

# TEHRAN TIMES



Tehran backs party reconciliation in Lebanon 2

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## Sense of mission leads young artist in way to promote Persian literature

**EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW**  
By Seyyed Mostafa Mousavi Sabet

**TEHRAN** — Young calligrapher Amir Jalilvand, who is also a prominent photographer, talks about a sense of responsibility that leads him in a way to promote contemporary Persian literature in Iran today.

He believes that Iranians, many of whom nowadays have an academic education, are suffering from a dearth of minimum knowledge of their literature.

The sense pushed him to use his art in this way. The outcome was "The Spring of Morning", a collection of works by contemporary poet Mohammad-Ali Bahmani, which was inscribed by a group of prominent calligraphers, including Gholam-Hossein Amirkhani and Abbas Akhavan.

The book, which also contains Jalilvand's photos of Bahmani and the master calligraphers, was unveiled at Tehran's Niavaran Cultural Center in April during a ceremony in which the 74-year-old poet and songwriter was honored for his lifetime achievements.

"There are close links between calligraphy and literature, in particular, poetry," 32-year-old Jalilvand said in a recent interview with the Tehran Times.

"Many masters of Persian calligraphy have repeatedly inscribed the Divan of Hafez, the Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam, the Shahnameh and works of other luminaries in classical Persian literature, but no work by a contemporary writer had been calligraphed before 'The Spring of Morning' was published," he added.

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## Iraqi forces advance toward Mosul

### Baghdad denies Turkish participation in Mosul ops

By staff & agencies

Iraqi forces are pushing on toward the center of the strategically-important al-Hamdaniya district in the northeast of Iraq's Nineveh Province, as part of operations to liberate the province's capital, Mosul, and its nearby areas from the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Daesh) terrorist group.



On Monday, military forces and allied volunteer fighters closed in on the heart of the district, determined to take out the ISIL terrorists holed up there, Kurdish-language Rudaw television network reported.

The operation is part of the larger-scale push to retake Mosul, which the Takfiri terrorist group has declared as its so-called headquarters in Iraq. The city has been under ISIL control since 2014, when the terrorist outfit started ravaging the country.

Upon liberation, the district would serve as a bridgehead to retake Mosul.

A senior commander with the Kurdish Peshmerga fighters, who are involved in the anti-terrorist operations, also confirmed to Rudaw that the town of Bashiqa in Nineveh's Mosul district had been encircled by Kurdish forces. The network tweeted that civilians trapped inside Bashiqa had raised white flags over their roofs to alert Peshmerga forces of their whereabouts.

Also on Monday, Iraqi forces entered the Bazwayah Village, to the east of Mosul, to flush ISIL terrorists out of it. According to the federal police, as many as 57 from among 84 villages located to the south of Mosul have so far been liberated.

The terrorists are, meanwhile, reported to have fled Mosul in large numbers as the group is said to have lost the power to confront the advancing Iraqi forces on the ground.

Citing security sources, the website of Iraqi pro-government fighters al-Hashd al-Sha'abi, also known as the Popular Mobilization Units, said ISIL terrorists had set schools and mosques as well as a health center and a power station ablaze in the province's al-Shourah district, located to the south of Mosul.

According to the federal police, al-Shourah also witnessed the elimination of a ISIL commander named Mohammad Moussa. The police and popular forces are now reportedly 10 kilometers within the district. →13

# Rouhani sees himself on par with modernizer Amir Kabir

**POLITICS TEHRAN** — If there is one desk in the contemporary Iran who is on a par with the Iranian modernizer politician Amir Kabir, President Hassan Rouhani believes it is him.

"Amir Kabir practiced some just flexibility (for the first time) in the history of Iran, helping the country to remain independent and benefit from the scientific progress then made in the world..." said Rouhani on Sunday in Markazi province, Amir Kabir's hometown. →2

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## National population and housing census underway

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## 10MW of solar power plants operational by March: energy minister

**ECONOMY TEHRAN** — Solar power plants with a total generation capacity of 10 megawatts will come online nationwide by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2017), Energy Minister Hamid Chitchian said on Monday.

Chitchian made the remarks in the inauguration ceremony of the first 1MW solar power plant in Arak, Markazi province, ISNA reported.

He said Iran is determined to add 7,500MW to its power production capacity through launching renewable power plants in the country by 2030.

Mohammad Sadeqzadeh, the managing director of Renewable Energy Organization of Iran, Known as SUNA, said in July that the Islamic Republic will add renewable energy plants with a total generation capacity of 100MW by the end of the current Iranian calendar year. He added that Iran has put producing 5,000MW of electricity from renewable sources in the next five years on its agenda.

Iran generates over 75,000MW of electricity per annum at the present time and is scheduled to add 47,000MW-50,000MW to this figure in the next ten years.

## American IR is hegemonic: Adib-Moghaddam

**INTERVIEW**  
By Jalal Heirannia

**TEHRAN** — Arshin Adib-Moghaddam, head of the Iran center at London's School of Oriental and African Studies, says that International Relations (IR) is under the U.S. hegemony.

"If hegemony means that most of the resources (richest universities and private foundations in the world), most authors in the top ranked journals (76 percent in 12 peer reviewed journals), and top universities (16 of the top 20) come, overwhelmingly, from the United States, then,

yes, American IR is hegemonic," Adib Moghaddam tells the Tehran Times.

Following is the text of the interview:

**Other than Western theories in IR are there any other non-Western theories which are worthy of attention?**

A: A recent survey of this discipline serves as an entry into a discussion of the political economy that underpins its 'ethnocentric' academic culture:

If hegemony means that most of the resources (richest universities and private foundations in the world), most



authors in the top ranked journals (76 percent in 12 peer reviewed journals), and top universities (16 of the top 20) come, overwhelmingly, from the United States, then, yes, American IR is hegemonic. U.S. scholars are recognized more often as the "most

influential" scholars in the discipline by their peers in the United States but also in the rest of the world...

In other words, the prominence and influence of U.S. scholars is effected by the political economy of the field, i.e. the academic and industrial production of IR in the United States. This US-centric infrastructure has created a particularly 'white', almost coherently 'western' discipline. It is not only that the editorial boards of the leading IR journals are primarily staffed by scholars residing in North America (and a few in Western Europe). →13

## Iran sells crude oil at \$48.6 per barrel in a week

**ECONOMY TEHRAN** — Iran sold its light crude oil at \$48.66 per barrel in the week ended on October 14, with 81 cents increase from its previous week, Shana news agency reported.

Iran's light oil price stood at \$39.28 on average since the start of this calendar year (March 20, 2016).

The country also sold its heavy crude oil at \$47.4 per barrel in the mentioned week, with 85 cents rise from its preceding week.

Iran's heavy oil price stood at \$37.18 on average since the start of current calendar year.

Meanwhile, with a 99 cent rise from its preceding week, Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)'s basket price reached \$48.5 per barrel in the week ended on October 14.

After major oil producers' meeting in Algiers on September 28, which ended in a preliminary accord on capping OPEC members' oil production level, crude oil prices have experienced an increase.

As predicted, in case of a final deal to freeze oil output, international oil prices would surpass \$50 and will swing up to \$60.

## Iranian cinema receives five nominations at APSA

**ART TEHRAN** — Iranian films "Muhammad, the Messenger of God" and "Daughter" have received nominations in five categories, including best film, in the feature competition of the 10th Asia Pacific Screen Awards, the organizers announced on Monday.

"Muhammad", Majid Majidi's epic about the childhood of the Prophet of Islam (S), and "Daughter", Reza Mirkarimi's drama about the shifting balance of power within families, will be vying for the award with "Cold of Kalandar" by Mustafa Kara and "Ember" by Zeki Demirkubuz, both from Turkey, and "The Student" by Kirill Sere-

brennikov from Russia.

"Muhammad" also received a nomination for Achievement in Cinematography for 3-time Oscar-winning Italian DOP Vittorio Storaro.

"Daughter" writer Mehran Kashani was nominated for best screenwriter while the film's star Farhad Aslani nominated for best actor award.

According to a press released published earlier last week by the APSA, "Breath" by Iranian director Narges Abyar received a nomination for Best Youth Feature Film award while her fellow filmmaker Mehrdad Oskui's "Starless



Dreams" will be competing for the award for Best Documentary Feature Film.

Winners are scheduled to be announced in Brisbane, Australia on November 24.

## U.S. to launch cyber war on Iran if Israel enters war with Iran: commander

**POLITICS TEHRAN** — The commander of Iran's Passive Defense Organization said on Monday that Washington will launch cyber-attacks on Iran's infrastructural facilities in the event of a war breaks out between Iran and the Israeli regime.

Brigadier General Gholam Reza Jalali made the remarks in a ceremony marking Passive Defense Week.

"The Americans had orchestrated two plans to infiltrate the country's infrastructures," Jalali said.

"The first possible plan



would have gone into effect if nuclear negotiations with the 5+1 group had failed, and the other one will be carried out if Iran and the Israeli regime go to war," he opined

Elsewhere in his remarks, Jalali underlined the valuable role that the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology could play in defending the country's cyber assets.

"This role of the communication ministry is so important that we might call it the cyber defense ministry," he remarked.

The commander noted that the country needs to upgrade its communication infrastructure, saying, "We must employ specific strategies in this regard."

General Jalali also said the U.S. has specific plans for different levels of cyberspace, arguing that Iran must also strengthen its capabilities in this field.

He called for the expansion of Iran's National Information Network, which was launched back in August after an 11-year delay.

## Finland ready to boost sports cooperation with Iran: official

**SPORTS** Finnish Ambassador to Tehran Harri Kämäräinen believes his country has a lot to share with Iran in areas such as nutritional research and sports teacher training courses.

Kämäräinen though his small country is not at the same level as Iran is in connection with athletic performance.

"We have some features when it comes to the sports and training sportsmen. We can offer interesting training camps, for example, in the field of nutritional research for sportsmen. Finland is rather advanced in this area," he told the Tehran Times.

"Also, one more area for cooperation is the training of teachers, particularly when it comes to sports teachers. We could share our experience in this area, as well," Kämäräinen added.

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS



**'Iranian-Canadian professor's torture claim a sheer lie'**

**POLITICS TEHRAN** — The chief of Tehran desk announced on Monday that it welcomes efforts being made in Lebanon to find a way to reconcile different political factions in the country, seeing it vital for the national integrity of the country.

Hoodfar's claims are a "sheer lie" and "made as a result of animosity and hatred toward the Islamic Republic", Gholam Hossein Esmaeili told IRNA.

Refuting her claims of musical torture, he said the facilities for playing music and sounds are very limited in Iranian prisons and they are used just for giving information.



**Iran, EU to hold comprehensive talks in December**

**POLITICS TEHRAN** — Iran and the European Union will hold a comprehensive round of negotiations in Brussels in December, Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman announced on Monday.

Bahram Qassemi said the talks will include human rights issues, among other topics, the YJC reported.

The talks will not necessarily focus on the human rights as "we will have a lot of other subjects to raise," he said. Qassemi added Iran will be represented at the level of deputy foreign minister.



**'Iran, Iraq cooperating to ensure security of Arbaeen pilgrims'**

**POLITICS TEHRAN** — Iran's border police chief says Tehran is in constant interaction with Iraq to ensure the security of pilgrims flocking to the Arab country to visit the shrine of Imam Hussein (AS), the third Shiite Imam, to mark Arbaeen.

Speaking to the Tasnim on Monday, Qassem Rezaei underlined that the Iranian and Iraqi border police have recently held a meeting to coordinate efforts for controlling borders and establishing a sustainable security in the border areas.



**'Izetbegovic's Tehran visit a turning point'**

**POLITICS TEHRAN** — The Iranian ambassador to Sarajevo said on Monday that the visit to Tehran by Bosnia and Herzegovina's President Bakir Izetbegovic marks a turning point for promotion of mutual ties in political, economic and cultural arenas.

Mahmoud Heidari said Iran was among the first countries that recognized Bosnia and Herzegovina as an independent state after the breakup of Yugoslavia, ILNA reported.

Heidari added the two countries have enjoyed cordial relations during the past 25 years.



**Iran urges world bodies to manage Afghan migration**

**POLITICS TEHRAN** — "If the world community does not manage the region's migration, the flow of Afghan migrants to European countries is sure to increase," Iran's interior minister told the visiting European Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management Christos Stylianides on Monday.

Iran-EU cooperation on Afghan refugee seekers should increase to manage the crisis, Abdolreza Rahmani Fazli said, Mehr reported.

He complained that the global aid to Iran taking care of Afghan refugees barely covers 3 percent of the cost.



**Security forces reportedly open fire near Iranian embassy in Ankara**

**POLITICS TEHRAN** — A dozen shots were fired outside the Iranian embassy in the Turkish capital Ankara on Monday, media outlets reported.

According to informed sources, the shots heard may have been fired by security forces at a checkpoint near the embassy building to warn a suspicious vehicle, Press TV reported.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Qassemi said the ministry had not received any direct reports about the incident, saying what existed was only on media.

# Tehran backs party reconciliation in Lebanon, sees it vital for national unity

**POLITICS TEHRAN** — Tehran desk announced on Monday that it welcomes efforts being made in Lebanon to find a way to reconcile different political factions in the country, seeing it vital for the national integrity of the country.

"That Lebanese parties and groups are getting closer to each other and reaching a common point about presidency should be welcome, and this will help the national unity, stability, and security of Lebanon," Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Qassemi said.

Lebanon has been bogged down in a protracted political crisis since parliament failed to elect a new president in 2104, after the Michel Suleiman presidency came to its conclusion in May 2014.

Ever since no consensus on the head of state has been reached due to in-



Lebanese members of parliament count the votes after casting their ballots to elect the new Lebanese president in the parliament building in downtown Beirut on April 23, 2014 (File photo).

ternal division and external meddling.

However, there are high hopes the recent reconciliation attempts ease selection of a president for the sensitive Middle East country.

"This is not a good message that Lebanon as an important country in the Middle East had no president," Qassemi noted.

Parliament will convene on Oct. 31 for a session to elect the president, the 46th such sitting since the term of Suleiman expired in 2014, each of which failed to gain the two-thirds quorum needed for a vote, according to Reuters.

Under Lebanon's power-sharing arrangement among its main sects, the presidency is reserved for a Maronite Christian, the premiership for a Sunni Muslim and the speaker of parliament for a Shiite.

## Rouhani sees himself on par with modernizer Amir Kabir

**➔** Amir Kabir whose real name is Mirza Taghi Khan Farahani (1807-1852) was chancellor under Naser al-Din Shah Qajar, appearing to be one of the most capable and innovative figures in the whole Qajar period.

Amir Kabir is most honored for his reformist mindset in then dormant, backward society of Iran where he founded Dar al-Fanun and published the Vaqaye-ye Etfaf-qiyeh, the first newspaper ever.

Soon Dar al-Fanun emerged as a science hub where European teachers hired by Amir Kabir taught science and foreign languages.

The nuclear deal the Rouhani administration championed with the West serves as a background to Rouhani's not-so-veiled comparison.

Prior to the removal of US-led sanctions against Iran, the country's industry and economy was strained under the most crippling pressures.

However, the deal laid the groundwork for the country to re-engage with the global community, facilitating, inter alia, access to technology.

However, the opponents inside the country who believe Iran should stand one's own feet and see the deal in stark contrast to the revolutionary spirit of the



**"We should take the lesson that constructive interaction with the world means that while preserving our principles, ethics, culture, religion, and revolution we can dialogue with the world and obtain what we need for the country's progress," Rouhani says.**

country and its culture.

On the contrary, Rouhani keeps boasting of the deal, saying international interactions help the country to obtain what it needs.

"We should take the lesson that constructive interaction with the world means that while preserving our principles, ethics, culture, religion, and revolution we can dialogue with the world and obtain what we need for the country's progress," Rouhani noted.

After the nuclear deal, Iran has been seeking contacts with international technology moguls in a bid to overhaul its outdated industry.

It is not clear what would have happened to Iran if Amir Kabir had not taken the initiative to reform the society, Rouhani stressed, drawing a tentative analogy with the current situation of the country if the nuclear deal had not been inked.

Rouhani's remarks are supported by the commander of Iran's Passive Defense Organization who had said Washington had planned a major attack on Iran's infrastructural facilities in the event the nuclear negotiations would have failed.

## Zarif meets EU commissioner to renew humanitarian efforts

**POLITICS TEHRAN** — Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif conferred on Monday with EU Humanitarian Aid Commissioner Christos Stylianides on ways to ameliorate humanitarian situation in the region.

The two sides discussed the humanitarian situation of the Afghan refugees living in Iran.

