

2 Minister: 'Defense diplomacy' contributing to closer defense cooperation

4 Iran, Singapore agree to enhance banking ties

15 Team Melli goalkeeper Beiranvand misses Syria clash

16 World Day for Audiovisual Heritage observed in Tehran

# TEHRAN TIMES



Finnish president: Steps taken to broaden ties with Iran

16 Pages | Price 10,000 Rials | 38th year | No.12681 | Wednesday | OCTOBER 26, 2016 | Aban 5, 1395 | Muharram 24, 1438

## Iran welcomes EU resolution on normalization of ties

**POLITICS TEHRAN** — The Iranian Foreign Ministry issued a statement on Tuesday welcoming a recent resolution by the European Union that foresees a normalization of the bloc's ties with Iran.

"This move depicts the European Parliament's determination for expansion of ties with Tehran," ministry spokesman Bahram Qassemi said.

The European Parliament gathered for its plenary session in Strasbourg on Monday to discuss increased diplomatic relations with Iran as part of a strategy after the Iran Nuclear Deal, also known as JCPOA, went into effect in January.

The European Union also played a major part in the negotiations that led to the historic accord.

The draft resolution, entitled "EU strategy towards Iran after the nuclear agreement", calls for increased EU-Iran diplomacy, while pushing for continued efforts to build dialogue.

Qassemi urged the European Parliament to take a more positive attitude towards Iran by passing "constructive and realistic resolutions".

"The resolution acknowledges Iran's effective role in promoting peace and stability in the region and also across the world," the Foreign Ministry official remarked. → 2

## Leader: Daesh traces back to West's humiliation of Muslim youths

**POLITICS TEHRAN** — The Leader of the Islamic Revolution said on Tuesday that the Western coalition against terrorism is not "real" and does not seek to eradicate it.

"Independent countries should quench the fire of division and conflict by strengthening relations and not being influenced by the policies of arrogant powers," Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei said during a meeting with the visiting Bakir Izetbegovic, the president of Bosnia and Herzegovina. → 2

## Spanish firms seeking long-term partnership with Iranian businesses

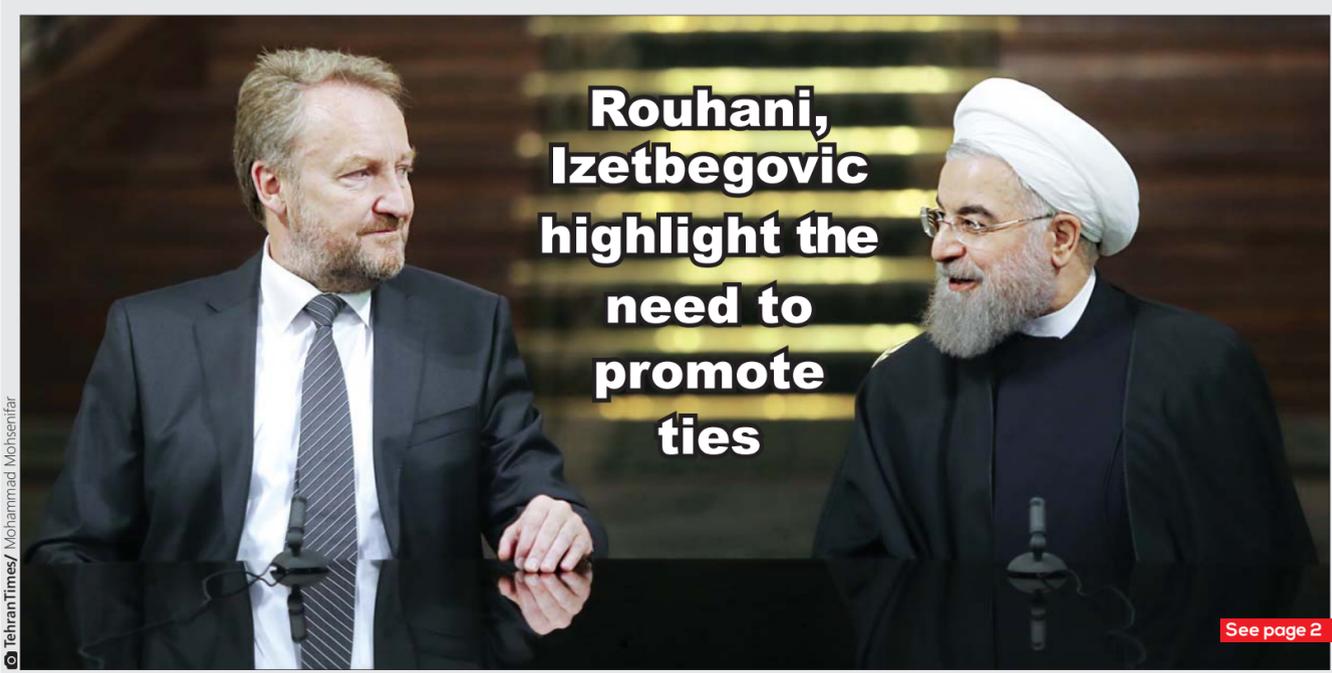
**ECONOMY TEHRAN** — Spanish companies are seeking long-term partnership with Iranian businesses, particularly in infrastructure and transport projects, Spain's Chamber of Commerce Director Alfredo Bonet said.

Bonet, who has visited Iran recently at the head of a trade delegation to bolster trade ties between the two countries, believes that trade between Iran and Spain is not enough at the present, although he says that sanctions removal against Iran will help expansion of bilateral ties, he said in an interview with the portal of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture.

The Spanish official mentioned oil, gas and petrochemical industries as the major sectors for cooperation between the two countries and said that Spanish companies can specifically play fruitful role in infrastructure projects. He referred to the problems related to finance as the main barrier for expansion of trade ties between the two countries.

He believes that despite all problems and barriers, Iran has moved in a good way and its economy is progressing rapidly now.

Iran is taking the final steps to conclude its economic cooperation roadmap with Spain, Abolfazl Koodeie, a senior official in Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO), said in a meeting held in Tehran on August 20 to discuss and prepare the said roadmap. Officials from Iran-Spain Business Council and more than 50 Spanish businessmen took part in the meeting.



Rouhani, Izetbegovic highlight the need to promote ties

See page 2

## Tehran to host intl. urban transportation expo

**ECONOMY TEHRAN** — The 14th edition of Iran's International Exhibition of Transportation and Urban Services is due to kick off in Tehran on October 27, IRIB news reported.

14th Int'l EXHIBITION OF TRANSPORTATION & URBAN SERVICES



ITUF 2016

According to the report, 20 renowned companies from nine countries will gather with 145 domestic firms to showcase their latest products and services at the Tehran International Permanent Fairgrounds.

The exhibitors will present their products in various spheres including commodity groups, public transport, commercial vehicles, machinery, utilities, construction and etc.

The event aims to introduce achievements, capacities and capabilities of institutions, companies and municipalities across the country and also familiarize foreign companies with Iranian counterparts and vice versa.

Japan, China, Germany, Sweden, Turkey, South Korea, Taiwan, Spain and the Netherlands will be participating in the four-day event.

## VP says missile capability is the backbone of deterrent power

**POLITICS TEHRAN** — Iran's Vice President Is'haq Jahangiri said in comments on Tuesday the country's missile capability is the key component of its deterrent power.

"Iran's missile capability is the main index of deterrence that should be reinforced and preserved to get out of the enemies' mind the idea of any offensive against the Islamic Republic of Iran," he told a gathering of senior officials with the Defense Ministry in Tehran.

From a sheer importer of rockets and short-range missiles, Iran has grown into a missile power through its homegrown technology over the past years.

While regional countries have grown hostile to the country's missile achievements, Iran says its military capability contributes to a more stable, secure region.

"We can play a stabilizing role in the region only if we are enough powerful and nobody dares to invade the territory," Jahangiri noted.

The Middle East has been boiling now for nearly 15 years, beginning with the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan and Iraq.

Ever since the regional situation has deteriorated with Saudi Arabia's invasion of Yemen and a war against ISIS terrorists and rebels in Iraq and Syria.

Also, over the period terrorist explosions have went off in other regional countries such as Turkey and European ones

such as France.

This is while all terrorist attempts have been aborted in Iran due to its tight security measures, a point the vice president underscored in his remarks.

"Fortunately and thanks to efforts by security and armed forces of the county, Iran is the locus of stability, calmness, and security in the region."



## Belarusian festival to host Iranian troupe for "Shakespeare, Love 2001"

**ART TEHRAN** — The Sokut Theater Group from Iran will perform "Shakespeare, Love 2001" during the 13th Teatralny Koufar International Student and Youth Theater Festival in Belarus.

"The play is a parody of William Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet," Abbas Aqsami said in a press release on Tuesday.

Afshin Zarei, Salman Khatti, Ali Taqizadeh, Saamaan Khalilian Hossein Jamali, Mehdi Hajian and Aram Khalkhali are members of the troupe.



A poster for the Teatralny Koufar International Student and Youth Theater Festival

The organizers have also selected a theater group from Iran's Donya Children's Research Institute for its waiting list. The group will perform "We Are All Gathered Here to Die" if any change occurs in the festival's schedule.

The festival is scheduled to be held in Minsk from November 23 December 1.

Sokut performed "Shakespeare, Love 2001" during the 20th MITEU International University Theater Festival in Spain in April 2015.

## NGOs should inform people of citizenship rights: Aminzadeh

**By Maryam Qarehgozlou**

**TEHRAN** — NGOs should talk to people directly and inform them of their natural and legal citizenship rights, said Elham Aminzadeh, the advisor to President Hassan Rouhani on citizenship rights.

She made the remarks during a meeting with executive directors of a number of Tehran-based NGOs here on Monday.

The session was coordinated following President Rouhani's order to draft a citizenship right

charter. The charter is yet to be approved.

Over the course of the meeting, Aminzadeh who was formerly the vice president for legal affairs, explained how NGOs which are non-governmental groups set up and run by the citizens themselves rather than the government can help make people aware of their rights as citizens.

She further regretted the fact that sometimes in some cases the NGOs are perceived as a threat

to the national security and that such an attitude towards the public led non-governmental organizations which are merely after social changes for the better must be changed.

"What we are seeking most is to adopt an administrative law at the parliament which can gov-

ern the NGOs and recognize them as independent public bodies to empower them," she highlighted.

The meeting culminated with the NGOs directors defining their key requirements and major obstacle they normally come across while pursuing and pushing for a social reform.



**TEHRAN TIMES**  
Iran's Leading International Daily  
**Advertising Dept**  
Tel: 021 430 51 450  
times1979@gmail.com

The Tehran Times new pocket-sized glossary is now available on the market. The reader-friendly is a rich source of the most common journalistic terminology collected by the daily's retired staff.  
It can benefit a wide range of tastes from students to professional journalists. Persian equivalents have been given for all entries, including idioms and expressions. The glossary also includes example sentences for entries the authors thought it would be a bit difficult to learn.  
**For more information contact:**  
**(021) 430 51 603-4**



## Iraqi army's elite force pauses advance near Mosul

**Turkey considers ground operations against PKK in Iraqi Kurdistan: FM**

By staff & agencies  
An elite unit of the Iraqi army paused its week-long advance on Mosul as it approached the city's eastern edge on Tuesday.

Seeking to relieve pressure on their forces controlling the northern Iraqi city, the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Daesh) terrorist group fighters who have waged counter attacks across the country battled Iraqi troops in the desert town of Rutba, 450 km (280 miles) to the southwest, Reuters reported.

On the ninth day of the offensive on Mosul, Iraqi government forces and allied Kurdish Peshmerga fighters are still fighting their way towards the city's outer limits, in the early stages of an assault which could become the biggest military operation in Iraq in over a decade.

The first to get near to Mosul, advancing to within two kilometers (just over a mile) of Iraq's second largest city, was the elite United States-trained Counter Terrorism Service (CTS).

CTS troops have moved in from the east, dislodging ISIL from a Christian region that has been empty of residents since the ultra-hardline militants took it over in 2014.

With the start of the second week of operations aimed at liberating the northern Iraqi city of Mosul from ISIL Iraq's top anti-terror commander says military forces have started targeting the terrorist outfit's positions inside the city with artillery fire.

Abdul-Ghani Asadi, the commander of the Iraqi army's anti-terrorism contingent, made the announcement on Monday.

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS



**Guardian Council chief: Monitoring MPs should not be a formality**

**IT POLITICS** TEHRAN — The chief the desk Guardian Council has said that monitoring Majlis representatives should not be a formality.

The Guardian Council should have a clear definition of such conditions as managerial competence, bravery, and piety, Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati said on Tuesday, the Young Journalists' Club reported.

"Even those who vote, if they vote for the less capable representatives by not investigating into their records enough, they will have a share in their wrongdoings later on," Jannati remarked.



**Caspian Sea states make preliminary agreements on some issues**

**IT POLITICS** TEHRAN — The 47th meeting the desk of the Working Group on Determining the Legal Status of the Caspian Sea wrapped up on Monday, Mehr news agency reported.

During the two-day event, special representatives and deputy foreign ministers of five littoral states - Iran, Azerbaijan, Russia, the Republic of Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan - negotiated over the exploitation of resources, aquatic resources, navigation, transit, source lines and other issues of interest, and in some cases, preliminary agreements were made.



**Folketinget's foreign policy chairwoman to visit Tehran**

**IT POLITICS** TEHRAN — The chairwoman of the desk the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Danish Parliament (Folketinget) will visit Tehran on Sunday.

Ane Halsboe-Jorgensen and her accompanying team will make the trip upon invitation from Majlis National Security and Foreign Policy Committee Chairman Alaeddin Boroujerdi, ISNA reported on Tuesday.

The Majlis has increased exchange of visits abroad over the period since sanctions lift.



**Chairmen of House of Parties committees appointed**

**IT POLITICS** TEHRAN — Iran's House of Parties the desk has appointed the chairmen of the body's seven committees, ILNA reported.

The chiefs of committees of the sixth round of the house were appointed on Tuesday by Qodratoli Heshmatian, chairman of the body.

Abdolhossein Ruholamini went to education and research committee; Mohammad Mirbageri to elections monitoring committee; Mohammad Javad Haghshenas to legal committee; Faraj Komejani to information committee; Ahmad Sharif to international committee; Mohammad Neyshaburi to financial and logistics committee; and Fateme Rake'i to women's committee.



