing work by Mansur Hafezparast

## PICTURE OF THE DAY Honaronline/Ehsan Neqabat



Painter Yahya Ruydel poses with one of his works on display in an exhibition at Tehran's Saless Gallery on September 24, 2016. The exhibit titled "Ground" runs until October 5 at the gallery located at 148 Karim Khan St.

## Paintings reflecting imaginations of women on display at Tehran exhibit

**T E H R A N** — d e s k Imaginations of women appear in a new collection by artist Soheila Tamjidi named "Women in the Mirror of Imagination".

The paintings on display at Mojdeh Gallery depict personal and social concerns of the artist in a surreal kind of atmosphere.

"Women are complex creatures. 'Woman' is one word in itself, but on the whole, she is a wife, a mother, a housewife and a spiritual person who bears all these characteristics," Tamjidi said in a press release published on Sunday.

"A woman tries to organize her concerns and where she finds no place, she begins to imagine, and this series has been formed this way," she noted.

The women on the canvas are portrayed as lonely, feeling as if drowning in their dreams.

"The imaginations of some people lead to a new

ideology and they usually react against the pressure they have tolerated over the years in their life," she added.

Pointing to the birds flying over or behind the figures, Tamjidi explained that the birds are the inner targets of humankind, "They somehow portray freedom, which puts the spotlight on the power of imagination".

She believes that visualizing is one of the most beautiful characteristics of each woman. "A woman is different from a man in how she contemplates thoughts and structures," she added.

Tamjidi is a graduate of painting and drawing from the Brighton Polytechnic from England. She has also studied art in Iran and is a graduate of visual art from the University of Suresh.

"Women in the Mirror of Imagination" will run until October 3 at the gallery located at 27 North Allameh Blvd., in the Saadatabad neighborhood.



Soheila Tamjidi speaks with visitors at the exhibition of her works at Tehran's Mojdeh Gallery on September 24, 2016. (Honaronline/Siamak Zomorodi)

## U.S. zydeco music star Stanley "Buckwheat" Dural dies at 68

**WASHINGTON (Reuters)** — The American accordionist Stanley "Buckwheat" Dural, Jr., who brought wider attention to the Creole musical styles of his native Louisiana through his band Buckwheat Zydeco, died on Saturday, his manager said.

Dural died aged 68 early on Saturday morning, according to a statement posted online by his manager, Ted Fox. His family had previously announced Dural had lung cancer.

"He died at 1:32 AM Louisiana time, keeping musician's hours right to the bitter end," Fox wrote.

Dural remained the best-known star of the bluesy, toe-tapping musical genre known as zydeco, winning a Grammy award in 2010 for his album "Lay Your Burden Down".

He was born in 1947 in Lafayette, Louisiana. His father was an amateur accordion player, but Dural preferred playing the organ as a child, according to a biography on his website. He dabbled in funk music in the 1970s with bandmates before learning to play the accordion 1978 and returning to the musical roots of his father. He would form Buckwheat Zydeco soon after.