They further exchanged views on promoting humanitarian aid to conflict-torn countries, especially Syria.

"Iran has always called for ceasefire in Syria and provided humanitarian aid for it (Syria)," Zarif insisted.

The foreign minister voiced Iran's readiness to cooperate with other countries in this regard.

Zarif also pointed to the deteriorating humanitarian



crisis in Yemen, calling on all countries across the world to pay attention to the disastrous situation in Yemen.

Stylianides, for his part, lauded Iran's efforts for accepting Afghan refugees and sending humanitarian aid to Syria.

He also underlined Iran's important role in the region and across the world. Stylianides visited a refugee camp in Kerman on Sunday to examine the situation of people living there.

In a meeting with Governor General of Kerman Province Ali Reza Razm-Hosseini, the EU commissioner said that the European Union is aware of the high costs of such humanitarian acts, praising the governments that have given shelter to Afghan refugees. Iran and Pakistan have been hosting millions of Afghan refugees since the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan in 1979.

## Participation in Mosul liberation entails Iraqi permission: Iran

BY: Marjan Golpira

**TEHRAN** — On Monday Iran reaffirmed its stance that no country should participate in the operation to liberate Mosul without the permission of the Iraqi government.

Talking in his weekly press briefing, Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Qassemi said the war against terrorism is extremely important but "any cooperation in freedom of Mosul [from ISIS] has to be with the permission of and coordination with the Iraqi government."

Qassemi's statement came in response to a question on Turkey's insistence that its forces should participate in the liberation of Mosul.

"Fighting terrorism should not provide pretexts to violate territorial integrity of a country," he added.

On the summoning of Ankara's ambassador to Tehran in protest some remarks against Iran by Turkish Deputy Prime Minister Numan Kurtulmus, the spokesman said, "In details, the ambassador answered questions on various issues from Syria and Iraq to Turkey and Persian Gulf countries, and those he had no information on were sent to Ankara for clarification."

Last Wednesday Kurtulmus said Iran's doctrinal policies, not Turkey's, have caused tensions in Iraq. He also said his country has relations with all Shia groups in Iraq and that Turkey will do all it can to prevent the outbreak of a doctrinal war in the region.

**■ 'Removing visa requirement between Iran and**

**Russia will take time'**

On revocation of visa between Iran and Russia, the official said the process is time consuming.

Measures have been taken to facilitate the issuance of visa for nationals of the two countries but visa revocation won't be any time soon, Qassemi explained.

"There is still a long way to go before seeing the ease on visa requirement, but the two countries are committed to working that out."

**■ 'Caspian Sea legal status is very complex'**

The spokesman also said the resolution of legal status of the Caspian Sea is very "complex".

Over the past years Iran has been able to resolve many of the "unclear issues" surrounding the sea, "but we cannot expect to resolve all the remaining issues in two days."

"We need more time," he said, hoping that in shortest possible time to reach an understanding with the four other countries on the Caspian Sea legal status.

The Caspian Sea special working group opened its 47th meeting in Tehran on Sunday that lasted until Monday.

Ranking diplomats from the five Caspian Sea lit-

**Fighting terrorism should not provide pretexts to violate territorial integrity of a country.**

toral states - Iran, Russia, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, and Azerbaijan - gathered for the assembly at the Foreign Ministry's Institute for Political and International Studies.

The working group's sessions are part of efforts to draft the convention on the legal status of the Caspian Sea.

**■ 'Zarif's gift to Kerry'**

On the handing of a present by Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif to his American counterpart back in Vienna when nuclear negotiations were underway, he said, "It is not at all unusual for diplomats to exchange gifts," which may not be of high value in terms of money, and Iran is no exception.

Zarif gave a book of Mahmoud Farshchian's paintings to U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry prior to one of the sessions in Vienna.

Mahmoud Farshchian is a master of Persian painting and miniatures.

As Zarif was explaining the drawings to Kerry, he took out a magnifier to see the details of the art work better.

Kerry then praised Iranians for their precision and close attention to details.

"Zarif was after passing on a message to his American counterpart, saying Iranians have a keen eye for detail and that precision has always played a vital role in their dialogue and negotiations too, and those days, it was on Iran's nuclear issue proper calculations," Qassemi explained.

## National population and housing census underway

**POLITICS TEHRAN** — The national population and housing census is underway across the country. The census began on Saturday. Some 30,000 census takers nationwide go door to door to collect information.

The number of census takers has been cut to half this year owing to the web-based census which was carried out from September 24 to October 21.

Some 46.4 percent of people, constituting more than

11 million families, went for online census.

The census is being conducted every five years in Iran. The first nationwide census was held in 1956. This is the first time Iran is using online services to collect information.

# Syrian army liberates strategic hilltop in Aleppo

## 'Russia not mulling extension of Aleppo truce'

Syrian government soldiers, backed by fighters from popular defense groups, have managed to liberate a strategic high ground in the city of Aleppo from the clutches of foreign-sponsored militants amid attempts to flush the extremists out of the strategic northwestern city.

Military sources told the official news agency, SANA, that the government troops took the hilltop of Bazo on the southern edge of Aleppo, near military bases, on Monday.

Sources said after the government forces captured Bazo, they shelled the nearby militant positions.

A video footage released by the Syrian army showed tanks and cannons pounding militants' positions in the troubled area.

The so-called Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR) also confirmed that government troops have captured a strategic high ground in the militant-held parts of Aleppo.

SANA, meanwhile, said that militants shelled the areas under government control in Western Aleppo. The shelling killed at least one person and wounded seven others.



Clashes between Syrian government forces and militants erupted in the divided city of Aleppo after a unilateral ceasefire announced by Russia and the Syrian government came to an end.

The ceasefire expired on Saturday evening, after a one-day extension on Friday. The truce was aimed at permitting civilians and foreign-sponsored militants to leave the eastern

areas of the city.

Sergei Ryabkov, the Russian deputy foreign minister, has said that Russia is not considering any extension of a ceasefire in Syria's northern city of Aleppo.

"The question of renewing the humanitarian pause is not relevant now," Ryabkov told Interfax news agency, adding, "Over the last three days, what was needed did not happen."

"In order to resume it, our opponents need to make sure the anti-government groups behave properly," the Russian diplomat said.

Aleppo has been divided between government forces in the west and the Takfiri terrorists in the east over the past few years.

The Syrian army has vowed to press ahead with its counter-terror operations and drive terrorists out of their major positions.

The terrorist groups operating in Syria have suffered major setbacks over the past few months as the Syrian army has managed to liberate more areas.

(Source: agencies)

## At least three killed in India-Pakistan cross-border shelling



Shelling across the border between India and Pakistan killed two Pakistani civilians and an Indian soldier, military officials from the two sides said on Monday, as tension between the nuclear-armed neighbors simmers.

Pakistan's military said the shelling hit the sectors of Harpal, Pukhlian and Charwah along the disputed "working boundary", which separates Pakistan's Punjab province from Indian-administered Kashmir's Jammu region.

India's military said the firing occurred in the Pura, Pargwal and Kanachak sectors.

Both countries have claimed the disputed Kashmir region in full since partition and independence from the British in 1947, but administer separate portions of it. They have fought two of their three wars over the territory.

Tensions have been strained since July, when Indian forces killed a young Kashmiri fighter, prompting mass protests in Indian-administered Kashmir. The resulting crackdown by security forces has seen at least 80 Kashmiri protesters killed.

Relations plummeted even further in September, when gunmen stormed an Indian military base in Uri, killing 18 Indian soldiers, the largest such attack in 14 years. India blamed Pakistan for the attack, and in response said it had launched "surgical strikes" across the de facto border in Kashmir on Sept 29 to target Kashmiri fighters based there. Pakistan denied any incursion had occurred on its territory.

Pakistan's military said a one-year-old child was among the dead in Pakistan in the village of Janglora. Pakistani forces responded to the Indian firing and an exchange of fire continued through the night. Seven civilians were wounded in the firing, Pakistan said.

In India's Jammu region, a Border Security Force (BSF) soldier was killed by the Pakistani firing, while another was wounded, a BSF spokesman told Reuters. Five civilians, including two women and a child, were also wounded, he said. He was the second BSF soldier to be killed by Pakistani firing in the last three days, the spokesman said.

(Source: Reuters)

## Kuwait admits it needs to do more against ISIL funding



Kuwait still needs to do more to combat the financing of extremists, a top Kuwaiti official said on Monday at a meeting aimed at choking off funding for the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Daesh) terrorist group.

"We still have a lot to do, though we are satisfied with what we have done so far," Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled al-Jarallah told reporters on the sideline of a meeting of the so-called Counter-ISIL Finance Group (CIFG) in Kuwait City.

"We are ready to cooperate with our brothers and friends," he said, responding to the United States criticism of Kuwait and Qatar over their steps to cut the financing of terrorists and extremists.

Formed early last year, CIFG is led by the United States, Italy and the House of Saud regime and is made up of over 35 countries and four international bodies.

Jarallah said Kuwait "has come a long way in introducing legislation that controls the collection of (charity) donations", a suspected channel of fund-

ing extremists.

The CIFG takes a global approach to undermining the flow of funds to the extremist group, according to Adam Szubin, U.S. Treasury's acting Under Secretary on Countering the Financing of Terrorism.

Szubin said last week that the meeting in Kuwait City aims "to share information and continue developing and coordinating countermeasures against ISIL's financial activity worldwide."

He said the Treasury was working closely with Kuwait and Qatar in particular to strengthen the technical side of the fight against terrorism finance, but "there is room for improvement."

Szubin said the effort to choke off funding was showing some success.

The ISIL terrorist group fighters had been abandoning the fight "as their pay and benefits have been cut and delayed, in what ISIL members in Mosul are calling a 'recession,'" he said, referring to Iraq's battle to recapture the city from the terrorists.

(Source: AP)

## Venezuela opposition: Maduro's government staged a coup

Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro's government committed a coup d'etat by blocking a referendum on removing him from power, Venezuela's opposition-majority parliament accused.

Furious over the electoral authorities' decision to suspend the process of organizing a recall vote, opposition MPs on Sunday passed a resolution declaring "the breakdown of constitutional order" and "a coup d'etat committed by the Nicolas Maduro regime".

In an emergency session on the economic and political crisis gripping the South American oil giant, MPs called on Venezuelans to "actively defend" the constitution by protesting. They also promised to request the international community to "activate mechanisms" to restore democracy.

"A continual coup d'etat has been perpetrated in Venezuela, culminating in the decision to rob us of a recall referendum. We're here to officially declare the regrettable and painful rupture of the constitution," said majority leader Julio Borges of the center-right opposition coalition, the Democratic Unity Roundtable (MUD).

Pro-Maduro politicians accused the opposition itself of seeking to stage a coup.

"Don't try to take advantage of these hard times to finish off our nation," deputy Earle Herrera said.

Opposition politicians stopped short of voting to put Maduro on trial, as they had earlier threatened.

The session briefly descended into chaos when Ma-



Maduro supporters forced their way past security guards and burst into the National Assembly, a moment which put proceedings on hold for 45 minutes.

### ■ Largely symbolic

Despite harsh rhetoric, the legislature's resolution is largely symbolic.

The Supreme Court has declared the legislative majority in contempt of court for defying it by swearing in three lawmakers at the center of an electoral fraud investigation.

The opposition, which says the accusations are trumped up, condemns the high court as a Maduro lapdog.

The court has slapped down every bill passed by the legislature since the opposition took control in January.

Venezuela's crisis hit a new low on Thursday when the National Electoral Council indefinitely suspended the recall referendum process after criminal courts in five states ruled the opposition had committed fraud in an initial petition drive.

Holding a recall referendum - a right guaranteed under Venezuela's constitution - was the opposition's main strategy to get rid of the man they accuse of driving the once-booming country to the brink of collapse.

The opposition had been gearing up for the last hurdle in the complex process: a three-day drive starting on Wednesday to collect signatures from four million voters demanding a recall vote.

Now that the authorities have stymied that bid, furious opposition leaders have promised the start of a new wave of nationwide protests on Wednesday.

(Source: Al Jazeera)

## Qatar in 3-day mourning after former emir's death

Qatar began three days of mourning on Monday after the death of former Emir Khalifa bin Hamad Al-Thani, who oversaw the start of the country's transformation into an energy powerhouse.

Prayers were to take place at the national mosque with huge crowds expected, after which the former ruler will be buried. Flags on official buildings flew at half-mast.

Many Qataris took to social media to express their condolences.



A state visit by Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro was due to go ahead on Monday, but a high-profile conference, involving senior FIFA and Qatar World Cup 2022 officials, scheduled for Tuesday was cancelled as a mark of respect.

However, schools remained open and roads were busy.

The 84-year-old former ruler - grandfather of the current Emir Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani - died on Sunday, Qatar News Agency said, without giving the cause.

Sheikh Tamim ordered three days of official mourning.

Prior to becoming ruler, Khalifa served as Qatar's prime minister and was then a pivotal figure as the tiny emirate established itself as a major global energy producer and subsequently one of the richest countries in the world.

He took power from a cousin in February 1972, just months after Qatar gained independence from Britain.

### ■ Deposed while in Europe

During his reign the state-owned Qatar Petroleum was set-up in 1974, followed 10 years later by Qatar Gas, now the world's largest liquefied natural gas company.

He was also seen as a founding father of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council, the political and economic union incorporating the six Arab states in the region.

But while on a private visit to Europe in 1995, Khalifa was deposed in a non-violent palace coup by his son, Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, who was defense minister at the time.

One year after his removal, an apparent failed coup was launched in Qatar and 19 people were subsequently charged for trying to return Khalifa to power.

In 2013, Sheikh Hamad handed over to Sheikh Tamim.

The deposed Sheikh Khalifa remained in exile for almost a decade, living in France before returning in 2004 to Qatar where he kept a low profile and was rarely seen in public.

At the time he was deposed, Qatar's population stood at around 490,000 people. Today, it is some 2.6 million, the majority of them foreigners.

The former emir had four wives, five sons and 10 daughters.

(Source: AFP)

## HRW urges investigation into Kirkuk airstrike

Human Rights Watch (HRW) has called for an investigation into a recent airstrike that targeted a Shia congregation in Iraq's province of Kirkuk, which claimed the lives of over a dozen civilians.



On October 21, 2016, at least 15 women lost their lives and scores of other civilians sustained injuries in an attack on a mourning procession in the town of Daquq in Kirkuk.

"Even in the heat of battle, armed forces should take all feasible precautions to avoid harming civilians," Lama Fakh, HRW's deputy Middle East director, said on Monday.

"Iraqi forces should investigate whether this was a possible unlawful airstrike that killed civilians and report their findings. If this turns out to be their fault, they should take appropriate measures to compensate the victims," she added.

"All forces carrying out ground and air attacks should be extremely vigilant about taking all measures to minimize civilian casualties," said Fakh. "Any mistakes, as we have seen, could be deadly."

HRW quoted residents as saying that the attack was an airstrike, noting that there were no apparent military targets in the vicinity.

Reports said fighter jets operated by the United States-led coalition purportedly fighting the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Daesh) in Iraq had conducted the attack in Daquq.

A spokesperson for the coalition, however, has denied the reports in an email to HRW.

Iraqi forces have launched a military operation to retake the city of Mosul from ISIL terrorists on October 17.

They are also involved in ending an attack by ISIL sleeper cells in Kirkuk.

(Source: Press TV)



# South Pars platform 18B starts operation, registering a record

**ECONOMY TEHRAN** — Platform 18B of Iran's South Pars gas field (in the Persian Gulf) with an extraction capacity of 500 million cubic feet (around 14.5 million cubic meters) of gas was put into operation on Monday after 62 working days to be a new record in hook-up and commissioning, Shana reported.

According to Hassan Boyeri, operator of South Pars phases 17 and 18 development projects, "Considering the installation of platform 18B in mid-August, launching this platform within this short period is a new record in offshore platform operations in South Pars which is unprecedented."

"Start-up began after opening the well 2 of the platform; the extracted gas will soon be sent to onshore refineries to be processed," he noted.

According to Pars Oil and Gas Company (POGC), which is in charge of South Pars development phases, satellite platform 18B



was built by experts from Iran Shipbuilding & Offshore Industries Complex Co. (ISOICO) in Bandar Abbas industrial yard.

Also platform 17B of South Pars, which is the last platform of phases 17 and 18, was loaded from the Bandar Abbas yard

on October 18 for delivery to its designated offshore spot.

South Pars 17 and 18 phases partly started operation in 2014 and now 37 million cubic meters of gas and 40,000 barrels of condensate per day are being extracted from these phases.