**Report: Iranian-American Robin Shahini 'sentenced for spying'**

**IT POLITICS** TEHRAN — An Iranian-American the desk can held in Tehran has reportedly been sentenced to 18 years in prison for "collaboration with a hostile government".

In an interview with Vice News aired late on Monday, Shahini acknowledged supporting the protests that followed Iran's 2009 presidential election, but denied being involved in any sort of spying.

Shahini said he was not sure if he would file an appeal, but said, "I do a hunger strike - until either they free me or I die."



**Rouhani sure to run for president in 2017: interior minister**

**IT POLITICS** TEHRAN — The minister of interior the desk has announced that President Hassan Rouhani is sure to run for a second term in the 2017 presidential election.

Talking to Fars in a lengthy interview on Tuesday, Abdolreza Rahmani Fazli also the Interior Ministry is ready to carry out 20 percent of the election electronically.

Rahmani Fazli also said that the reshuffle of some 60 governors across the country is on agenda.

**Leader: Daesh traces back to West's humiliation of Muslim youths**

**Izetbegovic says 'terrorism is a dangerous disease'**

**I** → "The birthplace of [Takfir and terrorism] seems on the outside to be the Arab region, but in fact the U.S. government and some European governments are the root cause," the Leader remarked.

"Although it may happen that these coalitions enter into war with terrorists in some cases, they do not seek to genuinely uproot terrorism neither in Iraq nor in Syria," Ayatollah Khamenei noted. "Their bad and wicked polices are aggravating humanity's afflictions every passing day."

The Leader added, "Humiliating Muslim youths in some wealthy and powerful European countries has paved the way for them to join deviant terrorist groups such as Daesh, and upon returning to Europe, these humiliated youths turn to bombing and killing."

**'Security essential for progress'**

The Leader also underlined that



Leader receives Bakir Izetbegovic, the president of Bosnia and Herzegovina on Tuesday.

"peace" and "security" are essential for a country to make progress, noting the Iranian government is ready to expand relations with Bosnia and Herzegovina in various areas.

Izetbegovic, for his part, expressed hope that the two countries succeed in expanding ties according to mutual interests.

He stressed it is Bosnia and Herzegovina's policy to boost relations with the Islamic countries.

**'Terrorism is a dangerous disease'**

Izetbegovic also highlighted the importance of countering terrorism and called terrorism a "dangerous disease".

He expressed regret over sectarian clashes in the Islamic countries and said boosting "Islamic unity" is all the Muslims' duty.

Expressing pity over sectarian conflicts, he urged Islamic unity as a must.

**Rouhani, Izetbegovic highlight the need to promote ties**

**IT POLITICS** TEHRAN — Iranian President Hassan the desk Rouhani and Bakir Izetbegovic, the president of Bosnia and Herzegovina, held a joint press conference in Tehran on Tuesday, highlighting the importance of expanding relations.

"The relations between the two countries have always been friendly since the independence of Bosnia and Herzegovina and this trip [Izetbegovic' visit to Iran] will be a starting point to expand relations," Rouhani explained.

There is many good opportunities for the two countries to expand relations given the removal of sanctions against Iran now that nuclear deal, officially called the

Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, has gone into effect, Rouhani added.

Rouhani also pointed to "peaceful coexistence" among the Muslims, Serbs and Croats in Bosnia and Herzegovina, saying it can lay the grounds for the country's peace and stability.

He expressed hope that Izetbegovic's visit to Iran would be a good start to increase ties within the framework of the two countries' national interests.

Izetbegovic said relations with Iran is "growing" based on mutual interests.

Iran can enter Europe's business market through Bos-

nia and Herzegovina, he said.

He also said the sanctions against Iran had impeded expansion of relations, but the nuclear agreement has opened the door for the two sides to deepen their ties.

Elsewhere, he called Islam religion of "peace, stability and mercy" and said those who seek to ruin the image of Islam have nothing to do with the religion.

Izetbegovic arrived in Tehran on Monday. The two countries signed a memorandum of understanding to expand cooperation between small and medium enterprises and industrial parks.

**Finnish president: Steps taken to broaden ties with Iran**

**IT POLITICS** TEHRAN — Visiting Finnish President the desk Finnish President Sauli Niinistö said on Tuesday that his visit to Tehran will provide a unique opportunity to discuss issues of mutual interest, including what is happening in the Middle East region.

The Finnish president made the comments while speaking to Finnish and Iranian business representatives in Tehran.

"The purpose of my visit is to discuss current issues in international politics and developments in the Middle East," the president remarked.

President Niinistö also underscored the importance of his visit to Tehran for economic cooperation between the two sides in the future.

"My visit is also a wonderful opportunity to strengthen our bilateral relations, to explore new opportunities for economic cooperation and to enhance collaboration between Finnish and Iranian companies."

To achieve the goal, concrete, forward-looking steps have already been taken to broaden ties with Iran after



Finnish President Sauli Niinistö (L) is welcomed by Deputy FM Majid Takhtavanchi on Tuesday morning.

the nuclear deal, he highlighted.

"During the year gone by, we have taken steps forward in broadening our relations and have made many high-level visits."

The nuclear deal finalized between Iran and world powers in 2015 paved the way for the two countries to resume ties, the Finnish head of state reminded.

"The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) completed in July 2015 was an important milestone, which opened up new opportunities in our bilateral relations and business cooperation."

Hailing Iran as "an economically and politically important country in a strategically important region," the president listed a number of areas to focus on for better future relations between Iran and Finland.

"We believe that Finland can offer first class expertise and know-how in many sectors in which there is now demand in Iran. These include cleantech and energy efficiency, bioeconomy, and the forest sector, mining, ICI, construction and health."

"I am confident that this visit will broaden our economic cooperation and provide opportunities to enhance our bilateral relations," the Finnish president concluded.

**Minister: 'Defense diplomacy' contributing to closer defense cooperation**

**IT POLITICS** TEHRAN — The Iranian the desk an defense minister has said pursuing a defense diplomacy over the past years has helped forge closer ties with an increasing number of countries in the defense sector.

"By activating a defense diplomacy we have managed to take great steps in the defense sector, and today we have good defense cooperation with different countries across the world," said Brigadier General Hossein Dehqan on Tuesday at a seasonal session of the

ministry.

Dehqan did not cite any specific country. However, one key partner of Iran has emerged to be Russia.

Tehran and Moscow held talks on the supply of the Russian-made Sukhoi-30 fighter jets to Iran in 2015 on the sidelines of the MAKS 2015 air show in the town of Zhukovsky near Moscow.

Also, some media outlets said Russia had agreed with licensing the manufacturing of T90 battle tanks in Iran.



Iran has particularly fared well in introducing unmanned aerial vehicles and updating its missile capability, developing families of short-, middle-, and long-range missiles.

The country's enhanced defense capability is due to a national network of defense industries, which the defense minister said is now tenfold wider than before.

"We have developed a wide network of defense industries at the national level, and have increased the capacity of industrial sectors up to tenfold."

**Diplomat: Ties with S. Arabia dependent on admitting Iran's regional role**

**IT POLITICS** TEHRAN — Iran's ambassador to the desk Britain said on Tuesday that Iran is ready to resume relations with Saudi Arabia if the kingdom acknowledges Iran's prominent role in the Middle East region.

Hamid Baedinejad said Saudi Arabia is working hard to downplay Iran's key role in the region and "incites the other regional countries to follow its path".

However, he said, Tehran has no fear if its influence is not acknowledged by other countries.

Speaking in a meeting of international diplomatic community in London, the ambassador predicted that Saudi Arabia's efforts to spread enmity towards Iran will not last long.

The diplomat said Iran has been seeking a policy of friendship for centuries and history bears witness to this fact. "Iran has not attacked on any country during the

past 300 years and has embarked on cooperating with other countries."

Baedinejad said the Iraqi invasion of Iran in the 1980s (the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq War) inflicted hundreds of billions of dollars in damages on the Iranian economy, and about 15 years after Iran came under sanctions for its nuclear program.

"We were involved in a war for eight years which strongly harmed our economy. Unfortunately, tension with Iran continued in another form in spite of our efforts to distance from the language of war."

He cited Iran's efforts in concluding a nuclear agreement with the West as an example of the country's moves to ease tensions. However Saudi Arabia made any efforts to obstruct the nuclear deal, lamented Baedinejad who was a nuclear negotiator with great powers.

After about two years of intensive negotiations Iran and the 5+1 group - the United States, Britain, France, China and Russia plus Germany - succeeded to end the protracted dispute over Iran's nuclear program. During the negotiations Saudi Arabia along with the Zionist Israeli regime and hardliners in the U.S. made unsuccessful efforts to abort the nuclear deal.



**Iran condemns deadly attack on police college in Pakistan**

**IT POLITICS** TEHRAN — The Iranian the desk Foreign Ministry condemned on Tuesday the terrorist attack on a police college in the Pakistani city of Quetta.

Ministry spokesperson Bahram Qassemi offered the Pakistani government

and people condolences and called for serious fight against terrorism.

"Iran expresses readiness to help Pakistani government in countering the terrorist groups," Qassemi stated.

On Monday, three militants wearing

suicide bomb vests entered a Balochistan police college in Quetta killing at least 59 people injured more than 110 others.

Daesh claimed responsibility for the attack, although officials have blamed another militant group, Lashkar-e-Jhangvi.

Officials said most of the deaths were caused by two suicide blasts, with the third attacker shot dead before he could blow himself up. Many of the cadets sustained injuries after jumping out of windows to escape, Guardian reported.

# Quetta attack: LeJ kills 60 in Pakistan police academy

At least 60 people have been killed in an attack on a police training center in the city of Quetta in Balochistan province, Pakistani officials say.

The announcement on Tuesday came at the end of a military counter-operation.

About 200 trainees were stationed at the facility when the attack occurred late on Monday, officials said, and some were taken hostage during the attack, which lasted five hours.

Most of the dead were police cadets. Mir Safrayz Ahmed Bugti, home minister of Balochistan, said early on Tuesday that five to six armed men attacked a dormitory inside the training facility while cadets rested and slept.

More than a hundred people were injured, he said. The death toll could rise as many cadets were seriously injured.

The Lashkar-e-Jhangvi (LeJ/Army of Jhangvi) claimed responsibility for the attack. The group, which has been outlawed by the government, has been involved in past attacks on security forces.

An emergency was declared in all government hospitals of the provincial capital of Balochistan, with the injured shifted to the Civil Hospital Quetta and the Bolan Medical Complex.

Witnesses reported hearing at least three explosions leading up to the raid. Sources told Al Jazeera that it took at least 30 minutes before Pakistani authorities responded to the assault.

Al Jazeera's correspondent Kamal Hyder said the police training center had



come under attack in the past, with rockets fired towards it in 2006 and 2008.

Monday's assault came just hours after armed men shot and killed two customs officers and wounded a third near the town of Surab, about 145km south of Quetta.

The customs officers were targeted

by gunmen riding on a motorcycle, said Zainullah Baloch, a spokesman for the local police. Baloch said two officers died on the spot and the injured one was taken to the hospital in critical condition.

Earlier on Monday, two assailants on a motorcycle killed a police intelligence

officer in the country's northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, according to Khalid Khan, a local police officer.

The Pakistan Taliban claimed responsibility for that attack. The group's spokesman, Muhammad Khurasani, said in a statement that the shooters returned to their hideout after the attack.

Pakistan has carried out military operations against armed groups in tribal areas near Afghanistan and in cities across Pakistan, but the fighters are still capable of staging regular attacks.

## ■ Lashkar-e-Jhangvi terrorist outfit

The Lashkar-e-Jhangvi is a supremacist terrorist organization based in Pakistan with limited operations in Afghanistan. The LeJ has claimed responsibility for various mass casualty attacks against the Shia community in Pakistan, including multiple bombings that killed over 200 Hazara Shias in Quetta in 2013. It has also been linked to the Mominpura Graveyard attack in 1998, the abduction of Daniel Pearl in 2002, and the attack on the Sri Lankan cricket team in Lahore in 2009. A predominantly Punjabi group, the LeJ has been labelled by Pakistani intelligence officials as one of the country's most virulent terrorist organizations.

LeJ was banned by Pakistan in August 2001. The LeJ remains active, and has been designated as a terrorist organization by Australia, Canada, India, Pakistan, Russia, United Kingdom, United States and the United Nations.

(Source: agencies)

## Turkey's new maps are reclaiming the Ottoman Empire



In the past few weeks, a conflict between Ankara and Baghdad over Turkey's role in the liberation of Mosul has precipitated an alarming burst of Turkish irredentism. On two separate occasions, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan criticized the Treaty of Lausanne, which created the borders of modern Turkey, for leaving the country too small. He spoke of the country's interest in the fate of Turkish minorities living beyond these borders, as well as its historic claims to the Iraqi city of Mosul, near which Turkey has a small military base. And, alongside news of Turkish jets bombing Kurdish forces in Syria and engaging in mock dogfights with Greek planes over the Aegean Sea, Turkey's pro-government media have shown a newfound interest in a series of imprecise, even crudely drawn, maps of Turkey with new and improved borders.

Turkey won't be annexing part of Iraq anytime soon, but this combination of irredentist cartography and rhetoric nonetheless offers some insight into Turkey's current foreign and domestic policies and Ankara's self-image. The maps, in particular, reveal the continued relevance of Turkish nationalism, a long-standing element of the country's statecraft, now reinvigorated with some revised history and an added dose of revision. But if the past is any indication, the military interventions and confrontational rhetoric this nationalism in-

spires may worsen Turkey's security and regional standing.

At first glance, the maps of Turkey appearing on Turkish TV recently resemble similar irredentist maps put out by proponents of greater Greece, greater Macedonia, greater Bulgaria, greater Armenia, greater Azerbaijan, and greater Syria. That is to say, they aren't maps of the Ottoman Empire, which was substantially larger, or the entire Muslim world or the Turkic world. They are maps of Turkey, just a little bigger.

But the specific history behind the borders they envision provides the first indication of what's new and what isn't about Erdogan's brand of nationalism. These maps purport to show the borders laid out in Turkey's National Pact, a document Erdogan recently suggested the prime minister of Iraq should read to understand his country's interest in Mosul. Signed in 1920, after the Ottoman Empire's defeat in World War I, the National Pact identified those parts of the empire that the government was prepared to fight for. Specifically, it claimed those territories that were still held by the Ottoman army in October 1918 when Constantinople signed an armistice with the allied powers. On Turkey's southern border, this line ran from north of Aleppo in what is now Syria to Kirkuk in what is now Iraq.

(Source: Foreign Policy)

## UN calls for probe into attacks on Rohingya in Myanmar



United Nations human rights experts want Myanmar to investigate allegations that security forces have killed unarmed civilians, burned villages and made arbitrary arrests in a Muslim-majority region where a crackdown has followed attacks on border police.

Aid agencies say up to 15,000 people, believed to be mostly Rohingya Muslims, have been displaced since armed men launched coordinated attacks on three posts along the northwestern border with Bangladesh on October 9.

The government, which is led by the party of Aung San Suu Kyi, a Nobel Peace prize winner, has characterized the response of security forces as a carefully targeted sweep of northern Rakhine state's Maungdaw Township in search of the perpetrators.

Officials say security forces have killed 30 "attackers" and detained 53 suspects while searching for 400 suspected Rohingya fighters, who seized weapons from border police.

Rights group and sources from the mostly stateless Rohingya community say civilians are bearing the brunt of the military-led operation.

They say the death toll from the violence is higher than reported.

Yanghee Lee, the UN envoy on human rights in Myanmar, said she had received "repeated allegations of arbitrary arrests as well as extrajudicial killings occurring within the context of the security operations conducted by the authorities in search of the alleged

attackers".

"What troubles me most is the lack of access for a proper assessment of the true picture of the situation there at the present moment," Lee said in a statement from Geneva on Monday.

"The blanket security operations have restricted access for humanitarian actors with concerning consequences for communities' ability to secure food and conduct livelihood activities," Lee added.

The UN's special envoys on summary executions, internally displaced persons, and torture also joined Lee's call for "proper and thorough investigations of alleged violations".

Rohingya community leaders and local residents said on Monday that hundreds of people had been hiding out in rice paddies near their village since soldiers allegedly ordered about 2,000 people to leave their homes on Sunday.

According to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), aid agencies still have no access to the 10,000 to 15,000 people thought to have been displaced from their villages by the latest violence in Rakhine.

An additional 3,000 people from the ethnic Rakhine Buddhist community have fled to monasteries, schools and camps, the agency said in an update Monday.

Food aid is not reaching 50,000 "food-insecure people" and 65,000 school children in Maungdaw Township who normally receive World Food Program assistance, said UNOCHA.

(Source: Al Jazeera)

## Al-Shabab suicide bomber hits AU base in Beledweyne

### Kenya attack: 12 killed in Mandera 'by al-Shabab'

A suicide bomber has driven a vehicle loaded with explosives into an African Union (AU) military base in central Somalia, according to a Somali security official.

Tuesday's attack in Beledweyne was claimed by the Somali armed group al-Shabab.

"There was a suicide attack targeting the Djiboutian military base in western Beledweyne," said Abdullah Ibrahim, a local security official.

A military offensive launched in 2014

by AU forces and the Somali army pushed al-Shabab out of major strategic centers.

Even so, the fighters, who once held sway over much of the Horn of Africa country, still control some settlements and rural areas.

Somalia has been embroiled in conflict and lawlessness since the early 1990s following the toppling of Mohamed Siad Barre.

Aided by the AU-mandated force known as AMISOM (African Union Mission to Somalia), Somalia's military and

central government have tightened their grip on the country but a campaign of violence by al-Shabab persists.

## ■ Kenya attack: 12 killed in Mandera 'by al-Shabab'

Kenya police say 12 people have been killed in an attack targeting non-Muslims in Mandera County near the Somalia border.

Mohamed Saleh, Mandera's regional commander, said on Tuesday fighters from al-Shabab, the Somali armed group, were suspected of carrying out the attack

on the Bisharo Guest House.

Al-Shabab has pledged retribution against Kenya for sending troops into Somalia in 2011 to fight the group, which is waging an armed campaign against Somalia's internationally recognized government. Witnesses told Al Jazeera they heard several loud explosions and gunshots.

Al-Shabab's assaults have often been in Kenya's northeast, near the long and porous border with Somalia.

(Source: agencies)

## Syria: Russia denies striking Aleppo over past week

### Britain to resume militant training in Syria

The Russian defense ministry said Russian and Syrian military planes did not launch air strikes on Aleppo over the past week, contradicting a monitor and opposition fighters on the ground who claim frontline areas have been bombed since Saturday.

Major-general Igor Konashenkov said in a statement on Tuesday that Russian and Syrian planes had not even approached, let alone bombed, the devastated city since Moscow pledged to suspend air strikes a week earlier.

"Flights over Aleppo by the Russian and Syrian air forces have been completely halted for the last seven days," said Konashenkov.

Six humanitarian corridors in eastern Aleppo, which opened as part of the pause in hostilities to allow civilians to flee, were still operating, said Konashenkov.

He said 48 women and children had left the city late on Monday, escorted by Russian military officers.

Britain-based monitoring group, the so-called Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR), on the other hand, said air strikes had hit frontline areas of clashes in the city since the lull ended on Saturday, for example in southwest Aleppo city.

Air strikes continued on Tuesday outside the city to its west and north, the monitor said.

The activist-run Shahba Press reported on Monday that government artillery shelled the strategically important village of Khan Touman, which overlooks the highway connecting Aleppo and government-held cities in the center of the country.

Aleppo was Syria's most populous city before the war, but is now divided into government and rebel-held areas.

Intense bombardment has reduced the rebel-held east of the city to ruins.

Russia has repeatedly complained that its efforts to help civilians evacuate have been thwarted by rebel fighters who it says open fire on anyone wanting to leave.

Rebels did not accept the ceasefire, which they say does nothing to alleviate the situation of those who choose to remain in eastern Aleppo. They believe the ceasefire is part of a government policy to purge cities of political opponents.

Syria's state-run SANA news agency reported on Tuesday that government forces have captured territory from rebels in the southwestern countryside of Aleppo.

They have retaken the town of Talet Bazo which was controlled by Jabhat Fateh al-Sham, it said.

Jabhat Fateh al-Sham (Support Front for the People of the Levant) is a terrorist outfit, formerly known as the al-Nusra Front (Jabhat an-Nu'rah).

The area is near military bases and was considered to be one of the last strongholds of the armed group in the divided city.

Meanwhile, in Damascus and Idlib, at least twenty have been killed in heavy fighting as government and Russian air strikes targeted a number of militant held towns in the north and south of Idlib.

In Damascus, government forces launched attacks on residential areas in the Douma area.

Dozens of people were also injured during the fighting. ■ Britain to resume militant training in Syria: Defense minister

Meantime, British Minister of Defense Michael Fallon says British Special Forces will soon resume training "moderate" militants in Syria to bolster the fight against the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Daesh) terrorist group.

Fallon made the announcement on Tuesday, before meeting with defense ministers from a United States-led coalition which has been striking purported ISIL positions in Iraq and Syria since 2014.

"Daesh (ISIL) are on the back foot. The RAF (Royal Air Force) is already playing a leading role in the air, hitting them hard in Iraq and Syria," the top military official said.

"Now we're stepping up our support to moderate opposition forces in Syria, through training them in the skills they need to defeat Daesh (ISIL)," he added.

Under the new program, Fallon said the Defense Ministry would send 20 more of its personnel to the Middle East "to provide vetted members of the moderate Syrian opposition with the skills they need."

Britain's decision came in response to a request by the U.S., according to The Independent. British and American military forces had carried out similar militant training programs in Jordan.

The new effort would be an extension of an expensive program by the Pentagon that was supposed to "train and equip" up to 5,000 militants every year. However, it was discontinued in November last year, after failing to attract enough volunteers.

The \$500 million program's few trainees were no good as most of them either deserted or surrendered their arms to other terror groups.

This time, however, Fallon said "strict vetting procedures" were awaiting the trainees in order to prevent similar problems.

"Trainees will be security and medically screened prior to the start of the training and will be assessed during and monitored after the training," he noted.

Britain's Special Air Service (SAS) forces have reportedly played a role in selecting the new recruitment.

The efforts to promote militancy in Syria come at a time when the West, mainly the U.S. and Britain, have come under fire for openly seeking to remove President Bashar al-Assad from power.

Russia, which has been pounding ISIL across Syria upon a request from Damascus, says the Western-trained militants' only use is to oust Assad.

Syria has been grappling with foreign-backed militancy since 2011. The conflict has killed more than 400,000 Syrians, according to United Nations Special Envoy for Syria Staffan de Mistura.

(Source: agencies)

## Wells Fargo's scandal could end up costing bank \$8b

When news of Wells Fargo's phony account scandal first broke, the bank, analysts, and even investors thought it wouldn't dent earnings.

But as the furor surrounding the opening of some 2 million deposit and credit card accounts without consumer knowledge at Wells Fargo continued to mount, the megabank's reputation began to plummet—and more than a few customers began jumping off the wagon. As a result, Wells could lose as much as \$21.2 billion in deposits and \$8 billion in revenue over the next year and a half, according to a study done by consulting firm cg42.

Those would be significant drops even for Wells Fargo WFC 0.95 percent, the U.S.'s second largest bank by market value. The drop would represent a 17 percent decrease in deposits, and a 9 percent drop off compared to its 2015 revenue. The bank's deposits totaled \$1.28 billion through the end of June, and revenue of \$85.1 billion for 2015.

"The fallout from Wells Fargo's fraudulent sales practices has been significant: the scandal has been playing out on the news for weeks, the bank has been fined millions of dollars, and thousands of employees—including its CEO—have lost their jobs," wrote researchers at cg42 in the study, which was released on Monday. "But as our study reveals, the full financial impact of the scandal is yet to be felt. The fallout from the scandal will impact the bank's bottom line for years to come."

The firm conducted the study between October 18 to October 20, surveying 1,000 Wells Fargo primary customers, and 500 customers from other top U.S. retail banks including Bank of America and J.P. Morgan Chase.

In the worst case scenario, the study found that some 30 percent of Wells Fargo's customers may actively explore other options.

That's because while just 3 percent of Wells Fargo's customers were actually affected by the scandal, public opinion regarding the bank has fallen dramatically, leading some 14 percent of customers to say they have already decided to bank elsewhere. The losses could also be deeper, since the survey doesn't take into account small business accounts. The scandal, which allegedly occurred between 2011 and 2015, also affected some 10,000 small businesses.

In a bid to contain the fallout from the scandal, CEO John Stumpf was forced to resign after already agreeing to give up over \$40 million in unvested stock. Now the bank, helmed by Tim Sloan, is struggling to prove to investors and consumers alike that it's trustworthy.

In the most recent quarter, the bank revealed that sales had grown 2 percent to \$22.3 billion compared to a year earlier, while deposits also rose by \$30.4 billion compared to the quarter earlier, showing that the scandal had little to no effect on the company's earnings. Profits though fell slightly by 2 percent to \$5.6 billion compared to a year earlier. And new account openings slowed.

(Source: The Fortune)

## UK's £12bn aid budget could be spent on winning Brexit trade deals instead, Priti Patel suggests

Some of Britain's £12 billion foreign aid budget will be switched to help win post-Brexit trade deals, the International Development Secretary has suggested.

Priti Patel sparked fresh controversy about her plans for Britain's legal duty to spend 0.7 percent of national income on overseas aid while on a visit to Kenya.

She repeated her threat to cut some current funding to global organizations such as the World Bank, unless they could show they would provide better value for money.

However, Patel also went further, suggesting aid should be used to secure new trade deals and win badly-needed allies in the World Trade Organization (WTO) to prepare for EU withdrawal.

In an interview with the BBC, Patel said: "Our focus is poverty reduction - but that doesn't mean we should exclude the whole area of trade and trade opportunities."

"British soft power is exactly where DfID [the Department for International Development], and our aid and other relationships around the world, come together to deliver in our national interest and deliver for Britain when it comes to free trade agreements but also life post-Brexit."

The comments were condemned by Kate Osamor, Labor's Shadow Development Secretary, who said: "Priti Patel has no mandate or evidence to fundamentally change the way UK aid is distributed."

"She seems fixated on imposing her dogma of the free market over the clear evidence that UK aid is the most efficient and effective in the world. It reaches the people who need help, including many young girls and women."

Patel - who once called for her department to be abolished - was speaking on her first visit to Africa since she was appointed.

She saw humanitarian aid being delivered via a payment card that gives Kenyan women £20 a month from the British taxpayer, to buy the food they need to survive.

Patel said: "We have to make sure that our aid works in our national interest and also that it works for our taxpayers - much more openness, much more transparency and much more accountability."

"The government's approach is focused on ensuring that we drive taxpayer value - so when it comes to multilateral organizations, focus on performance agreements."

"If they are not performing then obviously we'll look at the contributions that we give to them. We need to be challenging."

The International Development Secretary is about to publish a review of the work of big multinational aid organizations that spend money on behalf of the UK - which could lead to funding being cut off.

Agencies such as the World Bank, the European Union and other smaller bodies collectively spend 40 percent of the UK's aid budget.

(Source: The Independent)

# Iran, Singapore agree to enhance banking ties

**ECONOMY TEHRAN** — Valiollah Seif, the governor of Central Bank of Iran (CBI), and Ravi Menon, the managing director of Central Bank of Singapore, agreed on cooperation for the enhancement of banking ties, IRNA reported.

Iran's central banker, visiting Singapore at the head of a delegation, held talks with Menon on Tuesday and also met with Iranian Envoy to Singapore Javad Ansari.

During the meeting, Seif voiced CBI's readiness to support the two countries' banks for mutual cooperation.

The official also mentioned the rightful demands of businessmen and entrepreneurs of the two countries for the use of banking services in order to settle business deals and said, "The need for various services, including opening letters of credit and issuing banking guarantees is inevitable to avoid any potential risks for businesses."



Ravi Menon, the managing director of Central Bank of Singapore (L), Valiollah Seif, the governor of Central Bank of Iran (CBI)

He further noted that Iran's international banking activities are in total compliance with international standards and regulations but lack of understanding about the status and performance of Iranian banks has caused some concerns.

"The two sides' central banks should start constructive cooperation to resolve such concerns," he suggested.

Menon for his part expressed Singapore's readiness to start banking relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran. "Central Bank of Singapore only follows the UN resolutions and other sanctions like the U.S. Treasury's will not come into force," he said.

He also asked for more meetings between the two sides to resolve any ambiguities.

Earlier in February, Singapore issued a directive instructing its banks to lift the sanctions which the country had imposed on Iran's banking operations in 2012.