According to the managing director of POGC, production from phases 17 and 18 of the supergiant South Pars gas field has fetched the country nearly \$2 billion in revenues.

Phases 17&18 are to produce 50 million cubic meters (mcm) per day of natural gas, 80,000 barrels per day of gas condensate, 400 tons a day of sulfur, one million tons a year of ethane and 1.05 million tons a year of liquefied gas.

Iran's Industrial Development and Renovation Organization (IDRO), IOEC, National Iranian Offshore Engineering and Construction Company (NIOEC) and Iranian Marine Industrial Company are in charge of developing phases 17&18.

## Oil investors ease back as market steadies before OPEC talks

Oil investors are playing it safe as OPEC hammers out the details of a deal to trim output.

Money managers reduced bets on falling prices to the lowest since May as oil held above \$50 a barrel, prolonging a rally that began when the Organization for Petroleum Exporting Countries announced a deal to cut production to between 32.5 million and 33 million barrels a day. The group plans to finalize the agreement at a meeting in Vienna on Nov. 30.

"The shorts are not laughing off this OPEC deal anymore," Phil Flynn, a market analyst at Price Futures Group in Chicago, said in a phone interview. "There's a growing realization that there's going to be a deal to lock in production. Things will be relatively calm until we get the

agreements."

Saudi Arabia's Energy Minister Khalid Al-Falih said Oct. 19 that many nations are willing to join OPEC in cutting production. So far, Russia has said it's considering taking steps to stabilize the market. Alexander Novak, the country's energy minister, said Sunday that "many scenarios" are being discussed. Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro, on a tour of oil-producing countries to boost support for the deal, said Oct. 21 he's in favor of inviting the U.S. to the next OPEC meeting and creating an "alliance" of OPEC and non-OPEC nations.

"This week the market is in a pause after the run-up to \$50," said Michael Lynch, president of Strategic Energy & Economic Research in Winchester, Massachusetts. "There's still a lot of question

about what OPEC is actually going to do next month. Absent that, people are waiting for some more direction than we have now."

In addition to slashing short bets in West Texas Intermediate crude by 21 percent during the week ended Oct. 18, hedge funds also reduced their long positions by 3.2 percent from a two-year high, according to the Commodity Futures Trading Commission. Net longs increased to the highest in two years.

### Oil inventories

WTI slipped one percent during the report week to \$50.29 a barrel. The U.S. benchmark rose 0.1 percent on Monday to \$50.91 as of 9:41 a.m. London time. Prices reached a 15-month high on Oct. 19 after government data showed U.S. crude stockpiles fell to the lowest level

since January.

U.S. stockpiles dropped 5.25 million barrels to 468.7 million in the week ended Oct. 14, according to the Energy Information Administration, after reaching 512.1 million in late April.

"\$50 will be the floor through the OPEC meeting, barring some spike in the dollar," Price Futures Group's Flynn said. "With U.S. inventories falling at a rapid pace, the prospect of a cut or freeze has real consequences."

In other markets, net-bullish bets on gasoline rose 9.4 percent to 40,085 contracts, the highest since March 2015, as futures climbed 1.5 percent in the report week. Ultra low sulfur diesel net-longs fell seven percent to 8,439. Futures slipped 1.2 percent.

(Source: Bloomberg)

## Electricity sector in Iran needs \$25b investment by 2021: official

**ECONOMY TEHRAN** — Some \$25 billion investment is required in Iran's electricity sector by 2021 in order to materialize 5.5 percent annual growth planned for the country's electricity generation, according to Houshang Falahatian, the Iranian deputy energy minister.

The official made the remarks in the 31st International Power System Conference (PSC 2016) of Iran which kicked off on Monday to run two days in Tehran, IRNA reported.



Of the mentioned figure, Falahatian said, \$17 billion is needed for electricity generation and over \$7.5 billion is required in transmission, distribution and ultra distribution sectors.

Earlier in August Mehr news agency reported that 12 new power plant construction projects were inaugurated during the Government Week (August 23-29) and with those plants added to the network, Iran's nominal electricity generation capacity is going to reach 80,000 megawatts (MW) in near future.

The country plans to boost its electricity generation capacity to more than 100,000 MW within the framework of the sixth Five-Year National Development Plan (2016-2021).

## Essential to address overcapacity with non-OPEC countries, OPEC says

It is essential that OPEC and non-OPEC countries address overcapacities in the oil market, the cartel's secretary general said before a meeting on Monday with Russia's energy minister aimed at discussing coordination of output.

Russia is a crucial partner in addressing energy challenges and both sides are committed to stable oil markets, OPEC Secretary General Mohammed Barkindo said in a speech before his meeting in Vienna with Russian Energy Minister Alexander Novak.

Last month in Algiers, OPEC agreed modest oil output cuts. The goal is to cut production to a range of 32.50-33.0 million barrels per day (bpd).

(Source: Reuters)

### South Khorasan Province Water & Wastewater Company

#### Tender for Prequalification and Assessment of Contractor

To Presell Wastewater for Constructing 1st Module of Wastewater Treatment Plant in Qaen in "Buy Back" Scheme in South Khorasan Province



South Khorasan Province Water and Wastewater Company intends, according to the instruction of transferring projects, No. 586206 dated June 25, 2016 approved by the State Management and Planning Organization (MPO), to transfer privilege of using wastewater in project for the construction of 1<sup>st</sup> module of wastewater treatment plant in Sarbishe, South Khorasan Province to the qualified investors for a limited period through tender with the following terms and conditions.

#### A) Summary of Sales Conditions

- **Commitments of Investor**
  - 1- Constructing wastewater treatment plants with the average capacity of 8,481 cubic meter/day, transferring wastewater up to the consumption site and receiving related licenses,
  - 2- Financing other sewage projects across the province at the sole discretion of investee
- **Commitments of Investee:** Supplying and delivering wastewater according to the specifications mentioned in tender documents in the course of contract, obtaining relevant licenses and determining the projects that should be constructed out of financing scheme by investor.
- **Transferable Wastewater Volume:** Max. 93 lit./second (64 lit./sec. in 2019 to 93 lit./sec. in 2028 and then fixed volume)
- **Location:** The wastewater treatment plant is located at 4 km northeast Qaen, Down Qaen – Hajjiabad Road, South Khorasan Province.
- **Licensee/Investee:** South Khorasan Province Water & Wastewater Company
- **Consulting Engineer:** ARENA Consulting Engineering Company (Design and Develop Strategic Waterway)
- **Financing Period for Constructing and Construction Period:** 24 months
- **Period for Transferring Privilege of Using Wastewater:** 15 – 25 years
- Obtaining license from the Department of Environment (DoE) for the construction of wastewater treatment plants around the city and/or construction of other installations after the delivery from the concerned organizations shall be borne by the investor.

#### B- Investors' Terms and Conditions

- **Investor:** Nongovernmental legal entities with financial power (affordability) and possibility of providing capital required and also a specific program for using wastewater

#### C) Terms & Conditions for Receiving Documents

The qualified and eligible investors/contractors may receive the prequalification documents from the following address against submitting representation letter maximum within 10 days as of publishing date of this advertisement in newspaper. The tender documents should be completed latest by Wednesday on Nov. 23, 2016 and should be submitted in signed and sealed envelope to the secretariat of South Khorasan

Province Water and Wastewater Company at the following address:

South Khorasan Province Water and Wastewater Company, Opposite Power Substation, Shohada-ye Ebadi Blvd., Birjand,

Postal Code: 9719873198, Tel: 056 – 32226300 – 32438762

### South Khorasan Province Water & Wastewater Company

#### Tender for Prequalification and Assessment of Contractor

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#### A) Summary of Sales Conditions

- **Commitments of Investor**
  - 1- Constructing wastewater treatment plants with the average capacity of 2,541 cubic meter/day, transferring wastewater up to the consumption site and receiving related licenses,
  - 2- Financing other sewage projects across the province at the sole discretion of investee
- **Commitments of Investee:** Supplying and delivering wastewater according to the specifications mentioned in tender documents in the course of contract, obtaining relevant licenses and determining the projects that should be constructed out of financing scheme by investor.
- **Transferable Wastewater Volume:** Max. 28 lit./second (20 lit./sec. in 2019 to 28 lit./sec. in 2025 and then fixed volume)
- **Location:** The wastewater treatment plant is located at 2.6 km south Sarbishe, South Khorasan Province.
- **Licensee/Investee:** South Khorasan Province Water & Wastewater Company
- **Consulting Engineer:** ARENA Consulting Engineering Company (Design and Develop Strategic Waterway)
- **Financing Period for Constructing and Construction Period:** 24 months
- **Period for Transferring Privilege of Using Wastewater:** 15 – 25 years
- Obtaining license from the Department of Environment (DoE) for the construction of wastewater treatment plants around the city and/or construction of other installations after the delivery from the concerned organizations shall be borne by the investor.

#### B- Investors' Terms and Conditions

- **Investor:** Nongovernmental legal entities with financial power (affordability) and possibility of providing capital required and also a specific program for using wastewater

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## McCain to Trump: 'A concession isn't just an exercise in graciousness - it is an act of respect'

By Theodore Schleifer

John McCain, the failed 2008 Republican nominee, has some advice for Donald Trump.

"I didn't like the outcome of the 2008 election. But I had a duty to concede, and I did so without reluctance," McCain said in a lengthy statement last Thursday. "A concession isn't just an exercise in graciousness. It is an act of respect for the will of the American people, a respect that is every American leader's first responsibility."

The Arizona senator lost to now-President Barack Obama by 7 percentage points eight years ago, about the margin Trump currently trails Hillary Clinton in polls with less than three weeks until Election Day.

But in the third presidential debate last Wednesday night, Trump would not commit to exiting the presidential election quietly, promising that he would leave the country "in suspense."

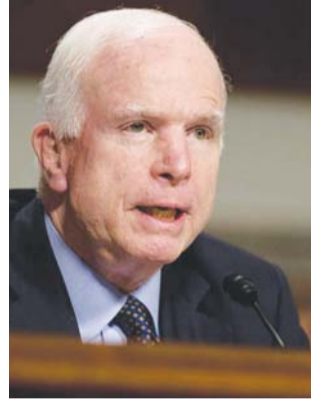
"I don't know who's going to win the presidential election. I do know that in every previous election, the loser congratulates the winner and calls them, 'my president,'" McCain said. "That's not just the Republican way or the Democratic way. It's the American way. This election must not be any different."

McCain, who is up for reelection this year, originally endorsed Trump despite his disparaging remarks about the Arizona senator. But McCain revoked his blessing in the wake of questions about Trump's treatment of women.

Republicans largely tread carefully around the latest Trump comments. As of mid-day, neither House speaker Paul Ryan or Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell had weighed in.

Two Republican critics in the Senate, however, did. "The American electoral process is the cornerstone of our democracy. Suggesting otherwise undermines an electoral system that is a model for nations around the world," said John Thune, the no. 3 Republican in the body.

"The voters are going to decide this election, and Donald Trump needs to accept the outcome," said Kelly Ayotte, who is in one of the country's tightest Senate races in New Hampshire. If there are reports that need to be investigated, they will be, as I used to do as Attorney General." (Source: CNN)



# Are Egyptian-Saudi disputes just a passing crisis or a decisive storm?

By Khalid Hassan

Egypt has witnessed a severe crisis in its relations with Saudi Arabia, the most potent ally of the Egyptian political regime that came to power following the June 30, 2013, popular protests that led to the fall of the Muslim Brotherhood's regime. The crisis was prompted by Egypt's voting in a UN Security Council session Oct. 10 to support Russia's draft resolution concerning the situation in Syria.

The Russian draft resolution called for bringing humanitarian aid into besieged areas, urging all parties to halt offensive operations and stressing that moderate Syrian opposition forces must separate from Jabhat Fatah al-Sham — formerly known as Jabhat al-Nusra. The draft was unacceptable to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which seeks to depose the regime of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, and which viewed Egypt's vote for the resolution as a deviation from the Arab position.

### ■ The kingdom's first open attack

Abdullah al-Mouallami, Saudi Arabia's representative to the United Nations, launched the kingdom's first open attack on Egypt, describing the Egyptian representative's vote in the Security Council for the Russian draft resolution concerning the Syrian situation as "painful." He said, "It was painful that the stances taken by Senegal and Malaysia were much closer to the agreed-upon Arab decision than the stance of an Arab delegate — the Egyptian one. Though this is a dark day for the Syrian people, they do not know the meaning of darkness or despair and, God Almighty permitting, will prevail."

These aggressive statements made by the kingdom's representative drove the Egyptian Foreign Ministry to respond. Ambassador Ahmed Abu Zaid, a ministry spokesman, said the Saudi accusations against Egypt of deviating from the Arab consensus on the Syrian issue by voting for the Russian draft proposal were "not accurate" and "did not reflect reality." He stressed that Egypt had voted in favor of the content of the resolution, not the state that sponsored the draft, and that Egypt could never stand against a draft resolution that called for a cease-fire, bringing in humanitarian aid and fighting the terrorism confronting the brotherly Syrian people.

The day following the Egyptian vote, Hamda Abd al-Aziz, the official spokesman for the Saudi Oil Ministry, said that the Saudi company Aramco — the largest oil company in the world — had informed the Egyptian General Petroleum Corporation orally that it would not be exporting to Egypt petrol products ranging from diesel to gasoline that had been set monthly at 700,000 tons as part of an agreement between Egypt and the kingdom for a period of five years.



**Ibrahim Issa also attacked Saudi Arabia on the show "Al-Qahirah Wan-Nass," saying, "What you're seeing is states like Libya, Yemen, Iraq, Syria in civil wars because of Wahhabi policies in the region. Every crisis that happens in Arab countries is because of those policies. They caused 'the destruction' that we're living through now in our Arab society."**

Abd al-Aziz added, "Aramco informed us that it would be halting the set shipments to Egypt throughout the month of October without mentioning any reasons. We do not know whether this decision stems from technical reasons, commercial reasons or other reasons."

Tweeting under the hashtag #Halting\_Oil\_Supplies\_To\_Egypt, Saudi writer Abd al-Rahman Sa'ud discussed the decision to halt supplying Egypt with petrol shipments on his personal Twitter account. In his words, "seeking to awaken political and cultural elites of the time lost is less painful than the loss of billions

of riyals, which our compatriots are in need of." Many Egyptian journalists began to embark on a brutal battle with the Saudi kingdom over the overt pressure it was exerting on the Egyptian regime as well as the harsh criticisms it was leveling at Cairo.

And so on Oct. 12, media figure Ahmad Moussa, known for his close ties to the ruling regime in Egypt, launched a blistering attack on Saudi Arabia on his TV program "Suda al-Balad," saying, "No one can pressure Egypt with flour, or petrol, or gas, or weapons or even dollars." →13

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# The Twisted War on Terror

By Dr. Elham Kaakhodaei  
PhD in North American Studies

The recent strife between the White House, as one of the opponents of the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act (JASTA) on the one hand, and its proponents, specifically the US Congress, on the other, which ultimately led to an overriding of the President's veto, perfectly illuminates some of the discrepancies between Washington's stated goals and values and their actual conduct in fighting terrorism. The dispute resulted in Congress overriding Obama's veto for the first time in his presidency, and the President resorting to depicting the representatives as selfish, reelection-seeking individuals (calling the vote a "political" one, Obama said in an interview that "If you're perceived as voting against 9/11 families right before an election, not surprisingly,

**The very fact that the US maintains a strong relationship with a country with whom shares absolutely no common value, and in fact harbors some completely contradictory ones, and has been breeding violence and terrorism not only in the region but on a global scale through its extremist Salafi ideology, proves that the American war on Terror is a sham**

that's a hard vote for people to take"). The setting of the dispute is quite clear: Saudi Arabian citizens were undoubtedly involved in the terrorist attacks of 9/11, therefore families of the victims want to be able to sue the country for its role and receive compensation for losing their loved ones. Such a right would seem natural for American citizens in any other setting, but here, because of the state that is involved, it is blocked by the President. This strange-looking policy of putting the well-being of the relationship with a foreign country before the rights of American citizens is actually consistent

with American foreign policy. The very fact that the US maintains a strong relationship with a country with whom shares absolutely no common value, and in fact harbors some completely contradictory ones, and has been breeding violence and terrorism not only in the region but on a global scale through its extremist Salafi ideology, proves that the American war on Terror is a sham.