## Iran-China trade at above \$22b in 9 months: report

**ECONOMY TEHRAN** — China's trade with Iran stood at \$22.12 billion in the first three quarters of 2016, Tasnim news agency reported on Tuesday.

According to the published report, recording a 17 percent decrease, the value of trade between the two countries shrank to \$22.12 billion from \$26.6 billion in the same period in 2015.

China's exports to Iran from January to September 2016 stood at \$11.52 billion, showing a 16 percent drop from \$13.7 billion in the same time span in the preceding year.

Iran's exports to China during the said period dropped to \$10.6 billion, showing an 18 percent drop from \$12.9 billion in the same length of time in 2015.

## Iranian trade delegation to embark for Germany, Austria on Nov. 20

**ECONOMY TEHRAN** — Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA) plans to dispatch a trade delegation headed by TCCIMA Chairman Masoud Khansari to Germany and Austria on November 20, the official website of TCCIMA announced.

The visit will follow invitations made by the chambers of commerce of Aus-

trian states of Kärnten and Steiermark and also the economy and industry office of Germany's Bavaria state in Iran.

The Iranian delegates active in the fields of industrial equipment and machinery, vehicle and related parts, renewable energies, environmental technology and medical equipment, will visit their German and Austrian counterparts during their six-day visit.

## Iran's 6-month pistachio exports up 20% yr/yr

**ECONOMY TEHRAN** — Iran exported \$381.647 million of pistachio during the first half of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-September 21) showing 20 percent rise compared to the same

period of time in the previous year, IRNA reported on Tuesday citing the portal of the Ministry of Agriculture.

The country's weight of exported pistachio stood at over 40,000 tons during the mentioned time span, with

22 percent growth from the figure of last year's first half. Iran exported 130,000 tons of pistachio worth \$1.2 billion to 70 countries in the previous Iranian calendar year (which ended on March 20).

### PICTURE OF THE DAY SHANA/Narges Mohktar



Sunjay Sudhir (2nd L), joint secretary for international cooperation at India's oil ministry, heading a delegation, met with Amir Hossein Zamaninia (1st R), Iranian deputy oil minister for international affairs, in Tehran on Tuesday. After the meeting, Zamaninia said the Indian government is determined to cooperate on developing Iran's Farzad-B offshore gas field.

## S. Korea vows to support Iran in development of capital markets

**SEOUL (Yonhap)** — A senior financial regulator said Tuesday that South Korea will support Iran in the development of its capital markets, citing ongoing financial cooperation between the two countries.

Jeong Eun-bo, vice chairman of the Financial Services Commission, said bilateral cooperation has gained further urgency to meet growing financial needs following the lifting of international sanctions on Tehran earlier this year.

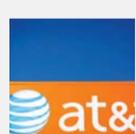
Jeong made the comments in a meeting with Shapour Mohammadi, head of Iran's Securities and Exchange Organization, in Seoul, though he did not elaborate.

South Korea is seeking business opportunities in Iran as the oil-rich country is aggressively working on infrastructure and development projects.

President Park Geun-hye visited Tehran in May and met with her Iranian counterpart.

Industry data showed that the trade volume between Korea and Iran stood at \$6.1 billion in 2015, down sharply from \$17.4 billion in 2011 due to the sanctions.

## AT&T, Time Warner shares dip with worries about deal clearance



Wall Street signaled skepticism on Monday that AT&T Inc would secure the government approvals needed to carry out its planned \$85.4 billion acquisition of Time Warner Inc, with shares of both companies falling as analysts scrutinized the deal.

Time Warner shares were trading some 20 percent below the implied value of AT&T's \$107.50 per share cash and stock offer, indicating investors doubt that the companies would be able to complete the transaction.

The deal, announced on Saturday, would give AT&T control of cable TV channels HBO and CNN, film studio Warner Bros and other coveted assets and reshape the media landscape.

## P&G profit tops estimates as Taylor's cost cuts gather momentum



Procter & Gamble Co., the world's largest consumer-products company, posted first-quarter profit that topped analysts' estimates, helped by lower costs and a slimmer stable of brands.

Profit was \$1.03 a share, excluding some items, Cincinnati-based P&G said in a statement Tuesday. Analysts estimated 98 cents, on average. Revenue was little changed at \$16.5 billion, roughly matching analysts' projections.

The results show Chief Executive Officer David Taylor is making progress on the \$10 billion cost-cutting program he embarked on after taking the helm last year. P&G also completed the divestiture of more than 40 beauty brands to Coty Inc. this month -- a sale orchestrated by Taylor's predecessor -- allowing P&G to focus on reinventing its main household and personal-care businesses.

## London Heathrow gets approval to expand as Gatwick loses out



Prime Minister Theresa May's government gave the green light to a 16 billion-pound (\$20 billion) expansion of London's crowded Heathrow airport, ending years of prevarication over what has become one of the most contentious issues in British politics.

The announcement Tuesday endorsed the conclusions of a state-sponsored commission that said last year Heathrow and not its rival Gatwick is the best candidate for growth amid a crunch in U.K. flight capacity. Construction of a new, third landing strip at Heathrow -- the first full-length runway in southeast England since World War II -- will allow the 70-year-old airport west of London to handle 135 million passengers a year, up from 75 million passengers now.

# Iraq to offer oil fields directly to foreign firms

The Iraqi oil ministry will negotiate directly with international oil companies (IOCs) and consortiums in the upcoming bidding of a dozen small- to medium-sized fields located in the provinces of Central, Basra and Misan.

According to a tender document on the ministry's website and cited by Reuters, firms will be permitted to "submit their own proposals for contractual, commercial and financial terms and conditions."

Officials pre-qualified nineteen firms from around the world to participate in the bidding process, including six from Japan and others from countries such as Russia, Italy, and the United Arab Emirates.

In addition, firms that have not been prequalified may also participate in the process after paying a \$15,000 fee as well as submitting proof of their technical and financial capabilities. To help with that process, the ministry has offered a data package with the price tag of \$50,000.

The Iraqi government's appeal to deal directly with oil companies signaled a shift in its strategy away from prior contract offers for the country's huge southern fields such as Rumaila and Majnoon. The oil ministry pays IOCs a fixed dollar-denominated fee for every barrel



of oil produced as part of the service-based agreements reached between the parties.

The slump in the price of oil since 2014 forced Iraq to receive less revenue from the commodity while paying the same pre-2014 fees to the likes of BP, Shell, and Lukoil. Thus, the ministry has sought to

renegotiate these deals to allow fees that are flexible with market fluctuations and to force IOCs to pay a greater share when prices sink.

Futures on Monday fell to their lowest point in a week over the Iraqi government's desire to be exempt from planned Organization of the Petroleum Exporting

Countries (OPEC) production limits. Oil Minister Jabbar Al-Luaibi said Iraq continues to be embroiled in clashes with extremist militants; thus, the country should not be subjected to whatever OPEC output conditions are agreed upon on November 30.

(Source: oilprice.com)

## Russia hopes possible global oil deal to stabilize crude prices

A possible agreement among global leading oil producers on capping crude output would help to stabilize global oil prices, Russian Deputy Prime Minister Arkady Dvorkovich said on Tuesday.

Dvorkovich, who oversaw the launch of an oilfield owned by Russia's second-largest oil company Lukoil, also said the much-anticipated deal between the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and other leading oil producers would help Russia to maintain stable crude output in the future.

Last month OPEC approved modest output cuts that are due to be set in stone in the coming weeks. The goal is to trim global production to a range of 32.50-33.0 million barrels per day (bpd).

(Source: Reuters)

## Oil edges up ahead of U.S. data, OPEC squabbles cap gains

Oil edged up on Tuesday ahead of the release of U.S. crude inventory data, which in recent weeks has provided bullish surprises, but a flurry of top-level comments from OPEC members regarding chances of an output cut kept a lid on prices.

International Brent crude oil futures rose 35 cents to \$51.81 per barrel at 0910 GMT from their last close.

U.S. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude futures turned positive, gaining 37 cents to \$50.89 a barrel, after being negative throughout much of Asia trading.

The private American Petroleum Institute is due to publish its weekly crude stocks estimates on Tuesday at 2030 GMT, followed by the official Energy Information Administration data due on Wednesday.

"Crude oil does not want to drop the support until it sees if it can use the weekly U.S. statistics for another test of an upside break-out," analysts at Petromatrix said in a note.

A Reuters poll showed that U.S. crude inventories were forecast to have risen last week by a likely 800,000 barrels to 469.5 million barrels. That came after a fall of more than 5 million barrels in the week to Oct. 14.

Analysts said a leak in a pipeline leading out of the huge Cushing, Oklahoma, storage hub should lead to more build-up of stocks in the coming weeks.

(Source: Reuters)

## Global oil demand growth to slow despite China import gain: IEA

Global oil demand will only rise by 1.2 million barrels per day (bpd) in 2017, compared with a 1.8 million bpd increase in 2016, despite gains in Chinese consumption, the chief of the International Energy Agency (IEA) said on Tuesday in Singapore.

Talking on the sidelines of Singapore's International Energy Week, the IEA's executive director Fatih Birol said that oil demand growth could weaken further

still, if prices kept rising.

International benchmark Brent crude oil futures have almost doubled from their January multi-year lows to over \$50 per barrel.

Birol said that the slowdown in demand growth would likely mean that a re-balancing of oil markets in terms of supply and demand would not happen until the second half of 2017.

Birol also cast doubts on the effec-

tiveness of a planned output cut by the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to prop up prices, as this could trigger new production elsewhere, further undermining a re-balancing of oil markets.

"If there is an increase in the prices as a result of this (OPEC-led) intervention, we may well see a response from higher cost production," Birol said, adding that at \$60 per barrel, U.S. shale oil

and offshore projects in Latin America could resume.

Despite an overall slowdown in demand, China - the main pillar of demand growth in recent years - will further increase its imports because of declining domestic crude production caused by lower prices.

"China continues to be important driver of global oil demand growth," he said.

(Source: Reuters)

IKCO is negotiating with Taxi Services Company of Côte d'Ivoire, based on which, 600 vehicles, manufactured by IKCO, will be delivered to Taxi Services Company of this African country through tender.



Tunisia joined export markets of Iran Khodro Industrial Group (IKCO)'s products. Export of various passenger cars of the company such as "RUNNA" has started to this African country.



IKCO has started export of its products to Lebanon with exporting a limited number of cars.

# 7 Export Markets Activated Recently by IKCO

1,000 passenger cars, manufactured by IKCO, are exported to Syria annually.



Algeria is considered as IKCO's export target market in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) which has recently been reactivated.



IKCO intends to install an equipped production line in Azerbaijan for manufacturing 10,000 passenger cars with direct investment of Azeri side. In its first year of activity, this production line will be commissioned for manufacturing 3,000 cars.



IKCO's products including "DENA", "RUNNA", "SOREN", "PARS", "SAMAND", "ARISUN", and for the first time, manual and transmission TONDAR (L90) will be exported to neighboring Iraq.

## Arizona residents call Trump's wall a 'waste of money'

The results are similar to national polling: 49 percent of Americans say the wall would be a waste

By Luciana Lopez and Chris Kahn

Donald Trump rode to the top of the Republican ticket promising a "big, beautiful, powerful" border wall with Mexico to stop the flow of undocumented immigrants. Along that border, however, Americans are more likely to call the wall a "waste of money", according to a Reuters/Ipsos opinion poll.



The results show that while the New York businessman may have expected his tough stance on immigration to fire up support nationally, it seems to be falling short in a state heavily affected by illegal immigration, and where he is now facing a surprising challenge from his Democratic rival Hillary Clinton.

Asked if a wall would be "an effective barrier or a waste of money," 47 percent of Arizona residents picked "waste of money" and 34 percent picked "effective barrier", with the rest picking neither, according to the poll. Among Republicans, 21 percent picked "waste of money" and 57 percent picked "effective barrier."

Most Arizonans also believed it is not realistic to expect Mexico to pay for the wall, something Trump has vowed would happen if he's elected president on Nov. 8, according to the poll.

### ■ Trump's immigration policy

The results lined up closely with nationwide opinions of Trump's immigration policy: 49 percent of American adults say the wall would be a "waste of money" and 31 percent say it would be an "effective barrier."

"As big and powerful, as rich as this nation is, we cannot just leave the door open," said Tony Estrada, Santa Cruz County Sheriff, who has served in law enforcement in the border county for 49 years. "But, we need a realistic and humane process. Donald Trump is ... catering to people's fear."

Polls show Arizona, a state that has voted Democrat only once in a presidential election since 1952, has become competitive.

The Real Clear Politics average of polls showed Clinton ahead there by 1.3 percentage points. Reuters/Ipsos polling shows Trump ahead there by 4 points.

Clinton's campaign said last week it would spend \$2 million more campaigning in Arizona before the election.

### ■ Driving Latinos to the polls

Arizona's border with Mexico is 370 miles long, covering an isolated desert terrain that has drawn millions seeking to cross illegally. The state's number of undocumented immigrants has fallen 35 percent from a 2007 peak to 325,000, according to the Pew Research Center, as Arizona cracked down on that population. Nationwide, the number has dropped 9 percent from a high in 2007 to 11.1 million undocumented immigrants.

Wendy Cornacchio, a 45 year-old Trump supporter from Phoenix, said she believes illegal immigration is still a problem — but she would rather see technologies like drone surveillance than Trump's wall to address it. "I don't think that necessarily building a wall will work, but the concept of closing the borders I agree with," she said.

Florida is another closely-fought state that has seen large levels of illegal immigration, though by sea rather than by land. Some 41 percent of voters there said they believed Trump's wall would be a "waste of money", while 36 percent thought it would be an "effective barrier".

Progressive activist groups in both Florida and Arizona have been using Trump's hard line on immigration against him to mobilize Latinos for Clinton, who advocates a path to citizenship for some undocumented immigrants. Mi Familia Vota, for example, says they registered more than 15,000 people in Arizona this year.

The Reuters/Ipsos poll was conducted online in English and Spanish in Arizona and Florida. The Arizona poll ran from Oct. 5 to Oct. 19 and gathered responses from 2,600 people. The Florida poll ran from Oct. 5 to Oct. 12 and gathered responses from 2,610 people. Both polls have a credibility interval, a measure of accuracy, of 2 percentage points for the total group and 3 percentage points for likely voters.

(Source: Reuters)

# EU authorities brace for wave of Islamic State fighters after Mosul assault

By Michael Birnbaum

A long-awaited offensive this week to dislodge the Islamic State (ISIL) from its stronghold city of Mosul is fueling fears of renewed terrorist attacks, as European counterterrorism officials say more fighters are returning home after waging terrorists in Syria and Iraq.

The security concerns are a major focus of European intelligence agencies as the Iraqi army and its partners press the assault on Mosul, which the Islamic State (ISIL) has used as a capital for planning and operations for more than two years. Attacks in Paris and Brussels in recent years have been conducted by locally born attackers who in some cases trained with the Islamic State (ISIL) in Iraq and Syria, then returned home.

The threat underlines a central dilemma facing leaders of nations where the Islamic State (ISIL) has carried out terrorist attacks: Even as they support efforts to defeat the group on the ground, they risk dislodging its adherents and casting them elsewhere. Top officials say that they are raising their vigilance as thousands of people stream out of Mosul, which is under heavy bombardment in the largest operation for Iraqi security forces since they were formed after toppling Saddam Hussein.

### ■ The Mosul operation

Counterterrorism officials say it is too early to know whether the Mosul operation will spark a new wave of terrorists coming back to Europe. But they say that when the Islamic State (ISIL) has been dealt battlefield blows in the past year, more of its adherents have returned home.

"Further military losses, further military pressure on them in the region, indeed might lead to an increased reflex response by the group in Europe," said Rob Wainwright, the head of Europol, the Pan-European policing agency that is coordinating efforts to combat the group inside European Union borders. Flows of returning fighters have "slightly increased" in recent months, he said. "Not yet in high numbers. Maybe Mosul and Raqqa could change that," he said, referring to the Islamic State (ISIL)'s Syrian stronghold, which is the next major target after Mosul.

Between 4,000 and 5,000 European residents are estimated to have gone to Syria and Iraq to take part in the fight, which has raged since Arab Spring protests in Syria in 2011. A majority of the European fighters are said to be on the ground there, Wainwright said. About a third is estimated to have returned, with the remainder killed.

The trip has been made harder by Turkey's sealing of its border with Syria, a step that has significantly cut down on traffic in both directions. Turkish officials have said in recent days that they view fleeing Islamic State (ISIL) terrorists as a significant domestic threat and that they are committed to bolstering security along the long border with Syria and Iraq. The Islamic State (ISIL) also has been known to kill disillusioned fighters who try to abandon the fight, further reducing return movement.

The group may also seek to pull off high-profile attacks as a way of proving its continued relevance. The flow of new European recruits to the fight has slowed to a trickle this year after posing a major challenge to authorities in recent years.

"ISIL are in the business of getting their people back into Europe in increasingly sophisticated ways," he said, including paying organized crime groups for high-quality fake travel documents. In recent months, there has been "some pickup in the rate of return," most noticeably to Britain, Sweden and Italy, he said.

EU counterterrorism officials have been warning for months that a string of setbacks for the Islamic State (ISIL)



President of the European Council Donald Tusk (L) and European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker (R)

## Repeated attacks on Paris last year, then the March attacks in Brussels, were the first warning sign of the group's new focus on Europe.

inside the territory it controls could create a threat as its supporters flee and as its leaders seek to prove their ongoing relevance. Repeated attacks on Paris last year, then the March attacks in Brussels, were the first warning sign of the group's new focus on Europe. Then this summer, a spate of Islamic State-inspired attacks that began on Bastille Day in Nice, France, showed just how little resources were necessary to perpetrate large-scale killings.

"We have to be prepared, that's the point. It's a lot of people," EU Counterterrorism Coordinator Gilles de Kerchove said. "We don't know whether it will be a massive return or whether it will be over a long period of time."

Even if the group is forced to retreat significantly on the ground, he said he doubted the danger would evaporate for Europe.

"They've shown agility in the past. I suspect those who were not killed or captured will try to reinvent it," de Kerchove said. One fear, he said, was that European citizens could take skills learned on the battlefield and apply them at home — a possibility that could encompass everything from chemical weapons to car bombs.

### ■ The complex threat

The complex threat has European officials carefully monitoring the offensive, which was launched Monday by Iraqi and Kurdish forces with Western air and ground support.

"Hundreds of thousands, if not a million" people might try to flee Mosul, French Foreign Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault said last Thursday, adding that security forces need to check them all to make sure that Islamic State (ISIL) terrorists are not escaping by blending into the crowds. He spoke after a conference in Paris devoted to the battle.

For now, the most immediate security concerns related to Mosul have to do with the protection of civilians in the city, which is said to have up to 1.5 million residents. The

Islamic State (ISIL) has in the past used civilians as human shields, and any form of urban combat poses a challenge in separating civilian from fighter. If Islamic State (ISIL) terrorists flee anywhere at all, the obvious first step is Raqqa, the group's bastion in neighboring Syria. Anti-Islamic State forces (ISIL) have declared that their next target.

Iraqi officials have warned Western leaders that while Iraq and Syria might be on the front line, the threat is also potent in Europe.

"It is your enemy just as much as ours. It is a challenge for you as it is for us. And Daesh is trying to operate in your capitals, just as it is trying to operate in our capital," Iraqi Foreign Minister Ibrahim al-Jafari told the European Parliament last Wednesday, using another name for the Islamic State, which is also known as ISIS and ISIL.

The deteriorating security situation in the Sinai region of Egypt and ongoing chaos in Libya provide a different escape route for Islamic State (ISIL) terrorists, analysts say. Militants could either stay in those areas, further destabilizing an already volatile situation, or they could join the migrant flow northward across the Mediterranean into Italy. That route for migrants and asylum seekers has continued largely unimpeded this year even as traffic into Europe from the Western Balkans has halted because of a March deal with Turkey.

Counterterrorism analysts say that even if the Islamic State (ISIL) is dealt a major battlefield defeat, it would probably hold on to its ability to sow chaos across the region.

"It is in the nature of these groups to find a way to bounce back," said Mohammad-Mahmoud Ould Mohamedou, deputy director of the Geneva Center for Security Policy.

"What better way to indicate that they're not losing ground than to stage a really spectacular operation?"

(Source: The Washington Post)



## The Calais Jungle should never have existed – it represents Europe's barbaric response to the refugee crisis

By Benedict Spence

Isn't it strange that the response from organized, settled Europe has been a hearty mix of slapdash border control and an occasional teargassing for the cameras?

That the Calais Jungle has been allowed to fester and endure for so long is a blot on the copybooks of governments, both here and on the continent.

Whether you believe all of its residents should be allowed into Britain or not, few can say that people living in a state of limbo in makeshift squalor is anything other than barbarism, when there should exist procedures and facilities to process, house and deport such a population efficiently. That said, procedures are evidently not in place, which begs serious questions about the preparedness and seriousness of government agencies responsible for such matters.

Why has Europe allowed the creation of a class of untouchables, with no nation

keen to process them?

Last week, Britain began accepting (admittedly contested) unaccompanied child refugees. I believe all children should be accepted, unaccompanied or otherwise, and that it is shameful that our government has engaged in so much prevarication on the issue. How many children, undocumented and uncared for, have gone missing while waiting for dithering politicians to locate their moral compass?

Why, though, have no other governments, specifically the French, picked these children up as they passed through their countries in the meantime? Why are we unsure as to the age of those we can still locate? Shouldn't someone have addressed this issue as they were making their way across Europe? Italy is famed for its hellish bureaucracy; did no one bother taking notes as desperate people emerged from the sea?

Britain is of course fortunate in that it has a natural border, but when Lily Allen apologized to the residents of the Jungle

"on behalf of my country", she ignored the issue that the camp is not in Britain, but another, wealthy, developed and civilized European nation. These people have passed through others en route. Isn't it strange that the response from organized, settled Europe has been a hearty mix of slapdash border control and an occasional teargassing for the cameras?

### ■ A source of misery

The camp is a source of misery for those who live there. People are not safe. Food, shelter and medical assistance are not guaranteed. For all the charity pouring in, theft, assault and worse is infinitely more likely in a settlement such as this. The human thing to do would have been to close it as soon as it emerged. Either way, migrants in Europe will have to be resettled or deported. Both are painful decisions, but delaying them has only made the situation worse.

Take Brexit as an example: it cannot have helped dampen anti-European, anti-immigration and anti-establishment sentiments in this country when a large,

chaotic refugee camp just across the water was plainly visible as an image of European incompetence. Would it not have helped convince the British public that the EU was a sensible and beneficial body if it and national governments had had a robust plan in place to fairly and quickly alleviate the issue? Isn't that what such bodies are meant to do, rather than kick their heels and wait for the problem to go away?

One can only hope that the closing of the camp helps to solve the case of each migrant and refugee, either with permanent residency in Britain and Europe, temporary shelter from war, or deportation. One can also hope that today's action will herald a sea change in the way we approach mass migration. I suspect, however, that as many of the residents themselves have suggested, another lawless camp will pop up somewhere else in the Calais area, and the desperate cycle of Europe's untouchables will keep on spinning.

(Source: Independent)

# Global oil giants return Iran

By Maryam Azish

The international relations of Iran which is known as the fourth largest oil and the second largest gas reserves in the world have undergone major change following the implementation of the historic nuclear deal known as the Joint Plan of Action (JPOA), and its icy relations with other countries seems to be thawing in the years of sanctions.

From the early days of clinching the nuclear deal, a large number of directors of international companies active in oil industry have traveled to Tehran along with their respective country's economic delegations and voiced their willingness to resume the ties cut-off for years. Now, months after the deal went into effect in January, the US continued to maintain some sanctions on Iran, scaring off companies from resuming trade with the country and conse-

quently some international banks still shy away from financing trade deals and processing transactions with the Islamic Republic fearing American penalties.

Thanks to new model of oil contracts, dubbed as the Iran Petroleum Contract (IPC) which aimed at attracting foreign companies and investments in Iran's oil and gas development projects, a large number of officials of the most reputable European oil companies, Total SA of France, the world's fourth major oil company, and Royal Dutch Shell, the Anglo-Dutch firm in particular, have so far held talks with Iranian side aimed at amending mutual cooperation.

### IPC Endorsement:

On Sept 17, Majlis Speaker Ali Larijani endorsed the new model of oil contracts after a special committee in parliament approved the conformity of terms and conditions of the new contractual framework with Iran's up-

## Royal Dutch Shell inked a memorandum of understanding with Iran's National Petrochemical Company (NPC) on expanding cooperation in the key petrochemical industry.

stream laws and regulations.

According to media reports, the outlines of IPC, which is aimed at attracting foreign companies and investments in Iran's oil and gas development projects following years of limited or no cooperation with multinationals and inadequate investment due to the international economic sanctions, were approved by the government in August shortly after it got the backing of so-called Resistance Economy Headquarters, a top government economic advisory body, after some amendments.

At present a large number of Iranian officials including Head of the Oil Contracts Revision Committee in Ministry of Petroleum Mehdi Hosseini believes that IPC is flexible in nature and any delay in its enforcement will cost the country eight to 10 billion dollars in damage a month.

Hosseini also assumed that speedy investment in projects for development of the oil and gas fields and recovery is essential in order to make up for any backwardness in the joint oil and gas reserves and avoid more violation of rights of Iranian nation.

### NPC-Shell MoU:

On Oct 9, Royal Dutch Shell inked a memorandum of understanding with Iran's National Petrochemical Company (NPC) on expanding cooperation in the key petrochemical industry, preparing the ground for the coming back of the Anglo-Dutch firm to the Islamic Republic.

Some Iranian official hope that the oil giant, which was involved in the development of Iran's Soroush and Norouz oil fields in Persian Gulf waters, makes preparations for direct investment in Iran.

Director for Investment of NPC Hossein Alimorad expects that the mutual MoU could be focused on the half-finished project of producing natural gas products.

Forced by sanctions to end trade with Iran in 2010, Royal Dutch Shell that was also planning to develop a gas liquefaction project, resumed purchases of Iranian oil in June and took 130,000 tons of Iranian crude in July from the Kharg Island in the Persian Gulf to Europe under a spot contract.

In March, Royal Dutch Shell paid €1.77 billion (\$2 billion) it owed the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC), settling debts after the sanctions re-



moval in mid-January.

### NIOC-Total Deal

On Jan 28, French energy giant Total announced that it has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with NIOC to have access to the technical data of certain Iranian oil and gas projects to assess their development potentials. The MoU was signed during the visit to Paris by the Iranian President Hassan Rouhani.

The two also signed a framework agreement which will allow Total to take between 150,000 and 200,000 barrels of crude from Iran a day for

delivery to French and European refineries.

Several months later, Minister of Petroleum Bijan Zangeneh in a meeting with French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius who visited Tehran to "revive relations" after the finalization of nuclear talks between Iran and the P5+1 group of countries, said Iran welcomes Total's return to the resource-rich country amid Tehran's drive to step up oil and gas development projects after the elimination of sanctions.

Zangeneh also added Total which has been present in Iran's oil projects for more than 20 years and in view of the intent expressed by the French, a new door is supposed to open for the expansion of the company's activities in developing Iranian oilfields.

Total which ignored the 1996 Iran and Libya Sanctions Act (ILSA) of US Congress to participate in Iran's energy projects, has so far ran a gas project in Iran from 1995 to 2000 together with Russian and Asian partners to develop Phase 2 and 3 of the South Pars field at a cost of more than \$2 billion.

The Giant French company also developed Iran's offshore Balal oilfield along with Italy's Elf and Canada's Bow Valley in 1999 in a deal worth \$300 million.

A big country and an influential player in energy for enjoying giant oil and gas reserves, Iran, has always been open to foreign investments.

Indubitably, the new contract model unveiled by Iran's Ministry of Petroleum for investment in its oil and gas sector, is more eye-catching to foreign investments. It provides longer-term commitment from both sides.



**On Jan 28, French energy giant Total announced that it has signed an MoU with NIOC to have access to the technical data of certain Iranian oil and gas projects to assess their development potentials.**



**A big country and an influential player in energy for enjoying giant oil and gas reserves, Iran, has always been open to foreign investments.**



**BREITLING**  
1884

INSTRUMENTS FOR PROFESSIONALS™



WELCOME TO OUR WORLD

SARMAN Co.