As the various statements indicate, JASTA was opposed by President Obama as well as some Bush era White House officials because the bill allows for exceptions in the legal doctrine of foreign sovereign immunity, which the White House fears will make other countries retaliate, thus damaging the immunity the US enjoys with regards to other countries. The truth is that this "sovereign immunity" is not that much of a sacred doctrine when it comes to actual American interactions with other countries. Whether a country is respected via this doctrine depends on its type of relationship with the US; countries that have been designated the label "state sponsors of terrorism" are already exempted from this rule. The result being that Iran, a country that has never had any link whatsoever with the 9/11 attacks, was ordered by US District Judge George Daniels to pay over \$10 billion to families of 9/11 victims, whilst the same judge cleared Saudi Arabia based on the principle of sovereign immunity. This is a bizarre ruling, considering that not only 15 of the 19 September 11 hijackers were Saudi Arabian citizens, but also that the release of the famous "28 pages" (pages 415-443 of the report of the Joint Congressional

Inquiry on the 9/11 attacks that were not declassified until recently) has made it clear that there certainly have been links between September 11 terrorists and Saudi officials and princes. On page 415, the report goes as far as to state that "[A]t least two of those individuals were alleged by some to be Saudi intelligence officers". What all these data amount to is the insincerity of the American government in its enforcement of the War on Terror. It reveals that this so called war has not been primarily aimed at defeating those who were really responsible for the horrific act of terror, but has been used as a cover for increasing American presence in the region. The sub-



jective label "state sponsors of terrorism" has largely been an effective tool for pushing this unjust war towards meeting the selfish needs of the US government. As the never-ending mayhem in Syria, and repeated terror attacks in European cities demonstrate, the world has turned into a much more dangerous place than it was when this campaign was begun.

On the other hand, the White House is afraid that the passing of JASTA will make the US accountable for its own terrorist attacks in other countries. As Obama has put it: "The United States relies on principles of immunity to prevent foreign litigants and foreign courts from second-guessing our counterterrorism operations and other actions that we take every day." John Bolton and former U.S. Attorney Michael Mukasey have also highlighted this argument in their Wall Street Journal op-ed: "An errant drone strike that kills non-combatants in Afghanistan could easily trigger lawsuits demanding that U.S. military or intelligence personnel be hauled into foreign courts". The

question here is why American "military or intelligence personnel" should be getting away with killing civilians in the Middle East in the first place. This argument, and American politicians' stated concerns over retaliatory action by other countries demonstrate that killing civilians has become a daily aspect of their operations in the Middle East, with the people of the region having no outlet through which they can express their outrage.

The benefit of JASTA, irrespective of whether it will finally become law or not, is the discussions it has created among American politicians and their cold blooded confessions of how civilians are being murdered in the name of fighting terror. The debate exposes the fact that the US legal system, and also its foreign policy apparatus are designed to let the real terrorists get away with their crimes. So whether the perpetrators of indiscriminate violence are Saudi backed al-Qaeda members killing American civilians, or American military and intelligence officers killing Middle Eastern civilians, American law and judges are on their side, ensuring that innocent third parties (such as the Islamic Republic of Iran) will receive full, share of the blame yet unjustified. For decades Saudi Arabia's main significance in regional conflicts has been that it has played the role assigned to it by the Americans. Thus it still needs to be protected as long as it is capable of efficiently fulfilling this role.



**The benefit of JASTA is the discussions it has created among American politicians and their cold blooded confessions of how civilians are being murdered in the name of fighting terror.**



**Not only 15 of the 19 September 11 hijackers were Saudi Arabian citizens, but also that the release of the famous "28 pages" of Congress report on 9/11 attacks has made it clear that there certainly have been links between September 11 terrorists and Saudi officials and princes.**



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**Mr.Arvin: 09128103207**

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200 sq.m, 3 bdrs, fully furn,  
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**Mr.Arvin: 09128103207**

Apt. in Qeytarieh  
120 sq.m, 2 bdrs, furn,  
View of park, nice & cozy,  
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# Can cleaning your home actually make you sick?

When it comes to health, clean is usually synonymous with good. After all, eating clean does wonders for our bodies, and cleaning our homes (even if it's just a crazy weekend spree) is how we keep our living space safe and healthy. Right? Well, that depends.

## The need-to-know

Unfortunately, many of the household cleaning products we use to clean our homes are full of toxic chemicals, some of which aren't even listed on the labels. In fact, some products labeled nontoxic or natural are a lot like wolves in sheep's clothing—they can appear more innocent than they really are.

Because labeling for these products is unregulated, manufacturers can simply throw buzzwords like clean, green, nontoxic, and natural on labels, even if the formulas contain toxic chemicals and harmful ingredients, explains Debra Lynn Dadd, consumer advocate and nontoxic living expert.

That's a huge bummer for brands that are actually formulating safe products, because it can be hard (not to mention confusing!) for the average consumer to distinguish between them and the posers. To further complicate matters, there's the great definition debate.

"There is no agreement on what toxic and nontoxic actually mean," Dadd says. "The legal definition of toxic is that it kills more than 50 percent of the animals it's tested on."

There are a variety of tests used to determine the toxicity of chemicals, but each has its own set of flaws, including animal cruelty, false assumptions, and, in some cases, a narrow focus on the worst-case scenario (death) that completely ignores other potential health effects. So really, you can't get too caught up in the semantics.

"We have to redefine how we look at these terms," says Lara Adler, environmental toxin expert and educator. "Maybe a product isn't lethal, but it could be toxic on a cellular level, and that's leading to a systemic health issue."

## The real deal on the risks

Some manufacturers argue that the amount of toxic chemicals in a formulation is so small, it's not harmful. Which might be true if we were exposed to only one product, just one time, over our entire lives. But the reality is we're exposed to hundreds of chemicals in dozens of products all day, every day.

"Although these toxic chemicals may be tolerated individually and in small doses, problems can arise when one is exposed to them in combination or in larger doses over a period of time," says Frank Lipman, M.D., an expert in integrative and functional medicine and the founder of Be Well.



Adler puts it like this: Your body is like a rowboat with a hole in it. It's constantly filling up with water (the chemicals). The smart thing to do is to fix the hole, but we're spending all our energy bailing the water out to save the boat, and thus our bodies aren't able to naturally detoxify like they were made to do. In this case, you might not be able to plug the hole in your boat, but if you can at least slow the inflow of water (chemicals), then your body's natural process of detoxification can be far more effective.

Everyone's tolerance level is different depending on genetics, nutritional status, and previous contacts with chemicals, so this type of exposure can manifest in different ways. Some toxic chemicals used in cleaning products have been linked to conditions such as birth defects, autoimmune disease, thyroid disorders, asthma, and even cancer. Lipman notes that some of the most common symptoms include hormone imbalance, skin irritations, allergies, and chronic inflammation.

## Your action plan

Don't throw every product out of your now-forever-dirty windows just yet. Making healthy changes to slow that inflow of harmful toxins is actually way easier than you'd think.

### 1. Start small

If the thought of overhauling your entire home and

throwing out all your cleaning products makes your head spin, take a deep breath. "You don't need to do it all at once," Dadd says. "Try replacing one toxic cleaning product this week when you stop reading this article and just get used to that. Then next week, replace another one and so on. Take it one step at a time." So how do you know what to chuck? Move on to step 2.

### 2. Read labels.

Treat household cleaners the same way you do packaged food: Pick them up and read the ingredients and fine print, suggests Adler. Don't fall victim to buzzwords or assume complicated terms are dangerous chemicals. If the ingredients aren't listed, do your research. Even natural products use some chemicals to formulate their products; they just don't use toxic chemicals.

If you really want to geek out, check out the Environmental Working Group's guide to healthy cleaning and handy label decoder.

### 3. Stick to the simple stuff

"It's much easier to learn what's not toxic than it is to learn all the chemicals you need to avoid," Dadd says. She swears by five simple and safe ingredients: baking soda, white vinegar, Bon Ami cleanser, organic lemons, and essential oils.

Orange Glo, and Method are free of the toxic chemicals commonly found in most cleaning products but do still contain some synthetic fragrances or preservatives.

### 4. Rely on trustworthy resources.

Nowadays we have this crazy little thing called the internet, but with so much information out there, it can feel overwhelming. The good news is trustworthy organizations and advocates have done all the hard work for you, so it's easier to make a change. "I recommend using the EWG website to help you determine which products are least toxic," Lipman says.

### 5. Change to affect change.

"The only way to really affect change in this space is to take action that's going to impact the manufacturer's bottom line," Adler says.

If you boycott buying home cleaning products with toxic chemicals, brands will be forced to listen and change formulations if they want to be profitable. Likewise, if you support retailers and brands that are doing good, the industry will take note, and hopefully, follow suit.

## The takeaway

We know it can feel overwhelming, but educating yourself and making a few small, simple changes to the things you buy and use every day can make a huge impact on your personal health and the health of the environment. (Source: greatist.com)

## 4 ways to eat your way to lower cholesterol

Many people can reduce cholesterol levels simply by changing what they eat. For example, if you are a fan of cheeseburgers, eating less meat (and leaner cuts) and more vegetables, fruits, and whole grains can lower your total cholesterol by 25% or more. Cutting back on saturated fat (found in meat and dairy products) and trans fat (partially hydrogenated oils) can reduce cholesterol by 5% to 10%.



Here are four steps for using your diet to lower your cholesterol.

**1** Stick with unsaturated fats and avoid saturated and trans fats. Most vegetable fats (oils) are made up of unsaturated fats that are healthy for your heart. Foods that contain healthy fats include oily fish, nuts, seeds, and some vegetables. At the same time, limit your intake of foods high in saturated fat, which is found in many meat and dairy products, and stay away from trans fats. These include any foods made with "partially hydrogenated vegetable oils."

**2** Get more soluble fiber. Eat more soluble fiber, such as that found in oatmeal and fruits. This type of fiber can lower blood cholesterol levels when eaten as part of a healthy-fat diet.

**3** Include plant sterols and stanols in your diet. These naturally occurring plant compounds are similar in structure to cholesterol. When you eat them, they help limit the amount of cholesterol your body can absorb. Plant sterols and stanols are found in an increasing number of food products such as spreads, juices, and yogurts.

**4** Find a diet that works for you. When a friend or relative tells you how much his or her cholesterol level dropped after trying a particular diet, you may be tempted to try it yourself. If you do, and after a few months you discover that you're not getting the same benefits, you may need to chalk it up to genetic and physiological differences. There is no one-size-fits-all diet for cholesterol control. You may need to try several approaches to find one that works for you.

Although diet can be a simple and powerful way to improve cholesterol levels, it plays a bigger role for some people than for others. Don't be discouraged if you have followed a diet but not reached your goal blood level. Keep it up. (Source: Harvard Medical School)

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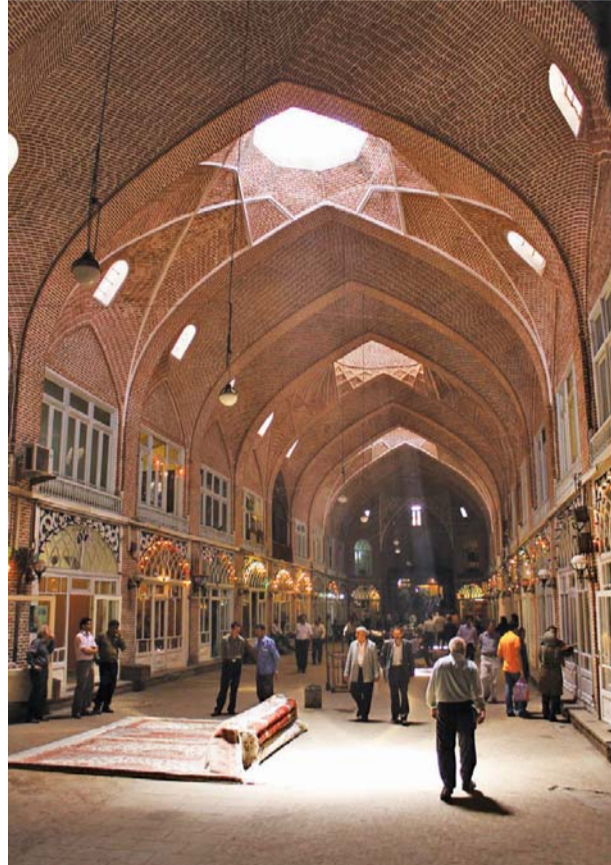
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## How to get a deal at local markets

Buying goods at local markets on your vacation is a tangible way of capturing a memory of your destination, according to Hannah Roth, a travel adviser with McCabe World Travel in McLean, Va., who specializes in creating shopping-focused itineraries.



A view of the Tabriz Historical Bazaar Complex located in northwestern Iranian city it is named after. The UNESCO World Heritage site is a heaven of trading Persian handicrafts and visiting Iranian locals.

"Markets can be treasure troves for locally made clothes, jewelry and knickknacks, and because the good ones are frequented by locals, they also give shoppers a pulse of the local life," she said. Here, she shares her top tips on how to find must-visit markets and how to shop in them once you do.

### Shop the right markets

Big cities tend to have several dozen markets, but the ones around major tourist landmarks, such as La Rambla in Barcelona, are usually overpriced and sell unremarkable items like magnets and shot glasses.

"You sometimes need to venture off the beaten path to find the best markets," Ms. Roth said. In Barcelona, for example, she suggests the market in the city's Gothic Quarter where up-and-coming artisans sell their wares.

For ideas on the best ones to hit, ask your hotel concierge, tour guide or your travel adviser; reading travel magazines and blogs or simply wandering the streets and keeping your eyes peeled work, too.

### Look for handmade items

Markets are gems for handmade goods that the region or country you're visiting is known for. In Nairobi, Kenya, it's belts, bags and necklaces that Maasai women spend up to several days hand-beading (these can be found at the Maasai Market), and in Jodhpur, India, it's hand-woven textiles such as jackets, pillow cases and rugs.

### Buyer beware

Unless you're with a reputable local guide or another in-the-know local, be mindful when buying high-ticket items, such as fine jewelry, in markets.

"At most markets, you can only pay in cash so if you get ripped off, you're out a big chunk of money," Ms. Roth said. Also, avoid vendors with advertising in English that's marketed to tourists such as "Special Pricing for Americans," especially if English is not the country's primary language; you most likely won't get any special pricing or find goods worth buying.

### Haggle, please

Haggling at markets is customary and expected. For any item you're interested in buying, you can generally negotiate a price that's 30 percent lower than what the vendor initially quotes — start by offering half the quoted amount, and go back and forth until you settle on a price. But don't haggle if you're not serious about the item; it's insulting to the vendor.

### Airport markets count

Don't discount markets at airports, Ms. Roth said, especially in smaller countries not known as shopping destinations.

"After perusing and comparing prices throughout my trip, I have found some of the best shopping at airport markets," she said.

The goods she has picked up at the airport include a handmade conch shell necklace in Turks and Caicos and a painting in the Dominican Republic showcasing the island's scenic landscape. (Source: The New York Times)

## Spain worries about tourism future

After basking in its best tourist summer season in 15 years, Spain now sees dark clouds on the horizon as popular destinations reach saturation point and holidaymakers are more thrifty, industry experts say.

The 2016 summer season proved exceptionally good, with an influx of tourists fleeing other popular destinations recently hit by attacks, said Jose Luis Zoreda, vice-president of Exceltur, the sector's employers' association.

A combination of lower interest rates and petrol prices along with unrest in other Mediterranean countries benefited Spain's coastal regions, with their famed "sun and beaches," he said.

But he warned that "it will be difficult to reproduce this one-off scenario."

In the first eight months of the year, Spain saw a 10 percent increase in the number of tourists from 2015 -- or a total of 52.5 million people, with the Brits in the lead. (Source: The Local)

# Tehran hosts Sino-Iranian friendship conference as ancient Silk Road backs to life

By Afshin Majlesi

**TEHRAN** — The Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture (TCCIMA) on Sunday hosted a series of meetings linked with the 7th Sino-Iranian friendship conference, with an eye to the revival of the ancient Silk Road.

Attendees from Iran-China Friendship Society (ICFS) and Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC) along with some officials and merchants from both nations are holding talks to discuss tourism and trade issues.

Several speakers used the context of "One Belt, One Road" initiated by Chinese President Xi Jinping in 2013, as an example of the growing ties between Eurasian nations.

The initiative as a development strategy and framework touches on tightening connectivity and cooperation among Eurasian countries dotted along the ancient trade route by the means of both inland and marine courses.

ICFS Director Ahad Mohammadi opened the conference with a brief talk looking at the rich history of trade and culture the two countries have in common, saying: "the bilateral cooperation has always been on the rise over the course of time."

Mohammadi also pointed to Jinping's previous visit to the country, calling it a "turning point" and a clear sign for the growing mutual ties.