No 1832, Dr. Shariati St., Next to Pol-E-Roomi, Tehran - Iran



AVENGER BANDIT

# Pars Diplomatic Real Estate

## Apartment

Apt. in Nivaran  
350 sq.m, 4 bdrs, furn,  
brand new, very nice view,  
outdoor pool, \$4700  
**Mr.Arvin: 09128103207**

Apt. in Farmanieh  
2<sup>nd</sup> Fl., 300 sq.m, 3 bdrs,  
fully furn, renovated, nice balcony,  
opposite to the garden, pool, Pkg,  
3500 USD  
**Ms.Diba: 09128103206**

Apt. in Elahieh  
300 sq.m, 4 bdrs, fully furn, all  
renovated, marble floor, \$3300  
**Mr.Arvin: 09128103207**

Luxury Apt. in Elahieh  
170 sq.m, 3 bdrs, fully furn,  
lobby, roof garden, SPJ, \$3500  
**Ms.Diba: 09128103206**

Apt. in Zaferanieh  
175 sq.m, 2 bdrs, furn, pool,  
marble floor, \$3000  
**Mr.Arvin: 09128103207**

## Villa

Duplex Villa in Farmanieh  
800 sq.m built up, 4 bdrs, garden,  
outdoor pool, Pkg, *Suitable for  
Residency & Embassy*, \$15000  
**Ms.Diba: 09128103206**

Duplex Villa in Farmanieh  
700 sq.m built up in 400 sq.m land,  
5 rooms + extra suit,  
luxury furn, SPJ, renovated,  
Pkg, cozy & quit, \$14000  
**Ms.Diba: 09128103206**

Duplex Villa in Farmanieh  
500 sq.m built up in 1000 sq.m  
land, , furn, renovated, pool,  
nice garden, 8000 USD  
**Mr.Arvin: 09128103207**

Duplex Villa in Elahieh  
500 sq.m built up in 1000 sq.m  
land, 5 bdrs, unfurn,  
outdoor pool, \$8000  
**Mr.Arvin: 09128103207**



**Ask Us Your Required Short  
Term / Long Term Furnished  
& Unfurnished Apartments.**

آپارتمان های کوتاه مدت و بلند مدت مبلیه  
و غیر مبلیه مورد نیاز خود را از ما بخواهید.

## Building

Whole Bldg. in Zaferanieh  
5-Storey, 10 units, each unit 210  
sq.m with 3 rooms, SPJ, Pkg, green  
garden, almost new,  
*Good for Residency or Embassy*  
**Ms.Diba: 09128103206**

Whole Bld. in Elahieh  
5-Storey, each storey 600 sq.m,  
totally 40 rooms, large Pkg lots,  
\$40 per sq.m  
**Mr.Arvin: 09128103207**

Bld. in Jordan  
All brand new, 1000 sq.m built up,  
5 units, totally 20 rooms,  
Pkg lot, 12000 USD  
**Mr.Arvin: 09128103207**

Bldg. in Zaferanieh  
700 sq., land in 1000 sq.m built up,  
2 units, totally 12 rooms, 15 Pkg,  
renovated, \$12000  
**Mr.Arvin: 09128103207**

## Occasion

Apt. in Elahieh  
200 sq.m, 3 bdrs, fully furn,  
balcony, nice view, \$2300  
**Mr.Arvin: 09128103207**

Apt. in Jordan  
130 sq.m, 2 bdrs, furn, \$1700  
**Mr.Arvin: 09128103207**

Apt. in Aqdasiyeh  
3<sup>rd</sup> Fl., 120 sq.m, 2 bdrs, furn,  
excellent view, 1800 USD  
**Ms.Diba: 09128103206**

Apt. in Andarzgoo  
1<sup>st</sup> Fl., 90 sq.m, 2 bdrs, fully furn,  
Pkg, nice & cozy, \$1200  
**Ms.Diba: 09128103206**

Apt. in Farmanieh  
160 sq.m, 2 bdrs, furn, \$2300  
**Mr.Arvin: 09128103207**

Apt. in Jordan  
180 sq.m, 3 bdrs, furn, \$2300  
**Mr.Arvin: 09128103207**

## Nice Attention To Embassies, International & Local Companies & Shopping Centers

The professional section of administrative license offices, Commercial Properties and Shopping Centers. From 100 Sq.m to 20,000 Sq.m (For Sale & Rent)

قابل توجه سفارتخانه ها، کمپانی های خارجی، داخلی و مراکز خرید  
اجاره و فروش تخصصی ملک های سند اداری و تجاری، از ۱۰۰ مترمربع تا ۲۰۰۰۰ مترمربع

## For Sale

فرشته  
( سوپر لوکس )  
۲۸۰ متر، ۴ خواب، نوساز  
تکواحدی، متریار اروپا، لابی مجلل  
تاپ ترین فرعی، جهت مشکل پسندان  
فرید: ۰۹۱۲۸۴۸۴۲۱۶

محمودیه  
تاپ ترین مجموعه آرشیتکت بنام  
۳۴۰ متر، ۳ خواب + سوئیت مجزا،  
لابی مجلل، سوپر لوکس  
نادرنیا: ۰۹۱۲۸۴۴۰۱۵۲

زعفرانیه  
خاص ترین برج منطقه  
۳۰۰ متر، ۴ خواب، لابی مجلل،  
۲ پارکینگ، سالن اجتماعات  
فرید: ۰۹۱۲۸۴۸۴۲۱۶

زعفرانیه  
۳۰۰ متر، ۳ خواب + سوئیت مجزا،  
در بهترین فرعی منطقه،  
بازسازی بسیار شیک، ۱۰۰٪ فروشنده  
نادرنیا: ۰۹۱۲۸۴۴۰۱۵۲

زعفرانیه  
تاپ ترین برج منطقه  
۲۶۰ متر، ۴ خواب، در بالاترین طبقات،  
نقشه و ویو بسیار عالی، ۴ پارکینگ  
فرید: ۰۹۱۲۸۴۸۴۲۱۶

Section Manager "Tina 09128440154"  
Tel: 22662452-8, Fax: 22667173

## Office

Luxury Office  
300 sq.m open office, lobby, Pkg, *Good  
For Companies*,  
**Ms.Diba: 09128103206**

Administrative license Office in Jordan  
All brand new, 600 sq.m built up, open  
space, Pkg, \$45 per sq.m  
**Mr.Arvin: 09128103207**

Office in Vanak  
1500 built up, flat, high standard Bldg.,  
full of foreign companies, Pkg, *Suitable  
for Companies*

Price: \$63 per sq.m  
**Ms.Diba: 09128103206**

Office in Vozara  
2-Storey, each floor 500 sq.m,  
flat, 15 Pkgs, renovated,  
*Good for foreign Companies*,

Price: \$40 per each Sq.m  
**Ms.Diba: 09128103206**

Administrative license Office in Jordan  
Brand new, 3000 sq.m built up,  
5 units, Pkg lot  
**Mr.Arvin: 09128103207**

Office in Elahieh  
5-Storey, each storey 600 sq.m,  
totally 40 rooms, large Pkg lots,  
\$40 per sq.m  
**Mr.Arvin: 09128103207**

Office in Jordan  
250 sq.m, 2 rooms, 7 car Pkgs,  
\$45 per sq.m  
**Mr.Arvin: 09128103207**

Office in Vali-Asr  
110 sq.m, 3 rooms, furn & unfurn,  
almost new, Pkg lot, lobby,  
full of foreign companies,  
*Suitable for Companies*  
Price: \$40 per sq.m  
**Ms.Diba: 09128103206**

Best Consultation, Best Services, Best Result

Hot Line: 28141

## Shopping center leasing&management

Project Development  
Leasing and Releasing  
Management and consultancy

راه اندازی مراکز خرید  
اجاره و فروش  
مدیریت و بهره برداری مراکز خرید

فروش و اجاره تعداد محدودی از  
بهترین مراکز خرید کشور

Manager

09122841274 - Mr.Tayyar

parsdiplomatic@gmail.com  
info@parsdiplomatic.com

مالکین محترم

ملک های فروش و اجاره ای خود را (آپارتمان،  
ویلا، مستغلات، اداری و تجاری) به ما بسپارید.

بهترین مشاوره، برترین سرویس، بالاترین رضایت

مالکین محترم املاک مبلیه و غیرمبلیه، مسکونی، اداری و تجاری، ویلا و مستغلات  
شما را جهت اجاره به سفارتخانه ها و شرکت های خارجی نیازمندیم.

مالکین محترم

ویلاهای شما را جهت اجاره به منزل سفیر و مدیران  
شرکت های بین المللی در مناطق شمالی تهران  
نیازمندیم.

# How to put an end to stiff neck

## 7 things to stop doing

By Anne Asher

A stiff neck can be brought on by any number of things, from muscle strain to herniated disc or even an infection. The good news is that most cases of stiff neck are not serious. Just the same, it can hurt as well as disrupt your plans. Not fun.

So why make it worse—or bring it on in the first place—if you don't have to? Here are seven things to stop doing if you want to prevent or manage a stiff neck.

### ■ Stop loading up your backpack

This lifestyle fix is particularly relevant to students, who these days, tend to be bogged down with some very heavy books in their backpacks. One alternative to heavy text books may be to rent the digital version for the semester. Lugging computers around can be difficult as well. Perhaps it's time for an iPad?

### ■ Stop wearing a shoulder bag over one shoulder

Alternate the shoulder that supports your bag regularly to affect your posture and muscles as equally as possible. Otherwise, you're likely to create a lot of extra tension in your trapezius muscle on the side you wear the accessory the most. Favoring one shoulder over the other in this way may also affect your spinal alignment—and not for the better.

### ■ Stop cradling your phone with your shoulder

Using a one-ear phone hold is another way to create uneven tension in your neck and shoulder muscles. This, in turn, may make your stiff neck worse, or set the stage for a new one.

### ■ Stop stressing out—or in

Stress often comes from what is known as the "fight or flight" response to a triggering event, where our initial reaction is to either get away from a perceived threat or to obliterate it in order to feel safe again. But in the 21st century, it is not always possible to display a physical or emotional reaction. Such repression may lead you to hold it all inside, or express it in inappropriate ways. Either can cause chronic stress in the muscles, which can have an immobilizing effect (until the stress is released therapeutically.)

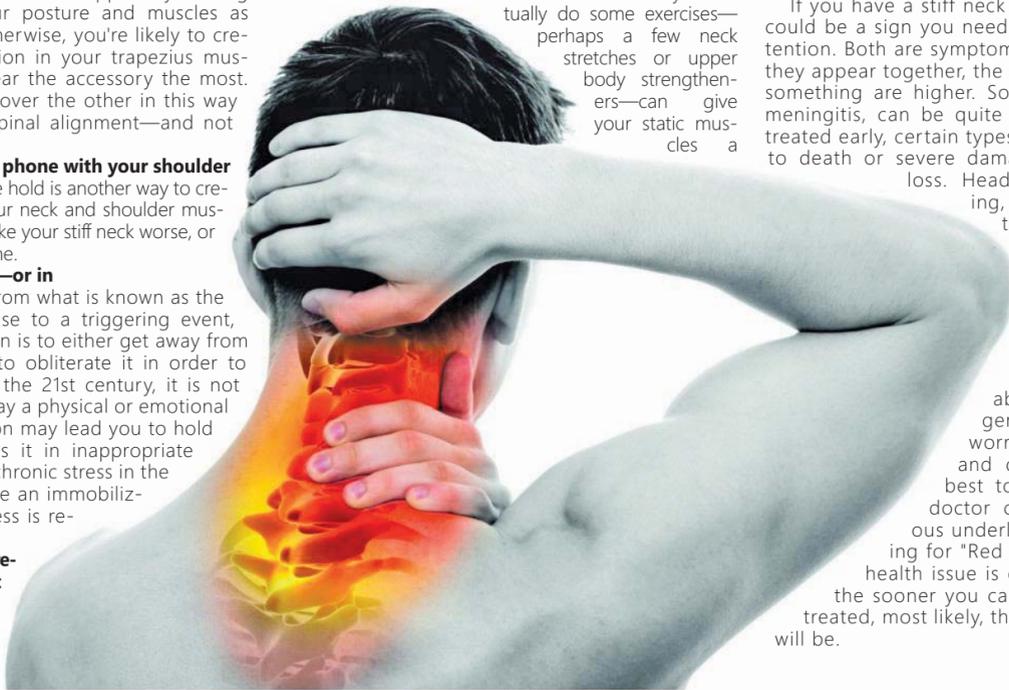
### ■ Stop avoiding movement breaks throughout your work day

Lack of movement for prolonged periods of time is a risk factor

**Some infections, such as meningitis, can be quite serious. In fact, if not treated early, certain types of meningitis can lead to death or severe damage, including hearing loss. Headaches, nausea, vomiting, night sweats and/or the inability to fall or stay asleep are other symptoms that might prompt you to seek medical attention.**

for work related musculoskeletal disorders.

Work breaks in which you actually do some exercises—perhaps a few neck stretches or upper body strengtheners—can give your static muscles a



break from tension and holding; this may help to keep stiffness at bay.

Another way to address static posture at work (and therefore neck stiffness) is to consciously change positions at least every 20 minutes.

### ■ Stop ignoring your posture

We are all subject to the force of gravity, which tends to compress our spines. Unless you have a plan to deal with gravity, you may, over time, find that your posture sags, and that you have less energy throughout the day.

But it doesn't stop there. As your body posture becomes more and more compressed, it loses the capacity to support the weight of your head. Because of its location between your head and your upper back, your neck may take the brunt of this lost support. A possible fix is to engage with an exercise program specifically designed to develop posture support.

### ■ Stop ignoring the doctor's office

If you have a stiff neck along with a fever, this could be a sign you need immediate medical attention. Both are symptoms of infection, so when they appear together, the odds you've contracted something are higher. Some infections, such as meningitis, can be quite serious. In fact, if not treated early, certain types of meningitis can lead to death or severe damage, including hearing loss. Headaches, nausea, vomiting, night sweats and/or the inability to fall or stay asleep are other symptoms that might prompt you to seek medical attention.

### ■ Stop thinking it's ok when it isn't

As I mentioned above, cases of stiff neck generally are nothing to worry about. But if pain and discomfort persists it's best to get it checked. Your doctor can rule out any serious underlying problems by looking for "Red Flags." If an underlying health issue is causing your stiff neck, the sooner you can get it diagnosed and treated, most likely, the better your prognosis will be.

(Source: verywell.com)

## 5 hidden calcium sources

Milk and calcium go hand in hand. It's what we're taught from a young age. Like many things we learn when we're young, what we learned about milk isn't entirely true. Milk is a terrific source of calcium, but there are many other great sources of calcium found in other foods that you might be missing out on.