CPAFFC Vice President Lin Yi also referred to "One Belt, One Road" to turn



Chinese Deputy Ambassador Xu Wei (C) addresses the 7th Sino-Iranian friendship conference at Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture on October 23, 2016.

the spotlight on its features and benefits, as she foresaw a bright future for mutual ties in the wake of the Chinese president's meetings with high-ranking Iranian authorities.

Heading a cultural and trade delegation, Yi said there separate panels are set to scrutinize expansion of relations in handicrafts, tourism, as well as tech and trade sectors within the Sino-Iranian friendship conference which will come to an end on October 26.

During its sojourn, the Chinese delegation is also slated to pay a visit to the historic city of Tabriz, once a bustling

fragment of the Silk Road.

Amongst other speakers at the conference were Bahman Eshqi, the TCCIMA deputy director; Xu Wei, the Chinese deputy ambassador; and Wang Yi Wei, the director of School of International Studies at Renmin University of China.

Iran and China mapped out a wide-ranging 25-year plan to broaden relations and expand trade during President Jinping's visit to Iran in January. It was the first visit by a Chinese leader to the Islamic republic in 14 years and came a week after the lifting of international sanctions against Iran in exchange for

curbs on its nuclear program.

The latest official released by Iran Customs Administration demonstrate that China was the leading trading partner of Iran in the first half of the current Iranian calendar year, started on March 20, 2016. China's exports to Iran amounted to \$4.85 billion, accounting for 23.93 percent of Iran's total imports in terms of value.

The figures also indicate that Iran exported \$3.99 billion of goods to China during the same period, accounting for 18.42 percent of the country's total exports.

## S. Korean envoy cuts ribbon on handicraft exhibit in Tehran

**HERITAGE TEHRAN** — South Korean Ambassador Kim Seung-Ho officially inaugurated an exhibition of Iranian wooden handiwork at the Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Organization (CHTHO) headquarters in Tehran on Sunday.

CHTHO Deputy Director Bahman Namvar-Motlaq besides representatives of about 15 Korean companies attended the inaugural ceremony of the exhibit,

which will run until October 26.

In a brief interview with the IRIB, Seung-Ho said the embassy as well as Korean companies hail holding such exhibits as a move to familiarize their nation with Iranian handicrafts, arts, and traditions.

The ambassador expressed his willingness for broadening and deepening ties and friendship between Seoul and Tehran as well, adding "Iranian handicrafts and handwoven carpets are well

known across the world."

Namvar-Motlaq, for his part, raised the concept of handicrafts and machine-made products, calling them rather supplements than contrasts, as to the fact that they may contribute side by side to enliven variety of manufactures, IRNA reported on Sunday.

Namvar-Motlaq also indicated the CHTHO readiness to hold same exhibits in one of South Korean cities as well as other spots in Iran.

Earlier this month, an exhibit of Iranian handicrafts with focus on woodworks was held in the city of Isfahan under the auspices of the South Korean Embassy.

South Korean President Park Guen-hye paid a three-day visit to Iran in May. In that regard, Seung-Ho in an exclusive interview with the Tehran Times has said the president's visit will "definitely open a new chapter in relations".



## Brazil plans to waive visas for visitors from U.S., Japan

Brazil's government is considering waiving visas for visitors from the United States, Japan, Canada and Australia to boost tourism, and could eventually extend the plan to include China, a tourism ministry spokesman said on Monday.

The proposal by new Tourism Minister Marx Beltrao would extend for a 12-month trial period a visa-waiver program adopted for visitors from the four countries during the Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro this year.

Brazil's President Michel Temer is keen to draw more foreign investment and visitors to Brazil to help pull Latin America's largest nation from its worst recession since the 1930s Great Depression.

In 2015, 575,800 U.S. citizens visited Brazil, less than 10 percent of the total number of visitors to the South American nation. Meanwhile, the number of Brazilians visiting the United States soared in recent years to 2.6 million visitors in 2014.

The visa exemptions would become permanent if the number of tourists rises significantly and the governments of the four nations reciprocate by removing visa requirements for Brazilians visitors, the spokesman said.

The minister's proposal still needs approval by other departments of the Brazilian government, particularly the foreign ministry which issues the visas and has demanded reciprocity to exempt U.S. citizens from needing visas.

Visitors from most Latin American and European Union nations, and Russia, do not need visas to travel to Brazil, but U.S. travelers have to cough up \$160 for a visa to visit Brazil, an identical fee charged to Brazilians for visas to visit the United States.

The Brazilian fee was levied in retaliation for exclusion of Brazil from the U.S. visa waiver program.

The tourism ministry is studying the inclusion of several other countries in its visa waiver plan, mainly China to try to attract some of the 100 million Chinese tourists that travel abroad each year, the spokesman said.

Only 55,000 Chinese citizens visited Brazil last year. (Source: Reuters)

# Physicists use lasers to capture first snapshots of rapid chemical bonds breaking

Lasers have successfully recorded a chemical reaction that happens as fast as a quadrillionth of a second, which could help scientists understand and control chemical reactions.

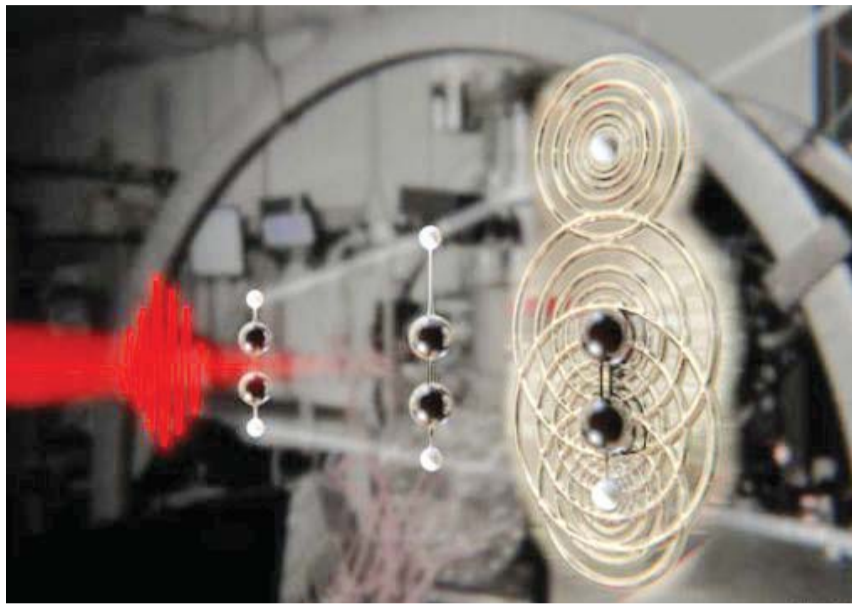
The idea for using a laser to record a few femtoseconds of a molecule's extremely fast vibrations as it breaks apart came from Kansas State University physicists. Chii-Dong Lin, university distinguished professor of physics, and Anh-Thu Le, research associate professor in James R. Macdonald Laboratory, are part of an international collaborative project published in the Oct. 21 issue of Science.

"If you want to see something that happens very, very fast, you need a tool that can measure a very, very tiny time period," Lin said. The "only light available in femtosecond measurements is a laser."

A femtosecond is one-millionth of a billionth of a second, which is a million times shorter than a nanosecond. Until recently, there was no way to measure what happens during a chemical reaction in that short of a period.

## Oxygen molecule

Lin's research group made its first molecular movie of an oxygen molecule using lasers in 2012, but to record a larger molecule -- such as the four-atom acetylene molecule -- they needed a more advanced laser. After five years of col-



laboration with Jens Biegert's group from ICFO-The Institute of Photonic Sciences, a member of The Barcelona Institute of Science and Technology, Lin's idea became reality.

The international team used the molecule's own electrons to scatter the laser -- a process called mid-infrared laser-induced electron diffraction, or LIED -- and capture snapshots

of acetylene as it is breaking apart. An intense laser is used to affect an acetylene molecule -- composed of two hydrogen atoms and two carbon atoms -- to strip out an electron and initiate the breakup of the molecule. After nine femtoseconds, the laser drives the free electron back to the elongated molecule to create an image.

"Scientists will eventually be able to apply this tool in chemistry, biology and other physical sciences to look at different types of molecules and processes," Lin said.

## Multiple possibilities

According to Lin, acetylene's four-atom chemical structure provides multiple possibilities where the bonds could break.

Being able to measure where and when those breaks occur can help researchers better understand chemical reactions, which Lin said will lead to better control of a reaction and is applicable to multiple areas of science.

"In order to control something, you have to know where it is first," Lin said. "If you throw a ball over a house, you can't see what happens to it, so you can't control it anymore. But if you have a way to see each second of the ball in the air, you can figure out why it ends up where it does and potentially change the way you throw it to control the outcome or to influence it in real time."

(Source: EurekAlert)

**A femtosecond is one-millionth of a billionth of a second, which is a million times shorter than a nanosecond. Until recently, there was no way to measure what happens during a chemical reaction in that short of a period.**

## Scientists explain how happiness makes us less creative

Corporations intent on making employees more engaged and creative are focusing on happiness as the answer. Chief Happiness Officer is an actual job at many companies.

But most scientists say that creativity calls on persistence and problem-solving skills, not positivity. Computational scientist Anna Jordanous at Kent University and linguist Bill Keller of Sussex University in England dug through over half century of study on the creative process in various fields, and isolated 14 components of creativity. Happiness wasn't one of them.

Creativity is complex. The 14 components Jordanous and Keller found all need to work together to varying degrees depending on the task at hand, the researchers explain. None is more important than any other although different creative activities -- and different steps of a single creative effort -- may demand more of one

or another and build on each other.

Mark Davis, a psychologist at the University of North Texas Department of Management divides creativity into two phases; initial idea generation and subsequent problem-solving. His review of research on feelings and creativity concluded that a positive mood is useful when first brainstorming, processing information, and coming up with as many ideas as possible -- you don't want to bring judgment into that, because it could stifle idea generation.

## Overcoming obstacles

But rigor is the key to overcoming obstacles and completing tasks -- and good mood doesn't improve problem-solving, which involves judgments that almost by necessity won't feel good: critique and evaluation, experimentation and failure. The stress that arises from problems may be unpleasant but it also motivates us to complete tasks, Davis says. In other words, negative

emotions are actually beneficial to the creative process.

Likewise, Rice University psychology professors Jennifer George and Jing Zhou have found that challenges don't necessarily make us happy, but they do yield good creative work. That's because, their work found, when bad moods or feelings are expressed they signal problems -- which then inspires fixes and improvements. Over 160 employees reported on manager support and personal moods during a week while their bosses assessed them on their creativity. The workers who were rated most creative reported experiencing both strong negative and positive moods and felt they had supportive managers. Happier workers with good bosses, however, were rated significantly less creative than those with mixed emotions. Employees with mixed feels and bad bosses rated least creative.

(Source: Quartz)

## Oldest known planet-forming disk: Citizen scientists and professional astronomers join forces

A group of citizen scientists and professional astronomers, including Carnegie's Jonathan Gagné, joined forces to discover an unusual hunting ground for exoplanets. They found a star surrounded by the oldest known circumstellar disk -- a primordial ring of gas and dust that orbits around a young star and from which planets can form as the material collides and aggregates.

Led by Steven Silverberg of University of Oklahoma, the team described a new-

ly identified red dwarf star with a warm circumstellar disk, of the kind associated with young planetary systems. Circumstellar disks around red dwarfs like this one are rare to begin with, but this star, called AW10005x3s, appears to have sustained its disk for an exceptionally long time. The findings are published by The Astrophysical Journal Letters.

"Most disks of this kind fade away in less than 30 million years," said Silverberg. "This

particular red dwarf is a candidate member of the Carina stellar association, which would make it around 45 million years old [like the rest of the stars in that group]. It's the oldest red dwarf system with a disk we've seen in one of these associations."

The discovery relied on citizen scientists from Disk Detective, a project led by NASA/GSFC's Dr. Marc Kuchner that's designed to find new circumstellar disks. At the project's website, DiskDetective.org, users make classifications by viewing ten-second videos of data from NASA surveys, including the Wide-field Infrared Survey Explorer mission (WISE) and Two-Micron All Sky Survey (2MASS) projects. Since the launch of the website in January 2014, roughly 30,000 citizen scientists have participated in this process, performing roughly 2 million classifications of celestial objects.

(Source: phys.org)

## IKCO, Iran's Top Exporter

Iran Khodro has topped the list of Iran's leading exporters with achieving a 100-percent growth in export last year.

During a ceremony held on October 20 on the occasion of National Export Day in the Iranian calendar, attended by Iran's President Hassan Rouhani, the

names of Iranian leading exporters were unveiled.

With exporting over 10,000 vehicles in the last Iranian year i.e. March 20, 2015 to March 20, 2016, Iran Khodro managed to achieve a 100 percent growth compared with its previous year.

The largest car manufacturer in the Middle East is set to export 20,000 vehicles during the current year.

Iraq, Syria, Turkmenistan and Armenia have been among the main markets of Iran Khodro over the past few years. Expanding its markets to Central Asian

countries including Kirgizstan and Azerbaijan as well as Central and North African countries are the main goals of this car company in the next few years.

To this end, Iran Khodro exported over 300 units of Dena to Algeria to restore its markets in North Africa.

## CBI Appreciates Salient Achievements of AYANDEH BANK

Salient achievements of AYANDEH BANK taken in the field of disseminating information services in banking system of the country for spurring production were appreciated.

Given the above issue, a Plaque of Appreciation was awarded by Mr. Mohammad-Ali Karimi Director of Public Relations Department of Central Bank of Iran (CBI) to Dr. Mahmoud Torabian Director of Public Relations Department of AYANDEH Bank and expressed CBI's satisfaction on the active participation of the bank in the field of disseminating information services in banking system of the country.

Some part of the Appreciation Letter is read as follows: "Relying upon the assistance of the Almighty God, it is a matter of happiness to say that first experience of collective information dissemination of banking system has brought about positive feedbacks of public opinions and effective reflection of mass media in this field. For this purpose, respected Governor of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) Dr. Valiollah Seif has seized this opportunity to extend his special thanks to the senior management and industrious staff and personnel of the bank in better and successful implementation of

this move taken by the bank in this regard.

Production Information Services Campaign was put into operation in line with fulfilling public responsibilities of CBI regarding promotion of public awareness of society in monetary and banking fields, disseminating public information services regarding the routine and daily banking activities and also raising public awareness in the banking and economic issues in cooperation with banks, finance and credit associations and also Beautification Organization of Municipality of Tehran."

## 2nd Nationwide "Quality" Seminar in Building Construction Holds

The Second Nationwide Construction Quality Seminar was held in IRIB Intl. Conferences Center on Saturday Oct. 22 in the presence of expert officials and authorities of the country.

Vice Speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly (Iranian Parliament) Dr. Pezeshkian was the first speaker who said: "All specialized activities should be delegated to the expert manpower, otherwise, every plan in abnegation of ex-

pertise will doom to failure."

Head of Research Center for Roads, Housing and Urban Development Dr. Mohammad Shekarchizadeh was the next speaker who said: "Mass-housing construction, which accelerated in previous years, should not be stopped and lifetime of building should be taken into consideration in construction affairs."

Due to the saturation of construction in urban areas, repair and maintenance of

buildings, upgrading inefficient city textures have been signified at the current situation, he opined.

Dr. Akbar Torkan President's senior Advisor and Secretary of High Council of Free and Special Economic Zones and also head of Building Engineering Council was the other speaker who said: "Qualified and the most experienced designers should be hired for construction building. The designers should be considered as project com-

missioner and observer. Then, quality construction materials should be used."

Of total building materials, 32 of which have been equipped with mandatory standard, he maintained.

He put the investment volume spent in building industry in the field of Engineering Council at approx. 800,000 billion rials while the country's development budget stands at 400,000 billion rials in the best case.

## Digital nervous system would let buildings detect their own weaknesses

Researchers at MIT have developed a computational model that makes sense of the ambient rumblings that buildings experience everyday, finding the signals in the noise that could give indications of the building's current stability.

Buildings experience vibrations constantly, often from nearby traffic. They're built so that those inside don't feel them, but these minor tremors move through floors and beams nonetheless. The MIT team used the tallest building in Cambridge -- the Green Building, a 21-story research building designed by I.M. Pei -- as a test site, attaching 36 accelerometers that record vibrations and movements on select floors.

"These sensors represent an embedded nervous system," says Oral Buyukozturk, a professor in MIT's Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and co-author of a paper describing the model.

The "challenge is to extract vital signs from the sensors' data and link them to health characteristics of a building, which has been a challenge in the engineering community."