First let's talk a little bit about what calcium does. Sure it helps keep your bones and teeth strong. But it's also valuable in regulating blood pressure, maintaining healthy blood cells and even helping produce insulin, the important hormone that helps regulate blood sugar and prevent diabetes.

Calcium is essential to any human diet, but most of us don't get enough. An adult should consume about 1,000 mg of calcium per day. That's one glass of skim milk, one slice of cheddar cheese or one cup of vanilla yogurt. Most people don't make that mark.

There's no excuse not to be getting enough calcium each day. Here's a list of five great foods jam-packed with calcium:

### ■ White beans

Packing 191 mg in 1 can, white beans are a great legume to add to your diet. They're great served cold in a salad, or added to a pasta dish with veggies. Put a twist on your hummus: Take out your chickpeas and white beans. Not only are white beans a good source of calcium, they're also a solid source of iron.

### ■ Kale

How many food lists can Kale show up on? As long as I'm writing, every single one. But seriously, kale deserves all the good rep it has. It packs more nutrients per calorie than almost any other food. Speaking of nutrients per calorie, kale even has milk beat in that department, with 188 mg of calcium for every 2 cups! Incredible. Try a kale salad with apricots and avocado. It's perfect for the springtime season.

### ■ Canned salmon

It's all in the bones. That's what you need to remember when you're dealing with Canned Salmon. The Salmon meat itself is fine but most of the calcium goodness, 232 mgs worth, is in the bones. For those who haven't had canned salmon before, don't be intimidated. The bones are softened by the canning process and are easy to swallow and digest. Canned Salmon is a great source of calcium on the cheap.

### ■ Black-eyed peas

Not talking about Will.I.Am's Black Eyed Peas, but these beans are good too, at least when we're talking about calcium. Not only does 1/2 a cup of black eyed peas have 185 mg of calcium, it also packs potassium and folate. Black eyed peas are a great side with many southern dishes like gumbo or fried chicken.

### ■ Oranges

Orange juice is fortified with calcium, but orange fruit itself is a good source of calcium on its own at 65 mg for a medium-sized orange. Next time you eat an orange, don't just think Vitamin C, think Calcium.

(Source: Health Headlines)

**FIRST CHOICE REAL ESTATE**

Mr. Ghanizadeh  
Nobody does it better

آژانسی املاک انتخاب اول در خدمت شماست

TEL: 22041212 - 09121081212  
APARTMENT - VILLA - OFFICE  
PROPERTY@FIRSTCHOICECO.COM  
WWW.FIRSTCHOICECO.COM

**Don't Waste Your Time**

Visit our website to choose your desired rental Properties

**www.DeltaHOME.ir**  
The Most Specialized Website for Foreigners

**HOME**  
Real Estate  
Member of DELTA Real Estate Group  
(021) 88888865

**REAL ESTATE PORSALEH**

**villa in reclusive area (Velenjak)**  
2500 sq.m with the beautiful old trees and lush courtyard, swimming pool, gym and tennis court

Mede Shah 09372748090 - 021-22051919 - Mede78@yahoo.com

**Fereshteh Bagh [Garden] Tower**  
350 sq.m, 4 bedrooms, super luxury, 10 sq.m balcony, fully furnished, chic and very beautiful Babak (0912-6507011)

**IraniaHOME Real Estate**  
SH.LAVASANI

"25 years of experience"

Registered & Authorized Office  
Mobile: 09123103526  
Tel: 88888007  
Fax: 88675936  
E-mail: Info@Iraniahome.com

مالکین محترم: ویلا و آپارتمان میله شما را جهت اجاره به دیپلماتها نیازمندیم

1) Fantastic Apartments  
3&4 Rooms in Farmanieh - & Elahieh  
Exceptional Price, F. Furnished

2) Extraordinary  
Offices 350 & 250 sq.m  
Vali-e Asr, Africa, with all facilities

3) Villa in Elahieh  
Right Price Suitable for Companies & Consulate and Embassies  
Sh.lavasani 09123103526

**CHINESE RESTAURANT GOLDEN DRAGON**  
SINCE 1968  
(+9821) 22230292 - 22219036  
Add: Shariati Ave., Pol-e-Roomi, Top of Qeytarieh, Tehran

**TEHRAN INTERNATIONAL DAILY TIMES**  
times1979@gmail.com

Explore a Brand New World in Iran for Goods & Services

**maharaja Indian Restaurant**

**FIRST INDIAN RESTAURANT IN IRAN**

PRIVATE PARKING LOT

Jahan Hotel (Exelsior) - Rahimzade Alley - Taleqani  
Crossroads - Valiasr St. Tell: 66476855

<p><b>1_ Villa in Jordan</b> 900 sqm in 2 units, Each unit is 450 sqm, full facilities Total 8 bedrooms, nice garden 14000 \$, Mr. Abtin: 0921 334 2120</p>	<p><b>5_ Open house in Niavaran</b> 320 sqm, 4 bedrooms, full facilities, Viewing time, week days from 15:00 to 18:00, Fridays from 10:00 to 15:00 Mr. Saba: 0912 915 9297</p>
<p><b>2_ Office from 50 to 2000 sqm,</b> In Jordan, Vanak, Mirdamad, Arjhantin, Vozara, Zafarani, Mr. Abtin: 0921 334 2120</p>	<p><b>6_ Building</b> For residential or office use, 4 story, Each floor 330 sqm, Furnished or unfinished Mr. Saba: 0912 915 9297</p>
<p><b>3_ Luxury 420 sqm in Velenjak</b> 4 bedrooms, full facilities, Especially for picky people, Best eternal view, brand materials, 18000 \$ Mr. Khajevand: 0935 100 4140</p>	<p><b>7_ Sa'aadat Abaad 500 sqm,</b> 5 bedrooms, 8<sup>th</sup> floor, fully furnished Mr. Arzaani: 0933 60 77 415</p>
<p><b>4_ 500sqm in Mahmoodieh</b> 4 bedrooms, 200 sqm garden Full facilities, best floor, eternal view, 15000 \$ Mr. Khajevand: 0935 100 4140</p>	<p><b>8_ Shahrak-e-gharb</b> 300 sqm, 3 bedrooms Mr. Arzaani: 0933 60 77 415</p>

**SHAR GROUP**  
shar\_group  
@shargroup

**SHAR FOREIGN DEPARTMENT**

**JORDAN**

180SQ/M, 3 BEDROOMS WITH 2 BATHS, FIRST FLOOR, SPACIOUS AND LUXURY FURNISHED IN A QUIET DEAD END ALLEY.  
ENGLISH SPEAKING  
09121116045 8871 6829

**CHINESE RESTAURANT GOLDEN DRAGON**  
Since 1969

Address: No.52, Darya-Noorani Blv. Crossroad, Farahzadi Blv, Shahrak-e-Gharb  
Tel: 88562040 - 88562050

## 10 hot titles of IT world

By Alireza Khorasani

Here are high rated IT titles in the world that reviewed by savvy tech users:

- 1** PayPal announced that his payments and notifications coming to Facebook Messenger soon. PayPal having partnership with MasterCard, Visa, Vodafone and Alibaba to boost his users up to one billion.
- 2** Samsung Galaxy Tab A 10.1? tablet is selling for \$350 on October 28 in US. The Korean giant company revealed it will now bundle its S Pen stylus with the device. The new version appears to be pretty much identical, except it packs 3GB of RAM, as opposed to 2GB, and, at 1.22 pounds, is a fraction heavier.
- 3** Netflix plan to raise \$800 million via a senior note debt offering, as the video-streaming giant looks to fund new content, along with other "strategic transactions."
- 4** Microsoft will hike U. K cloud services pricing up to 22% from January 1, 2017. So, British businesses pay more for Microsoft Office following pound slump. These changes are similar to the recent harmonization adjustments to pricing in Norwegian krone and Swiss franc.
- 5** Apple sales likely to fall again. Apple Sold 70% Fewer Apple Watches This Summer Compared to Last. Anyway, Apple Q4 earnings expected to reveal a first annual revenue decline since 2001.
- 6** Samsung's share of India's premium smartphone market may come down drastically from 58% to 35% in the fourth quarter of 2016.
- 7** The google photo app got useful change: Albums are also included in search results. It's likely a server side switch - force quit and then restart the app to enable the feature.
- 8** Apple released iOS 10.1 with Portrait mode to the iPhone 7 Plus.
- 9** Global phone sales increased 6.6% from 2015 thanks to strong growth in China and incremental improvements elsewhere, which they estimate will add up to 1.4 billion units sold in 2016.
- 10** Google is buying Eyefluence Company that track where you're looking. The acquisition signals Google's continued interest in virtual reality and immersive technologies.

## Why Google Pixel phone is not totally waterproof?

Amongst all the chatter about the Google Pixel phones, one popular topic of discussion was Google's decision not to make the Pixel phones totally waterproof. While they do carry an immersion rating of IP-53, the certification doesn't guarantee any kind of full submersion.

Rather, the IP-53 rating only covers sprays and splashes that come in contact with the phone up to 60 degrees from the top. Meaning you'll be fine if you're caught in a rain storm while actively talking on the phone.

So why are other phones like the Samsung Galaxy S7 and the iPhone 7 fully submergible while the premium-priced Google Pixels aren't? According to WIRED's David Pierce while participating in the Gadget Lab Podcast. Pierce discussed his interaction with the folks that made the phone over at Google. He asked why the phone wasn't made waterproof to which Google basically replied that it "ran out of time".

Google had been planning to make these phones waterproof for a long time, but when 2016 rolled around, they had to start all over again which calculates to about 9 months between starting over and launching the Google Pixels, which is quite a time crunch indeed, even for a huge company like Google which still needed to collaborate with HTC.

Even if the Pixel phones were somewhat rushed, the overall positive reception is still a good sign for Google. That paired with a void left where the Samsung Galaxy Note7 once stood might be reason for many to even consider Google's "G-Phone" among the other alternatives for Note7 buyers. (source: Pocketnow)

## Special offer for Note 7 users to get Galaxy S8 or Note 8

Samsung Electronics is offering an upgrade program option to Galaxy Note 7 customers in South Korea who trade in their recalled device for a Galaxy S7 phone, marking its latest attempt to retain customers.

Users in the upgrade program will need to pay only half the price of a Galaxy S7 device, rather than the full amount, before exchanging to the S8 or the Note 8, Samsung said.

In offering the Note 8 upgrade option, Samsung indirectly reinforced previous statements that the Note series will not be discontinued. The company said the availability of such a program in other markets will be dependent on the situation in each country. It did not elaborate. (Source: reuters)

## Apple releases watchOS 3.1

Apple released WatchOS 3.1 for owners of its smart wearable, the Apple Watch. Rather than adding major new features, the update is about bug fixes and minor changes. Apple has added a new option to replay bubble and full-screen effects in iMessage, and messages effects can now play with Reduce Motion enabled.

An issue that could cause the notification for Timer complete has been fixed as well, along with a problem that could prevent the Apple Watch Series 2 from charging fully. A bug that would make Activity rings disappear from the watch face, along with an issue that prevented Force Touch options from showing up in third-party apps have been fixed as well. (source: Watchaware)

# What mobile carriers do next: Become banks

By Rimma Perelmuter

If banking is something you do on an app, why shouldn't your mobile carrier actually be your bank? It's more than just an idea. Orange, Telenor, and O2 are all building their own operations.

In the UK alone, people use mobile banking apps more than 7,610 times a minute, or 4 billion times a year.

According to the "Way We Bank Now" report by the British Banking Association, they downloaded more than 13.8 million banking apps in 2015, up 25 percent from 2014.

All over the world people are switching away from branch-based banking, and even desktop Internet banking, to manage their financial lives through an app.

Why wouldn't they? There's no need to go anywhere. The user interface is typically better than it is on a PC. And the addition of biometrics (typically fingerprint) makes signing in so much easier and safer than passwords.

Of course, banking apps are made by banks. The carriers just provide the data packages that allow people to use them.

But in the last year, a small number of European carriers have come to a radical conclusion: Let's do more than just enable mobile banking apps; let's build our own.

Orange has made headlines recently for just this reason. Earlier this year, it moved to acquire Groupama Banque, enabling it to leverage its banking license and benefit from its existing client network, thereby creating its own banking operation. Now, authorities in France and Europe have approved the deal.

Groupama Banque is currently owned by insurance firm Groupama. When the deal is completed, Orange will own 65 percent of it. Thus, the telco will be able to launch Orange Bank in France in January 2017, with Spain and Belgium to follow.

Actually, Orange already has some experience in the area. In October 2014, it launched Orange Finance as a joint venture between mBank and Orange Polska.



**In its Essentials 2020 review, Orange set a target of making €400 million (\$435 million) from financial services by 2018. This compares to overall group revenues at Orange of €10.3 billion (\$11.2 billion) in the third quarter of 2015 alone.**

It's not alone. O2 Germany launched a bank with Fidor in July, while Telenor is two years into its Banka Serbia launch.

Other operators are experimenting. Telefonica Spain announced a joint venture with CaixaBank and Santander, while in the US, T-Mobile launched a Visa card with banking features linked to a smartphone app (though it is now being wound down).

Needless to say, financial services are nothing new for mobile operators. In developing markets, they have launched text-based money systems that have transformed the lives of millions. Vodafone's M-Pesa has 25 million customers and 261,000 agents in 11 countries.

Meanwhile Orange has its own Orange Money service, which launched in Ivory Coast in 2008 and has 18 million customers in 14 countries across Africa.

In mature markets, the emphasis has been on NFC payments. The typical

model was a contactless wallet app, with account credentials stored in the secure element of a SIM card. There were numerous launches — Softcard (US), Valyou (Norway), Buyster (France), SixPack (Denmark), and so on. Most have closed.

So why would operators switch focus to banking? The simple reason is that they believe they can build new and intuitive products. Why? Because they are mobile-first.

The theory goes that banks have a tendency to approach new mobile services by layering them on top of legacy IT systems. By contrast, operators should have the know-how to build much better mobile experiences that are consumer centric.

So O2 Banking customers can, for example, sign up via a video chat session with an agent. They can have a current account with a free MasterCard inside five minutes. They can also earn rewards of mobile data rather than pennies of interest.

Telenor Banka in Serbia launched in

September 2014. It carefully targeted "premium" tech-savvy customers and cultivated them as brand ambassadors and to quickly spread the word on social media. By summer 2016, the bank had 180,000 customers (the biggest traditional bank in the country has 500,000 mobile users).