Buyukozturk and his team then built a simulation of the Green Building. The vital signs picked up from the sensors, including ambient vibrations, could then be plugged into the simulation. "We look at the foundation level and see what motions a truck, for instance, caused there, and then how that vibration travels upward and horizontally, in speed and direction," Buyukozturk says.

The model can detect minor, day-to-day changes in how a building sways in the wind or faces minor earthquakes. It could allow for a quicker realization, especially in earthquake-prone areas, for when a building needs to be brought up to code.

"I would envision that, in the future, such a monitoring system will be instrumented on all our buildings, city-wide," says the paper's lead author Hao Sun.

(Source: Popular Mechanics)

## Making climate change immediate and personally relevant

Computing power and closer partnerships between the public sector and university research are driving dramatic changes in the way people come to have a fuller understanding of the impact and dangers of climate change.

We see this firsthand with the work being done across the University of Miami and its Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science, in partnership with NOAA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

"There's no doubt that moving people to action on climate change demands extensive research and predictive models that are credible and replicable. That, though, is not enough. If we really want people to take action and be part of the solution, we must expand our partnerships and, together, share our findings in a way that demands attention because the data are visually compelling and recognized as close to home," explained Dr. Ben Kirtman, Professor of Atmospheric Sciences at the Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science (RSMAS), when he spoke on the phone a few days ago. Kirtman is known internationally for his work on climate change and leads the University of Miami Cooperative Institute for Marine and Atmospheric Studies and is the Program Director for Climate and Environmental Hazards at UM's Center for Computational Science.

## Meaningful research

"I am a mathematician and scientist by training, but I'm also a realist. My focus is on meaningful research, building knowledge and forecasting the future, not for theory but for the betterment of our lives and for society. Scientific research is essential. But science with a purpose changes lives. And that is crucial to spurring action on climate change," he continued.

"Think about it. We're talking about human nature: each of us responds and acts most purposefully when we face a threat that is close to home and one that we can visualize. We see this time and time again in how people react when a hurricane or dangerous storm gets close," Kirtman said.

Regional Climate Change Impact -- Since 2011, Rosenstiel has had an active partnership with NOAA for which it provides research data and uses the unique computing resources that are part of UM's Center for Computational Science. The result is that it is able to build predictive models that look at marine and atmospheric changes, focusing on those in the immediate region and looking at a time horizon from three to four weeks out to a decade. Among others, those predictions include sea level rise, storm surge, extreme rainfall and the rise in ocean temperature.

High Resolution Models, Maps and Photographs -- Drawing on the computer expertise and the raw computing power of the UM Center for Computational Science, the team is able to show how high fidelity predictive computer models are able to reproduce satellite images.

The visuals and the graphics become an essential tool, able to make a dramatic statement on the vital need for action on climate change. And, after all, as some have said, a picture is worth a thousand words.

(Source: The Huffington Post)



"There is no greater heaven than the heart of a loving mother"  
Bangambiki Habyarimana

## 1 in 3 U.S. women worry about being sexually assaulted: poll

About one in three women in the United States say they worry about being sexually assaulted, a new poll shows, as the lead audio recording of Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump has made sexual harassment of women a major issue in the U.S. presidential campaign.

Thirty-four percent of American women say they are "occasionally" or "frequently" worried about being sexually assaulted, according to the Gallup poll conducted October 5-9 which included two days before and three days after the October 7 release of audiotapes of Trump talking about groping women.



Students and others demonstrate on the Penn State campus against sexual assault on Friday, March 20, 2015, in State College, Pennsylvania. (Photo by AP)

The latest figure is higher than the 30 percent who worried about sexual assault than in recent years," Gallup said. Younger women report a higher level of concern about being sexually assaulted compared to older women, the poll found.

Forty-two percent of women under the age of 50 say they are concerned at least occasionally about it, compared with 25 percent of women aged 50 and older.

Overall, 20 percent of all American adults say they worry frequently or occasionally about being sexually assaulted. Relatively few men, 5 percent, worry about being sexually assaulted. Trump's audio recordings have made the treatment of women and sexual assault a major issue in the U.S. presidential campaign. While the New York real estate magnate has said the comments he made in the video was just talk and he had never behaved in that way, more than a dozen women have gone public with allegations of sexual harassment against him going back more than 30 years.

(Source: Press TV)

## RECIPE OF THE WEEK Autumn cheesecake

"This is a delicious apple cheesecake that I usually make in the fall."

### Ingredients:

- 1 cup graham cracker crumbs
- 1/2 cup finely chopped pecans
- 3 tablespoons white sugar



- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/4 cup unsalted butter, melted
- 2 (8 ounce) packages cream cheese, softened
- 1/2 cup white sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 4 cups apples - peeled, cored and thinly sliced
- 1/3 cup white sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/4 cup chopped pecans

### Directions:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). In a large bowl, stir together the graham cracker crumbs, 1/2 cup finely chopped pecans, 3 tablespoons sugar, 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon and melted butter; press into the bottom of a 9 inch springform pan. Bake in preheated oven for 10 minutes.

In a large bowl, combine cream cheese and 1/2 cup sugar. Mix at medium speed until smooth. Beat in eggs one at a time, mixing well after each addition. Blend in vanilla; pour filling into the baked crust.

In a small bowl, stir together 1/3 cup sugar and 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon. Toss the cinnamon-sugar with the apples to coat. Spoon apple mixture over cream cheese layer and sprinkle with 1/4 cup chopped pecans.

Bake in preheated oven for 60 to 70 minutes. With a knife, loosen cake from rim of pan. Let cool, then remove the rim of pan. Chill cake before serving.

# 1st congress on successful Iranian women to be held

**TEHRAN** — The first national congress on successful Iranian women is to be held in Tehran on January 24, 2017.

The congress focuses on women's presence in

decision-makings in different levels of the social and administrative organizations, Mehr news agency reported.

Successful women in national and international fields and female managers who are active in executive organ-

izations will participate in the congress.

Specialized workshops and meetings on different management fields will be held on the sidelines of the event and participants will be granted certificates.



## Papua New Guinea women recognized for business achievements

A number of Papua New Guinea women have been honored for their work achievements and leadership skills, in a country where gender inequality is rife.

The Westpac Outstanding Women awards, held in Port Moresby, have been running for 10 years in recognition of "quiet achievers" in the private, public and community sectors.

The organizers said the awards alumni was now more than 100 strong, and growing each year as ranks of professional women expand.

This year's overall winner and winner of the private sector award was Bosa Togs, the general manager of IT at Telkom PNG.

Ms Togs won the award after successfully campaigning for equal pay for women employed by Telkom.

In the past, she said, women were not only paid less for the same work, but did

not qualify for other benefits because they were female.

Ms Togs took up the case of two female colleagues, both engineers and single mothers who were struggling to support their families.

She sought advice from women's groups and then minister for women, Dame Carol Kidu and the Ombudsman about whether there was gender discrimination in Telkom's employment policies. There was.

"From then on, that's when they did away with the different categories of pay and benefits," she said.

"Then staff were given packages so that it is not gender-related, it is based on merit. So that's how we got equal pay," Ms Togs said while things had improved, the corporate environment for women was still difficult.

"But it's not that easy, especially in a technology-driven organization, with the culture and the way people are here," she said.

"My former boss told me 'with women, we sympathise with you because you'll have to prove yourself twice', which is true.

"But Telkom has changed. And the new CEO is a man who looks at having a balance between men and women, so he gets women more involved."

She said the one thing that would help the advancement of women most would be a wider recognition of women "for who they are".

"Women have something that men don't have, that sixth sense where we bring people together ... out ability to love, our ability to embrace, our ability to recognize that in other people and not compete.

"If we could have a few more women in leadership roles, I think there would be a lot of changes for the better." Echoing those sentiments, the public sector award winner, gynaecologist Dr Lutty Amos said there needed to be more women in sen-

ior management roles in the public health and education sectors.

Dr Amos was the first female doctor in Southern Highlands Province and now leads women's health programs in the National Capital District.

She was recognized for starting PNG's first ever public campaign about cervical cancer and for leading efforts to implement cancer screening.

"I believe that cervical cancer is something that a woman shouldn't die from, and I'm passionate to see it end," she said.

"I'm involved in the HPV vaccination and the screening and the treatment, in policy. I'm involved in the whole spectrum."

The other award winners included the founder of one of PNG's biggest catering companies, Rita Jaima Paru, who won the entrepreneur award for creating Dial-a-Lunch catering in just two years.

(Source: abc.net.au)

## 15 Iraqi women slain in U.S.-led airstrike in Kirkuk Province

At least 15 women have lost their lives and scores of other civilians have sustained injuries when fighter jets operated by the so-called U.S.-led coalition struck a mourning procession in Iraq's oil-rich northern province of Kirkuk.

Local official Amir Huda Karam said the aerial attack targeted a Shia place of worship in the town of Daquq, located approximately 180 kilometers north of the capital Baghdad, on Friday.

### 'Not justifiable'

Meanwhile, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Qassem condemned the killing of Iraqi civilians by foreign military forces under the pretext of fighting terrorism, saying that no excuse can justify attacking innocent civilians attending a mourning procession.

He also offered the Islamic Republic's condolences to the Iraqi government and nation over the deadly attack in Daquq.

### 'U.S.-led strike on the heels of Daesh attack'

The tragic incident came just hours after three Daesh Takfiri terrorists attacked a power plant in the town of Dibs, located 55 kilometers northwest of Kirkuk, and blew themselves up, killing 18 people, including three Iranians.

Security sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the slain Iranian technicians were carrying out maintenance at the facility.

The sources added that some of the surviving militants had blocked off the road between the town



Iraqis go through the rubble after a U.S.-led coalition airstrike targeted a Shia mourning ceremony in the town of Daquq, south of the city of Kirkuk, October 21, 2016. (Photo by Iraqi al-Ghadeer television channel)

and the power station.

Crude oil production facilities were not affected as a result of the assault, and power supply remained uninterrupted.

The security sources said the situation in Kirkuk had largely been brought under control after Kurdish forces dislodged the militants from all the police and public buildings they had seized before dawn.

Earlier, multiple explosions ripped through Kirkuk and bursts of machine gun fire could be heard across the northeastern oil city.

Witnesses, requesting anonymity, said much of the fighting was focused on a government

compound in the city.

Kirkuk Governor Najmaddin Karim, however, stated that militants had not managed to take control of any government buildings in the city, located 236 kilometers north of Baghdad.

A curfew is now in effect and streets are largely deserted amid fears of militant snipers.

Local authorities had earlier said some of the assailants were holed up in a hotel and a mosque in the middle of Kirkuk.

Lieutenant General Talib Shaghathi, commander of Iraq's Joint Operations Command, said the attackers in Kirkuk came from outside the city.

The Takfiri Daesh terrorist group later claimed responsibility for the attacks in Dibs in an online statement.

The assaults came four days after nearly 30,000 army soldiers, fighters from pro-government Popular Mobilization Units and Kurdish Peshmerga forces launched a massive and multi-pronged operation to retake the city of Mosul from Daesh militants.

### 'Iraqi journalist killed in Kirkuk'

Additionally, a senior correspondent for the regional and state-run Turkmen television network has been fatally shot by a Daesh sniper in Kirkuk.

An unnamed police colonel said 30-year-old Ahmet Haceroglu (seen above) was struck by a sniper bullet to the chest and died of his wounds as he was covering incidents in Kirkuk.

(Source: Press TV)

### IN FOCUS Tehran Times/ Asghar Khamseh



Rural women participated in the conference celebrating the national day of villages and nomads at Iran International Conference Center in Tehran on October 22, 2016. Several cultural officials as well as countryside tribespeople and village dwellers attended the conference.

## First woman to conquer Everest dies aged 77: reports

**Tokyo (AFP)** — The first woman to conquer Mount Everest, Junko Tabei of Japan, has died aged 77, media reported Saturday.

Tabei died of peritoneal cancer on Thursday at a hospital in Saitama, north of Tokyo, Japan's public broadcaster NHK and Kyodo News said, quoting her family.

She completed the first conquest of Mount Everest by a woman in 1975, accomplishing the feat via the southeast ridge route.

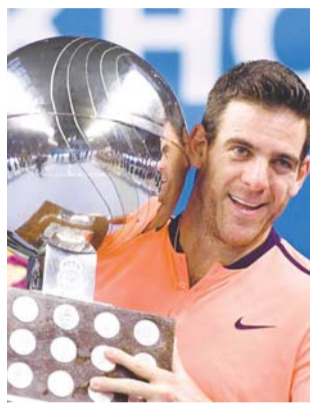
She went on to conquer soaring peaks in several continents -- Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, Mount McKinley in the United States and the Vinson Massif in Antarctica -- heralding the era of women climbers. Even after reaching the world's highest peak, the Fukushima native continued climbing mountains at home and abroad.

In an interview with AFP in 2003, she said: "I don't have the desire to climb Everest again any more. If I had enough time and money to do so, I would rather climb other mountains that I have not attempted before."



## Juan Martín Del Potro beats Jack Sock in Stockholm Open to end long title wait

Juan Martín Del Potro returned to the ATP Tour winners' circle for the first time in almost three years with a straight-sets victory over Jack Sock, the 23rd-ranked American, in the final of the Stockholm Open. The towering Argentine, who returned to competitive action at Delray Beach in February after almost a year on the sidelines with a wrist injury, won 7-5, 6-1.



For a player whose career has followed a chequered path since 2009, when he bludgeoned his way past Rafael Nadal and Roger Federer to claim the US Open Cup, the victory marked another significant stride on the road to recovery.

Ranked 63rd in the world after three debilitating bouts of wrist surgery in five years that at times left him contemplating retirement, Del Potro needed a wild card to gain entry to the 250 series event, the lowest tier of competition on the ATP Tour. But the 28-year-old, who greeted the final point against Sock with joy and no little emotion, justified the award by beating four seeds in five rounds, his win over Sock following victories against Grigor Dimitrov, Ivo Karlovic and John Isner.

"This means something very big to me," said Del Potro, who reaped maximum benefit from the unusually slow conditions at the Kungliga Tennishallen. "After two years with many problems with my wrist, coming back and playing at this level and winning another trophy at this unbelievable tournament is great. I'm so happy to win the final and show my best tennis."

"The conditions are good for me to play and I beat all the guys in two sets and played really good during the whole tournament."

Sock, who survived a three-set tussle with the rising German star Alexander Zverev in the semi-finals, struggled to make inroads on the powerful Argentine's serve and faded badly – against the odds, it might be said, given the fluorescent pink top that both he and Del Potro sported – after conceding his own delivery for the first time at 5-5 in the opening set.

Up against a barrage of heavy forehands and booming serves from Del Potro, who was broken only twice all week, it was scant surprise when Sock was forced to seek treatment for an arm injury midway through the second set.

"It was a tough match," said Sock. "His serve is massive and very tough to read, which put more pressure on my serve. He just played well today. I've had a long week and it might have caught up with me a bit."

For Del Potro, a silver medalist at the Rio Olympics in August, the endgame for this year remains the Davis Cup final in late November, when Argentina will face Croatia in Zagreb. But with his injuries behind him, victories over Novak Djokovic, Stan Wawrinka, Rafael Nadal and Andy Murray to his name in 2016, and now a first title since he won in Sydney in early 2014, the future looks promising. (Source: Guardian)

## Fifa Ballon D'Or shortlist: Cristiano Ronaldo, Gareth Bale among nominees for prestigious award

Three-time world player of the year Cristiano Ronaldo will have to take on Real Madrid teammate Gareth Bale for the Ballon d'Or.

Both were on the 2016 longlist announced Monday which also featured Manchester City's Sergio Aguero, Borussia Dortmund's Gabon striker Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang and Juventus veteran goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon.

Manchester United's Swedish striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic is also on the list, while Barcelona's Argentine superstar Lionel Messi was expected to be added later.

Ballon d'Or sponsors France Football magazine, who are organising the trophy on their own after the end of their partnership with Fifa, are releasing the names of the 30 players in batches of five over the course of Monday.

Ronaldo, who won the award in 2008 and 2013-14, set himself up for a fourth Ballon d'Or when captaining Portugal to Euro 2016 glory and helping Real Madrid to an 11th Champions League triumph.

Another player to make the list is Atletico Madrid's Antoine Griezmann, one of the stars for hosts and beaten finalists France at Euro 2016.

One man not included is Griezmann's compatriot Karim Benzema, the Real Madrid striker's year having been overshadowed by the sextape blackmail affair which led to him being frozen out of the national team ahead of the Euros.

The winner will be determined by a vote of journalists -- players (national team captains) and managers will no longer have a say after the ending of the five-year deal between France football and Fifa. The first Ballon d'Or was won by Stanley Matthews, at the time with Blackpool, who beat Alfredo Di Stefano for the inaugural title in 1956.

Last year's honour went to Ronaldo's arch rival Messi, who won it for the fifth time.

Shortlist so far (released in alphabetical order): Sergio Agüero (ARG/Manchester City), Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang (GAB/Borussia Dortmund), Gareth Bale (WAL/Real Madrid), Gianluigi Buffon (ITA/Juventus), Cristiano Ronaldo (POR/Real Madrid), Kevin De Bruyne (BEL/Manchester City), Paulo Dybala (ARG/Juventus), Diego Godin (URU/Atletico Madrid), Antoine Griezmann (FRA/Atletico Madrid), Gonzalo Higuain (ARG/Juventus), Zlatan Ibrahimovic (SWE/Manchester United), Andrés Iniesta (ESP/Barcelona), Koke (ESP/Atletico Madrid), Toni Kroos (GER/Real Madrid), Robert Lewandowski (POL/Bayern Munich). (Source: AFP)

# Prince Ali says FIFA needs to speed up reforms

Former FIFA presidential candidate Prince Ali Bin Al Hussein of Jordan is concerned about the pace of reform in world soccer's governing body and says new president Gianni Infantino has "no time to lose" in bringing transparency to the organization.

Infantino was elected in February with the task of leading FIFA into calmer waters after a series of corruption scandals plunged the governing body into its worst crisis.

Prince Ali told Reuters in an interview that Infantino should focus on implementing reforms rather than issues such as proposals to expand the World Cup.

"I can only speculate as a new president he first has to look at his own administration and see what's going on in there," he told Reuters in Jordan, which is currently hosting the Women's Under-17 World Cup.

The tournament is the first FIFA organized female World Cup in the Middle East and is considered a significant milestone for women in the region, long constrained by cultural and religious conservatism.

"Everybody is looking at FIFA and the direction it is going and again it's critical time, there no time to lose."

Soccer's global governing body is attempting to recover from the worst graft scandal in its history which has seen 42 people, including former FIFA executive committee members, indicted in the United States since May last year.

Criminal investigations are also under way in Switzerland, where FIFA has its headquarters.

Prince Ali said that as someone who had "stuck to my guns in terms of really supporting football and having a clean organization", he knew how urgent it was to speed up investigations and tackle improper business practices.

"You really need to have a clean FIFA to be able to trickle down to our national associations" said Prince Ali, highlighting ongoing problems such as matchfixing.

"... the reality is putting aside the big ideas in the World Cup, the real issue is the organization and cleaning it up for me I wish it will be more streamlined, more open and that's what I am hoping will take place," he added.

### 'SHAME ON THE GAME'

Prince Ali said the proposal to enlarge the World Cup



could backfire if not properly planned out, citing problems that faced in Brazil and South Africa.

"When it comes to FIFA, at the moment there are other priorities really ... my only concern is that it's maybe more political and about pleasing people than what is best for the game," he said. There are concerns that enlarging the World Cup beyond the current 32 teams would make tournaments less manageable and result in a drop in quality.

Prince Ali again criticized FIFA's decision to dissolve its anti-racism task force.

FIFA wrote to members in September to say it was

disbanding the task force set up by then boss Sepp Blatter in 2013, and declaring that it had "completely fulfilled its temporary mission".

"To say the work is done and to move on is not the case ... racism and discrimination is everywhere and really needs to be a staple part of FIFA mission for the future," he added.

"I see racism and discrimination is prevalent in a lot of places and that's a shame on the game and FIFA has a responsibility to tackle it in every way it can ..."

"Combating it is not about slogans it's about real work..." he added. (Source: Reuters)

## Hamilton cuts Rosberg's F1 lead with 50th win

Lewis Hamilton celebrated his 50th Formula One victory on Sunday with a pole-to-flag U.S. Grand Prix drive that kept his title hopes alive and trimmed Mercedes team mate Nico Rosberg's lead to 26 points with three races remaining.

Rosberg, who had been chasing his 10th triumph of the season, finished second on a sunny Texan afternoon with a big crowd but little drama -- even if Hamilton spent much of it worrying about reliability.

The straightforward victory was Hamilton's fourth in Texas in five seasons and ended a barren stretch for the triple world champion dating back to his last win in Germany in July.

"This has always been a good hunting ground for me," said the Briton, the third driver after Michael Schumacher and Alain Prost to win 50 races, in a podium interview conducted by British actor Gerard Butler.

"I love being here in the States, it very much feels like home," he added, with tennis player Venus Williams and skier Lindsey Vonn watching on.

"All I can do is do my best and continue to drive as I have this weekend," said Hamilton, who confessed he had completely forgotten that it would be his 50th win. "Nico has been driving fantastically well all year so the battle will continue."

Rosberg, finished 4.5 seconds behind and had dropped back to third at the start before events lent the German a helping hand.

Australian Daniel Ricciardo, who had seized second at the start, was third for Red Bull but his Dutch team mate Max Verstappen failed to finish due to a gearbox failure.

Rosberg, whose advantage means he can still take his first title without having to win again this season, said it was 'damage limitation'.

The German has 331 points to Hamilton's 305, with seven points the difference between a win and second place.

The Mercedes drivers are the only ones in title contention and the team has already won the constructors' championship for a third year in a row.

Hamilton, who won his third title at the circuit last year after a Rosberg error gifted him the race win, shook hands with his team mate as they waited to go on the podium.

The body language contrasted to the 2015 aftermath, when Hamilton tossed Rosberg a cap

and had it thrown back at him.

### VERSTAPPEN STOPPED

Verstappen had pushed Rosberg hard early on but any hope of getting between the Mercedes drivers ended when he pitted with his team not expecting it.

The 18-year-old then dropped to a crawling pace before pulling across the gravel and parking up but marshals were unable to move the Red Bull to safety without the use of a crane, leading to a virtual safety car.

That allowed the Mercedes drivers to pit and gain time on Ricciardo, who had already done so. "They basically got a free pit stop," said the exasperated Australian over the radio.

Verstappen said the team had told him to keep going initially.

Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel finished fourth but a bungled stop put paid to team mate Kimi Raikkonen's race with the Finn leaving before the wheel had been fully detached.

"I saw some sparks coming out. At the end of the pitlane the team told me to stop ... the

rear wheel nut had not fitted properly," said Raikkonen, who let the Ferrari roll back before parking up.

Ferrari were fined 5,000 euros (\$5,439.00) for the unsafe release.

Fernando Alonso was fifth for McLaren with fellow Spaniard Carlos Sainz sixth for Toro Rosso and Brazilian Felipe Massa seventh for Williams.

Mexican Sergio Perez finished eighth for Force India, after fighting back from the rear following a first lap tangle with Toro Rosso's Daniil Kvyat, and McLaren's Jenson Button was ninth.

Kvyat collected a 10 second time penalty for causing the collision.

Frenchman Romain Grosjean collected a point for Haas, the first U.S.-owned team in 30 years who were making their home debut, but Mexican team mate Esteban Gutierrez failed to finish.

(Source: Reuters)



## Klopp hits back at doubters for questioning Liverpool defence



Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp has said that he is losing respect for critics who continue to question his side's defensive frailties.

Liverpool overcame a nervy finish to beat West Brom 2-1 on Saturday, but Gareth McAuley's late goal denied Klopp's side top spot in the Premier League table.

The Merseyside club are currently third in the league standings, separated from leaders Manchester City and second-placed Arsenal only on goal difference with their backline having conceded 11 goals in nine league games this season. "I've heard this a few times and I lose

respect when people say this. It's not important because I don't have to respect everybody and you can say what you want but I cannot say more. I am not interested," Klopp told British media.

"I think 70-80 percent of the goals we have conceded are from set pieces. But they are all different and we are still working on it and we defended against Manchester United brilliantly.

"Against West Brom it was so difficult but we have no defensive problem."

High-flying Liverpool have tasted defeat just once in the league this season against Burnley, and Klopp said he was not anxious

about conceding goals as long as his side pick up three points.

"It is not the same problem we had last year. I like it more than if they created chances whenever they want because we defend like crazy," he added.

"I'm fine with this for the moment but only for the moment. For now I don't care how we conceded as we won and it was well-deserved."

Liverpool host Tottenham Hotspur in the League Cup on Tuesday, before an away trip to Crystal Palace in the league on Saturday. (Source: Reuters)

# Exhibition to be held in memory of Golbarnezhad

Para athletes and NPCs are invited to send a video message expressing their feelings about the Iranian cyclist, who died following a crash in the Rio 2016 road race.

The I.R. Iran National Paralympic Committee (IRI) will host a photo and multimedia exhibition named 'Outcome of the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games' in Tehran, from 3-7 November, in memory of Para cyclist Bahman Golbarnezhad.

The Iranian Paralympian died on 17 September following an accident in Rio 2016's road race C4-5, soon after arrival to the nearby Unimed Rio Hospital in Barra.

Around 100 photos will be showcased in the exhibition, some of which will show Golbarnezhad's life and career in Para sports. The cyclist, who also competed at London 2012, took up the sport in 2002.

Iranian Olympic and Paralympic athletes, officials and artists were invited to send 35 to 40-second-long video messages expressing their condolences to Golbarnezhad.

Paralympic athletes and National Paralympic Committees from all around the world are also invited to send their videos to the International Paralympic Committee's media and communications team via email by 31 October.

IRI Secretary General Masoud Ashrafi hopes the collective effort will "create a global thinking and share a common understanding about this accident." (Source: Paralympic.org)



## Iran to enter partnership with Australia Football Federation

**S**PORTS Iran Football Federation president Mehdi Taj announced that they plan to form a partnership with Australia after holding a meeting with the Australian ambassador to Iran, Ian Biggs.

"We've already reached an agreement with South Korea and Japan associations and we are on the verge of signing with Australian football federation. The contract will be signed as part of development cooperation partnership between two federations," Taj said.

Iraq and Australia will play in Tehran on 23 March. "We will try to give our best as host and ready to welcome visitors to our country," Taj added. The agreement will highlight the collaboration and cooperation between the two federations.

## Iran team roster for Beach Soccer Intercontinental Cup named



Head coach of Iran's national beach soccer team Mohammad Hossein Mirshamsi has announced the final roster for the forthcoming Samsung Beach Soccer Intercontinental Cup Dubai 2016 in the United Arab Emirates.

The 12 players, who will be with the team for the five-day-long tournament early next month, include Hamid Behzadpour, Seyed Ali Nazem and forward Mohammad Ali Mokhtari of Golsapoosh Yazd club, in addition to Mohammad Moradi from Shahr-dari Tabriz.

Defenders Amir Hossein Akbari and Mostafa Kiani, forwards Moslem Mesigar and Mohammad Ahmadzadeh plus goalkeeper Payman Hosseini were picked from Pars Jonoubi club.

Hossein Abdollahi besides forwards Farid Boloukbashi and Mehran Morshedzadeh were selected from Malavan Bandar Anzali club.

Samsung Beach Soccer Intercontinental Cup Dubai 2016, which will be the sixth edition of the tournament, will be held at the Dubai International Marine Club between November 1 and 5.

The tournament will be played as a round-robin in group stage, after which the top two teams will qualify for the semi-final round.

The semi-finals will be played between the winner of Group A against the Group B runner-up and vice versa.

The Iranian outfit has joined squads from Russia, the United States and Egypt in Group B of the event. Brazil, Poland, Tahiti and the UAE form Group A.

Last year, Iran beat Egypt 3-2 in the penalty shootout following a 2-2 draw in the regulation time, and claimed the third spot.

The Persians defeated Russia 4-3 in the title showdown of the 2013 edition of the Beach Soccer Intercontinental Cup and emerged champion.

(Source: PressTV)

## Inter Milan reportedly considering sacking Frank de Boer



There are reports that the Inter hierarchy in Italy and China are discussing whether to sack Frank de Boer now or after Torino.

The Nerazzurri were beaten 2-1 by Atalanta this afternoon, their third consecutive Serie A defeat.

De Boer has lost six of his total 12 competitive games in charge of the club and performances have been poor.

According to Sky Sport Italia, the Dutchman will be given the benefit of the doubt at least until Wednesday night's Serie A midweek round against Torino.

De Boer was interviewed by Sky in Bergamo and asked point-blank if he believed he'd still be on the bench on Wednesday. His reply was "I don't know."

However, Calciomercato.com insist a series of conference calls are taking place tonight between the Italian and

Chinese directors, so a decision could be made before then.

President Erick Thohir and CEO Michael Bolingbroke support De Boer whereas the Suning Group and director Piero Ausilio are not convinced.

Ausilio's comments to Mediaset Premium before the defeat to Atalanta certainly were not reassuring.

The options to replace De Boer include Leonardo, who already took on the caretaker role after Rafa Benitez was dismissed in December 2010.

Former Inter player Andrea Mandorlini, who was a Coach at Verona and Atalanta, is another alternative with ex-Lazio boss Stefano Pioli.

Laurent Blanc, who again spent some of his playing career at Inter, is the favourite, but the club is not sure it wants to sign him to a long-term contract.

(Source: FootballItalia)

## Sharapova dropped from women's tennis singles rankings

Maria Sharapova has been excluded from the official Women's Tennis Association (WTA) rankings. The Russian tennis star has not competed in enough tournaments in 2016 to be considered for a ranking position.

According to WTA regulations, to preserve a place in the rankings a player should take part in at least three tournaments and accumulate a minimum of 10 ranking points in the previous 52 weeks.

This year, Sharapova only played in the 2016 Australian Open, where she was beaten in the quarter-finals by American Serena Williams. The latest WTA rankings of the world's best female players were published on Monday and did not include Sharapova.

In the previous list published a week ago, Sharapova held 93rd place. Top spot on the list was occupied by Germany's Angelique Kerber. Serena Williams, who was at the center of doping accusations from an alleged Russian hacking syndicate operating under the name Fancy Bears, was ranked second.

On June 8, the International Tennis Federation (ITF) suspended Sharapova until January 2018, after she was found to have used meldonium, which is included on the list of banned substances by the World Anti-Doping Association (WADA).

At the beginning of October this year, the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) reduced Sharapova's initial



15-month ban to nine months. She will be able to compete again from April 26, 2017, meaning a wild card appearance in the French Open in May is a possibility.

Sharapova said in a podcast interview with American broadcaster Lewis Howes that the news brought a sense of both joy and relief.

"Just getting that decision that I was going to be able to play again next year, just already looking forward to that so much, knowing how excited I was to share that news with my fans - I almost couldn't keep it to myself," she said.

Aleksey Selivanenko, vice president of the Russian

Tennis Federation (RTF), called Sharapova's omission from the rankings a mere "technicality" and expressed certainty that the five-time Grand Slam winner will return to the rankings in 2017.

"The fact that Sharapova was not in the ratings is simply a technicality. In order to be ranked you need to play in at least three tournaments. Because [Sharapova] has not played from the beginning of the year, she has not competed in the obligatory minimum number of tournaments, therefore she came out of the rankings," Selivanenko said, TASS reported.

"But next year she will resume her participation and as soon as she plays in her first three tournaments, she will immediately return to the ratings. That she will be given a wildcard by the organizers and quickly return to the ratings - I'm sure this will happen," he added.

It's not the first time Sharapova has suffered a slide in her ranking on a sports list. Last month the Siberian-born star dropped 62 places on the Forbes list of highest-paid athletes from 26th to 88th.

Her decline in the annual list was mainly caused by her sponsors, sports brand giants Nike and watchmaker Tag Heuer severing sponsorship ties with the player to prevent a backlash that would be commercially detrimental to the company.

(Source: RT)

## Africa's ticket to Japan punched

Mamelodi Sundowns will be the first South African club to play at the FIFA Club World Cup after winning the CAF Champions League on Sunday. Even though the 'Brazilians', as they are known, were beaten 1-0 by Egyptian giants Zamalek in Alexandria, they won 3-1 on aggregate after a convincing first-leg victory in South Africa last weekend.

### Close, but not close enough

Zamalek coach Moemen Soliman made several changes to the side, bringing in Ahmed Dwidar to stabilise the defence and starting with playmaker Mostafa Fathi for Shikabala. The home side also started the game with Mahmoud 'Gennesh' in goal instead of Ahmed El Shenawy, who had gifted Sundowns the second goal in the 3-0 defeat in the first leg. Gennesh had very little to do throughout most of the first half though, as the White Knights took the game to the visitors, chasing an unlikely three-goal victory that would allow them to win a sixth African title.

They were nearly rewarded early on, when Nigerian striker Stanley Ohawuchi suddenly found himself with only goalkeeper Denis Onyango to beat after getting past Thabo Nthethe and Ivorian defender Soumahoro Bangaly. But instead of scoring the opener that would have boosted Zamalek's confidence, he put the ball wide.

Sundowns' hopes of becoming only the second South African club, after Orlando Pirates, to win the showpiece event of African club football suffered a set-back midway through the first half when Onyango had to be taken off injured. He was replaced by the highly experienced Wayne Sandilands. South African Footballer of the Year Khama Billiat had the first good chance for Sundowns shortly afterwards when he forced a good save from Gennesh, who was fortunate just before the break when a Billiat shot was deflected against the crossbar and over the line for a corner.

Zamalek continued pushing forward after the break, but struggled to find a way through a compact defence. They were finally rewarded for their efforts in the 64th minute when Ohawuchi found the net with a shot from outside the area. Needing two more goals to stand a chance of a sensational comeback, Zamalek pushed even more players forward. Substitute Emmanuel Manyuka thought he had scored a second with six minutes to go, but the ball was cleared off the line.

### Moment of the game

Needing to make up a three-goal deficit, Zamalek always knew that they had to start strongly if they wanted to have any chance of snatching the title away from Sundowns. Cheered on by a capacity crowd of over 80,000 in the Borg El-Arab Stadium, the home side dominated play from early on. They nearly snatched the all-important lead in the 12th minute when Ohawuchi managed to penetrate the Sundowns area, going past Nthethe and Bangaly. But with the goal at his mercy and only goalkeeper Onyango to beat, the Nigerian shot just wide.

### What they said

"[Our supporters] have been waiting for this. It's not our trophy - it's their trophy. It's for them to have bragging rights..." Sundowns coach Pitso Mosimane looking forward to returning to South Africa as African champions.

### Player of the game

Although Ohawuchi has nothing to show for his first appearance in a continental final, the Nigerian striker came close to deciding the championship match on his own. He was a danger throughout the 90 minutes, had a good chance to open the scoring early on and then found the opener for his side midway through the second half. He is a well-travelled, having started playing professional football for his hometown club Bayelsa United, the striker moved to Heartland, before embarking on a career in Europe. His first point of call was Spain, where his match time with lower league club Atletico Baleares was limited. He then signed in Malta for Silima Wanderers, where he had more success, prompting Egyptian club Wadi Degla to make him an offer he could not refuse. Zamalek took him on loan earlier this year to bolster their Champions League squad.

### The stat

6 - The number of titles that Zamalek were chasing. The White Knights currently stand on five wins and only local rivals Al Ahly (eight) have won more. However, Zamalek's last victory dates back to 2002 and fans were hoping the team would put an end to that long wait, but it was not to be.

### Have your say

Will Sundowns be a strong representative for Africa at the FIFA Club World Cup at the end of the year? TP Mazembe and Raja Casablanca have managed to make it all the way to the final. Can the South African club emulate that success and possibly even go one further?

(Source: FIFA)

## Tottenham's Sissoko charged by FA with violent conduct

Tottenham Hotspur midfielder Moussa Sissoko has been charged with violent conduct over an incident involving Bournemouth's Harry Arter, the Football Association said on Monday.

The 27-year-old, who came on as a substitute in Tottenham's 0-0 draw against Bournemouth on Saturday, appeared to elbow Arter in the face in the second half but escaped punishment. The incident was not seen by the match officials, but caught on video.

The France international faces a three-match ban and has until 1700 GMT on Tuesday to respond to the charge.

"Off the ball incidents which are not seen at the time by the match officials are referred to a panel of three former elite match officials," the FA said in a statement (www.thefa.com).

"Each panel member will review the video footage independently of one another to determine whether they consider it a sending-off offence. For retrospective action to be taken, and an FA charge to follow, the decision of the panel must be unanimous." Tottenham next face Liverpool in the League Cup on Tuesday, before hosting champions Leicester City on Saturday.

(Source: Reuters)



### Poem of the day

This well-arranged composition will remain for years,  
When every atom of our dust is dispersed.

Sadi

### Prayer Times

Noon: 11:48 Evening: 17:35 Dawn: 4:57 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:21 (tomorrow)

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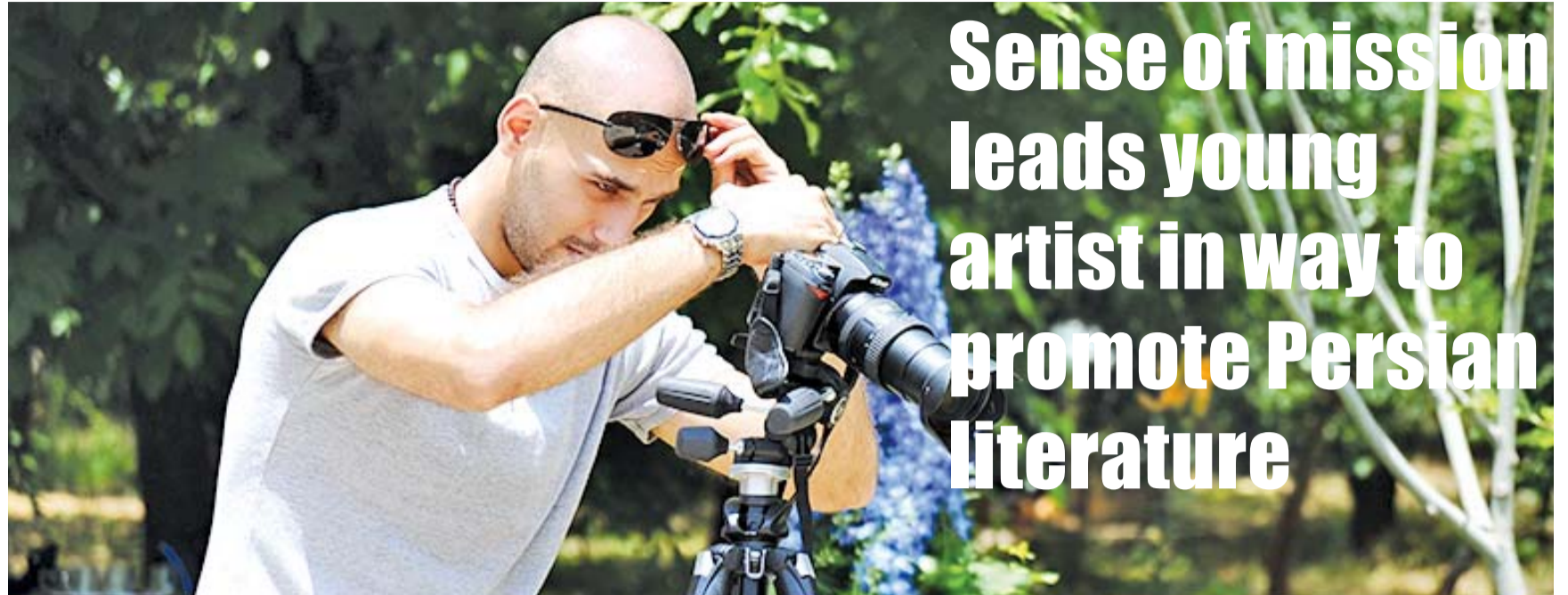
## Antalya festival honors Asghar Farhadi with lifetime achievement award

**T A R T** TEHRAN — Oscar-winning Iranian director Asghar Farhadi was honored with a lifetime achievement award at the 53rd Antalya International Film Festival in Turkey, the organizers announced during the closing ceremony of the event on Sunday.

Farhadi's one-day master class was warmly received during the festival, which ran from October 16 to 23.

Yesim Ustaoglu's powerful, complex portrait of two women struggling to escape unhappy lives, "Clair-Obscur," was the big winner at the festival, taking home the awards for best picture and best director.

The audience award went to Spanish dramedy "The Open Door", which also won best screenplay for scripter Marina Seresky. A special jury award went to the Georgian filmmaker Rusudan Glurjidge's powerful debut "House of Others".



Calligrapher/photographer Amir Jalilvand

## Sense of mission leads young artist in way to promote Persian literature

**T A R T** TEHRAN — Commemorating living writers and poets by publishing their works in books inscribed by prominent calligraphers can be inspiring for them, he noted.

The poems for "The Spring of Morning" were selected from the oeuvre of Bahmani by Jalilvand. Forty-three of his colleagues at the Iran Calligraphers Association collaborated with him in the project. However, many others declined participation.

"I engaged in self-sacrifice to get the book published," Jalilvand mentioned.

Jalilvand referred Amirkhani as "the sage of the country's calligraphers" and said, "In a comment made about the book, master Amirkhani said that a task that seemed to be a pipe dream at the association for years was completed by a young artist."

However, Jalilvand believes that the book could be much better from what it is if he had the support of cultural organizations.

He is currently working on a new project that will focus on works of Qeisar Aminpur (1959-2007), the most influential poet of post-revolution literature.

The idea of selecting Aminpur for the new project comes from the book launching ceremony.

"When I was presented with flowers and gifts alike at the ceremony, a lifelong friend gave me something wrapped in paper and said, 'I hope it will be your next project.' It was a divan of Qeisar Aminpur," Jalilvand said.

"At that moment, I made my decision without hesitation," he added.

"Qeisar poetry is very close to his impeccable character; whatever he said was fair and an honorable. As a result, he was the most popular poet of the post-revolution literature," he stated.

Qeisar's work about martyrs is scheduled to be the opening poem of the new book. In addition, a poem on veterans injured during the 1980-1988 Iraq-Iraq war has been selected for the collection, which will be inscribed by calligrapher Seyyed Mohammad Sarhaddi, a veteran who is still suffering serious injuries from the war.

"Commemorating martyrs at the beginning, I think will help the book be more impressive," said Jalilvand who deems himself a patriot.

The book will probably be entitled "The Adze of Imagination", but Jalilvand is still not certain about the title.

The calligraphy of the selected poems will be adorned with illuminations by masters of this Persian art. In addition, plans are to have English translations of the poems in the book.

However, Jalilvand faces a problem to find an organization to finance the project. He has called cultural and economic organizations in the country and abroad to sponsor the project, which he believes will undoubtedly be a moneymaker.

He repeatedly asked some Iranian cultural centers and galleries to help him organize an exhibition for the collection that he accumulated for "The Spring of Morning".

He said that the collection includes some works that can be viewed as museum pieces, but the centers and galleries have not shown a willingness to provide support.

By such projects, he said that he tries to take a step, even if it is a short one, in familiarizing people about Persian literature and art luminaries.

Jalilvand is also a teacher of art at Tehran's Pand Primary School, where he helps children in the proper way to read Persian poetry.

"Working with children is great and I try to elevate their knowledge of art and Persian poetry as well," he stated.

He also holds periodic workshops for people from every walk of life, but people's ignorance of Persian literature and their luminaries is disappointing for him.

"A Ph.D. student who attended one of my workshops didn't know [poet Mohammadreza] Shafi-Kadkani. It is like this a Frenchman does not know Albert Camus or Jean-Paul Sartre," he lamented.

Jalilvand also criticized a long interruption to introduce contemporary Persian literature to the world, which he says is unaware of the many amazing works that have been created in contemporary Persian literature.

He says that this ignorance has resulted in the fact that modern Persian literature is not recognized in the international arena while he believes many contemporary Persian authors deserve a Nobel prize.

## NEWS IN BRIEF



### "Peerless Pearls of Persia" unveiled at Frankfurt Book Fair

**T A R T** TEHRAN — The first volume of bilingual book "Peerless Pearls of Persia" by Hamid Nurshamsi was unveiled at Iran's stand during the Frankfurt Book Fair, which ended Sunday.

Published in English and Persian by Iran Cultural Fairs Institute Publications, the book reviews some Persian stories awarded at national events.



### "To Make a Comedy Is No Fun" at Cinema Verite

**T A R T** TEHRAN — Swiss filmmaker Robert Kolinsky's 2016 film "To Make a Comedy Is No Fun" is scheduled to be screened at the 10th Cinema Verite, which is Iran's most important international festival for documentary films.

The documentary is about the Czech stage and screen director Jiri Menzel who won the Oscar award for his debut feature "Closely Watched Trains" in 1968.

The festival will be held in Tehran from December 4 to 11.



### Tabriz gallery showcases paintings by Azerbaijani artists

**T A R T** TEHRAN — A collection of 40 paintings by Azerbaijani artists is currently on display in an exhibition at the Honarmandan Gallery of the Art and Cultural Organization of Tabriz Municipality.

The exhibition, which will run through October 27, is being organized in collaboration with Tabriz's Art Bureau and the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



### Qotbeddin Sadeqi to stage "Ubu Roi"

**T A R T** TEHRAN — Iranian director Qotbeddin Sadeqi plans to stage French symbolist writer Alfred Jarry's play "Ubu Roi" at the 35th Fajr International Theater Festival, which is scheduled to be held in Tehran in February 2017.

"Ubu Roi", which means Ubu the King, is about Ubu who leads a revolution and kills the king of Poland and most of the royal family. The play is a parody of Shakespeare's Macbeth with bits of Hamlet and King Lear tossed in.



### Mohammad Atebbai on Molodist KIFF panel

**T A R T** TEHRAN — Iranian film expert Mohammad Atebbai is on the international jury of the 46th Kyiv International Film Festival "Molodist" (KIFF), which is currently running in the Ukrainian capital.

Filmmakers Denis Cote from Canada and Grimur Hakonarson from Iceland are other members of the jury.

The festival comes to an end on October 30.

## Belgrade Intl. Book Fair opens with Iran as guest of honor

**T A R T** TEHRAN — The Belgrade International Book Fair (BIBF) opened on Sunday with Iran as its guest of honor this year.

Iran has arranged a wide range of programs to offer to the visitors during the fair running until October 30, Persian media reported on Monday.

Covering around 300 square meters, Iran's pavilion has dedicated a special section to an exhibition of illustrations, while a number of illustrators, miniaturists and calligraphers will be creating works at the pavilion during the fair.

An Iranian film screening program has also been arranged on the side section of the fair, in which five films are due to be screened.

The opening ceremony was attended by a number of Iranian and Serbian officials and cultural figures including director of Iran's Islamic Culture and Relations Organizations (ICRO) Abuzar Ebrahimi-Torkaman and

Vladan Vukosavljevic, the Minister of Culture of Serbia.

"Track 143" director Narges Abyar who is also a prominent writer was among those who delivered a short speech at the opening ceremony.

She talked about female Iranian writers and the interest of Iranians in reading books, and said, "Almost all the world's bestselling books are being translated into Persian."

The Culture Minister Vladan Vukosavljevic next visited the pavilion of Iran and held talks with Iranian artists and writers.

Authors Mostafa Mastur, Farhad Hassanzadeh, and Mojgan Sheikhi, calligrapher Elaheh Khatami, film critic Mehrzad Danesh, and illustrators Mahshid Darabi, Sahar Mirhosseini, Sahar Khorasani and Raheleh Barkhordari are among the Iranian participating guests of the fair.

"Track 143" (Narges Abyar), "Mazar-i-Sharif" (Hassan Barzideh), "Crazy Castle" (Abolhassan Davudi),



"Today" (Reza Mirkarimi) and "Five-Star" (Mahshid Afsharzadeh) are the Iranian films to go on screen during the program.

### PICTURE OF THE DAY Honaronline/Ramona Mirian



A member of director Hassan Rahimi's troupe acts in a scene from Neil Simon's musical "The Good Doctor" at Tehran's Mashayekhi Theater on October 23, 2016. Rahimi hired a cast composed of some people with Down's syndrome for the play, which will run through October 28.

## Cinema Verite announces intl. competition lineup

**T A R T** TEHRAN — The 10th Cinema Verite, Iran's major international festival for documentary cinema, announced the lineups for various categories of the international competition on Monday.

Nine documentaries have been selected for the full-length section. Among the films are "Arlette, Courage Is a Muscle" by Florian Hoffmann from Germany and "A Walnut Tree" by Ammar Aziz from Pakistan.

"Under the Sun" by Vitaly Mansky from Russia and "Holy Cow" by Azerbaijani director Imam Hasanov will also be shown in the section.

A lineup of nine documentaries, including "The Successor" by Mattia Epifani from Italy, "Aida's Crossover" by Liliana Resnick from Croatia and "Ukrainian Sheriffs" by Roman Bondarchuk from Germany, will be competing in the mid-length category.

In addition, "Camrex" by Mark Chapman from England and "War Scarred Berlin" by Roland Fuhrmann from Germany are among the nine short documentaries to be screened at the event, which is scheduled to be held in Tehran from December 4 to 11.