The Telenor Banka app was built around specific "pain points" such as currency transfer. In Serbia, people like to transfer their dinars for euros. Typically, they queue to do so with an agent, then queue again at the bank to deposit the cash back into their accounts. Telenor Banka lets them do the same in two clicks inside the app.

Users can also activate and deactivate their cards from inside the app. This helps people combat online fraud as they can "turn off" their cards apart from when they are actually making a payment.

All these launches are indicative of a dynamic moment in banking. Technology is making it easier for digital-only challenger banks (including mobile operators) to launch rival products. Regulation is helping too. The EU Payment Services Directive 2, coming into force in 2018, mandates that banks must open up APIs so that third parties (with user permission) can have access to account information.

In its Essentials 2020 review, Orange set a target of making €400 million (\$435 million) from financial services by 2018. This compares to overall group revenues at Orange of €10.3 billion (\$11.2 billion) in the third quarter of 2015 alone.

This is ushering in the idea of "banking as a marketplace," which operators are keen to leverage. Here, banking apps offer account services but also act as a mini mall in which users can "shop" for foreign exchange, insurance, loans, and so on from specialists.

For telcos, it's an opportunity to experiment with new customer centric business models while delivering CRM and achieving churn reduction. For banks and other key players in financial services, it's a call to action to leverage their own assets in a way that creates value for the discerning mobile consumer. (source: venturebeat)

## Microsoft CEO says mixed reality is the 'ultimate computer'

Microsoft is set to unveil several new products at its fall event on Wednesday, but that hasn't stopped CEO Satya Nadella from dropping by Laguna Beach, California this Monday. At a WSJD Live interview with Wall Street Journal editor-in-chief Gerard Baker, Nadella delved into topics that concerns the company's future. Specifically? Augmented reality.

"The ultimate computer for me is the mixed reality world," he said. "Your field of view becomes an infinite display. You see the world and in the world you see virtual objects and holograms." He is of course referring to HoloLens, which is Microsoft's take on augmented reality hardware. A few months ago, the company announced that it's opening up Windows Holographic so that third-party makers could get in on it too, potentially creating VR headsets in addition to AR ones.

But Nadella was still pretty excited about the use cases of AR, saying that Case Western Reserve University is already using AR in an anatomy class. He also envisions the technology could be useful in home improvement, offering a solution for those endless trips to the store and back. "Imagine if you could see what your home improvement project would look like and then press order," he said.

Nadella compares the company's current effort at augmented reality with their attempt at the Surface a few years ago. "Think of what we did," he said. "Back



then, people asked 'What is a 2-in-1?' Now, it's a growing category."

"Whether it be HoloLens, mixed reality, or Surface, our goal is to invent new computers and new computing," he added. This also includes investing in artificial intelligence,

**"The ultimate computer for me is the mixed reality world," he said. "Your field of view becomes an infinite display. You see the world and in the world you see virtual objects and holograms."**

## Google Cast app rebranded as Google Home



Earlier this month, it became apparent that the Google Cast app would be rebranded as Google Home. With the new Google Home hardware set to face off with the likes of the Amazon Echo and Soundhound's notably similar bit of kit, the naming scheme keeps things nice and uniform. Now, the change is coming into effect via an update, which also readies the app for the new Google Home and Chromecast Ultra hardware. (source:Phandroid)

If you don't intend to purchase either the Google Home or Chromecast Ultra, there's not much of great substance to this update. The app icon is now different, in-keeping with the rebrand, and the UX will feel slightly refreshed thanks to a couple of tweaks. Notably, the search bar has been dropped in place of a floating action button in the bottom right corner.

## Twitter may cut 300 more jobs



According to a new report from Bloomberg, Twitter may soon announce a new round of job cuts. Specifically, the report notes that around 300 employees, or around 8% of the company's total workforce, could be laid off.

An announcement in this regard may come as soon as this week, likely before Twitter releases its Q3 earnings report on

Thursday, the report says, while adding that nothing is yet confirmed.

If you recall, the micro-blogging company had cut over 300 jobs last year as well. Recently, there have also been reports that Twitter is looking to get acquired, but nothing seems to have materialized so far. (Source: bloomberg)

# El Niño drives concentration of CO2 in atmosphere to new high: UN weather agency

Globally averaged concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere surged again to new records in 2016, and, based on readings of the longest-established greenhouse gas monitoring station at Mauna Loa, Hawaii, the United Nations weather agency predicts that carbon dioxide concentrations will not dip below pre-2015 levels for many generations.

The "year 2015 ushered in a new era of optimism and climate action with the Paris climate change agreement. But it will also make history as marking a new era of climate change reality with record high greenhouse gas concentrations," said World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Secretary-General Petteri Taalas.

Mr. Taalas says that "without tackling carbon dioxide emissions, we cannot tackle climate change and keep temperature increases to below 2 degrees Celsius above the pre-industrial era. "It is therefore of the utmost importance that the Paris Agreement does indeed enter into force well ahead of schedule on 4 November and that we fast-track its implementation," he added.

## Two-degree threshold

The weather agency had warned earlier this year that the Earth is already one degree Celsius hotter than at the start of the 20th century, halfway to the critical two-degree threshold, and national climate change plans adopted so far may not be enough to avoid a three-degree



temperature rise.

CO2 levels had previously reached the 400 parts per million barrier for certain months of the year and in certain locations but never before on a global average

basis for the entire year.

The growth spurt in carbon dioxide was fuelled by the El Niño event, which started in 2015 and had a strong impact well into 2016. This triggered droughts

**CO2 levels had previously reached the 400 parts per million barrier for certain months of the year and in certain locations but never before on a global average basis for the entire year.**

in tropical regions and reduced the capacity of "sinks" like forests, vegetation and the oceans to absorb CO2. These sinks currently absorb about half of CO2 emissions but there is a risk that they may become saturated, which would increase the fraction of emitted carbon dioxide which stays in the atmosphere, according to the Greenhouse Gas Bulletin.

## Greenhouse gases

Between 1990 and 2015 there was a 37 percent increase in radiative forcing – the warming effect on our climate – because of long-lived greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide (N2O) from industrial, agricultural and domestic activities.

The "400 parts per million threshold is of great symbolic importance," said the previous WMO Secretary-General Michel Jarraud in 2014. "It should serve as yet another wakeup call about the constantly rising levels of greenhouse gases which are driving climate change and acidifying our oceans," he said.

For thousands of years carbon dioxide remains in the atmosphere, trapping heat and causing the earth to warm further. The lifespan of carbon dioxide in the oceans is even longer. It is also the single most important greenhouse gas emitted by human activities. According to the WMO it is responsible for 85 percent of the warming effect on our climate over the past decade

(Source: UN News Center)

## Elon Musk is about to test the 'trickiest' part of his Mars spaceship

Less than a month ago, Elon Musk shared his audacious plan to launch a million people to Mars and beyond, all in hopes of backing up humanity for if and when some future apocalyptic calamity dooms Earth.

Musk's 63-minute presentation showed off intricate computer renderings of rockets and spaceships, all parts of his so-called Interplanetary Transport System.

Because he had to skip over a lot of technical details, however, Musk logged on to Reddit on Sunday afternoon to let his most discerning fans squeeze information from him in an "Ask Me Anything" session.

During that Q&A session, Musk shared news of a very important test that SpaceX has planned "in the coming weeks": filling up an enormous carbon-fiber fuel tank, shown below, that will be essential to making the ITS spaceship work.

The tank, which happens to be the spaceship's core structure, has to withstand incredible pressures and stresses at blisteringly cold temperatures — otherwise it might leak or even explode. Musk shared images of the

massive structure toward the end of his September 27 talk at the International Astronomical Congress.

## Carbon-fiber tank

When user nalyd8991 asked Musk for more information about it on Sunday in the r/SpaceX subreddit, Musk said the gargantuan carbon-fiber tank "was really the big news" of his IAC talk — or at least "for those that know their stuff."

In short, the entire spaceship will be built around such a tank — so getting it right is crucial. Here's where designs place it in the spaceship: Carbon-fiber fuel tanks for spacecraft aren't a new concept, as Boeing and NASA began work on a huge one in 2014, but we've never seen one this enormous at roughly 40 feet wide.

Engineers most likely chose to make the tank out of carbon fiber because that material is lighter, shrinks less, and is stronger than the metal alloys that many cryogenic fuel tanks are made out of. So it will presumably make for safer transport to Mars while using less fuel (though at a considerably higher cost



"The flight tank will actually be slightly longer than the development tank shown, but the same diameter," Musk said.

He also said it was "built with latest and greatest carbon fiber prepreg, or carbon fiber that's pre-impregnated with a resin to make it tougher. "In theory, it should hold cryogenic propellant without leaking and without a sealing linker," he said. "Early tests are promising."

(Source: Business Insider)

## This plant grows shimmering blue leaves to help it survive in the dark

Imagine a place where the oceans were full of purple algae and plants on the forest floor glowed a gorgeous, iridescent blue.

It may be an article of faith that plant life on our planet must be verdant: Plants make energy with chloroplasts, chloroplasts are full of chlorophyll, and chlorophyll is green. But that hasn't always been the case. Studies have suggested that the earliest photosynthetic organisms were plum-colored, because they relied on photosynthetic chemicals that absorbed different wavelengths of light.

And a new paper in the journal Nature

Plants describes how a shimmering blue plant can still exist: Begonia pavonina, or the "peacock begonia," dwells in the dim rain forests of Southeast Asia and has adapted to the low levels of sunlight there by developing leaves that are an iridescent azure.

The unusual coloring comes from photosynthetic structures called iridoplasts, explained co-author Heather Whitney, an expert in plant surface interactions at the University of Bristol in England. Like chloroplasts, these structures provide the cellular machinery for photosynthesis. They collect light and

use it to synthesize molecules that store energy. And for that light gathering, they also rely on chlorophyll — a pigment that absorbs red and blue light and reflects green (giving plants their typical appearance).

But when Whitney and her colleagues examined B. pavonina cells under a microscope, they noticed that the iridoplasts had a very strange shape. They were layered on top of one another, membrane upon membrane separated by a thin film of liquid, almost like a stack of pancakes held together with maple syrup.

The "light that is passing through gets slightly bent — it's called interference," Whitney said. "So you have this sort of iridescent shimmer."

## Long wavelengths

This layering of iridoplasts causes the light that hits them to bend over and over again, creating a very dramatic sheen. More important, it enables the structure to absorb the types of light available in the dark landscape beneath the forest canopy — long wavelengths like red and green. Only blue light gets reflected back, and that's what human admirers see.

(Source: The Washington Post)

## IMIDRO's Measures to Develop Mines and Mining Industries

Chairman of Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO)

IMIDRO, as a dynamic organization, has successfully overcome the challenges of management crisis and dealt with a decline in the global demand in recent years.

Currently, the organization has a great opportunity to look at its measures undertaken in the past and the conditions ahead. Fortunately, the organization has adopted a development approach since the second half of 1392 (2013-2014). Therefore, owing to the participation of the private sector, the halted projects became operational and new plans are outlined for the future of mines and mining industries.

Although the organization has faced some financial problems, it managed to carry out more than 30 suspended projects in all areas including steel, iron ore, coal, gold, aluminum, copper, etc.

It turns out that IMIDRO is determined to lead mines and mining industry sector toward development.

In a meanwhile, development and implementation of a 250000 Km2 exploration plan was fraught with difficulty but the organization provided an answer to the problems and the project contributed to the supply of

raw materials for mining development projects. During this project, in addition to significant increase in mineral reserves of the country—which is mentioned in this report—valuable rare earth elements were explored. Therefore, we witnessed the production of the first ingot of these elements in Iranian Mineral Processing Research Center (IMPRC), in 1394 (2015-2016).

IMIDRO is also committed to break the ground for the development of mining industries, particularly in the southern coasts of the country. As these areas are located in the vicinity of high seas and gas energy, they enjoy the great advantage of importing raw materials and exporting manufactured goods.

Meanwhile, attracting foreign investment in these areas makes financing and implementing infrastructure projects possible. It is worth mentioning that the companies that were not previously interested in cooperation with Iran are enthusiastic to carry out joint ventures with Iranian parties since the beginning of the 11th government.

Signing 30 international Memorandums of Understanding in the past three years is a primary benefit of developing relations with the surrounding world.

Undoubtedly, the local private companies are the main drives of IMIDRO in this path, contributing to the development of mines and mining industries as well as transferring technical knowledge to the country.

Indeed, the President's visit to Italy and France was a starting point for cooperation in steel and aluminum industries and even insurance affairs. IMIDRO and Danielli of Italy are to start cooperation as a joint company (Persian Metallics) to boost Iran's steel industry.

Since last year, IMIDRO has taken some major steps in the area of research and education and started an extensive program to speed up modern mining methods all over the country. The program is aimed to improve the knowledge of domestic companies relying on the local and overseas experts.

The efforts made by the organization was acknowledged by the Minister of Industry, Mine and Trade and Mr. Nematzadeh honored the organization by presenting it as the "Top Explorer of 2015" and "Top Organization" of the ministry in the National Day of Mine and Industry.

I'm of the opinion that these rewards reflect the measures undertaken by IMIDRO in 3 years of "Prudence and Hope" government.

## RIC Offers Free Insurance Services to Holy Places' Pilgrims

In an unprecedented move, Razi Insurance Company offers free-of-charge insurance services to the insured of the company during Arbäeen (40th day after Imam Hussein (AS) and his true companions martyred in Karbala) who head to Kabala, Najaf, Kazemayn and Samara, regarded as mostly sacred places.

Given the above issue, the insurance company also offers free healthcare and medical treatment services to the insured. Public Relations Department of Razi Insurance Company announced the above statements.

For this purpose, RIC has concluded a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

with Red Crescent Society of the Islamic Republic of Iran, based on which, the company will offer quality free medical services to respected pilgrims from Oct. 31 to Dec. 30 in special insurance package.

Pilgrims' insurance schemes of the company are offered according to the travel period and required insurance

packages, so that the insured will be presented with insurance policy and certificate.

The interested pilgrims willing to travel to the aforementioned holy places can refer to the representative and branch offices of the company across the country for purchasing insurance policy.

## One of the most popular fruit crops in the world could be decimated by disease

The banana is the world's most popular fruit crop, with over 100 million metric tons produced annually in over 130 tropical and subtropical countries.

Edible bananas are the result of a genetic accident in nature that created the seedless fruit we enjoy today.

Virtually all the bananas sold across the Western world belong to the so-called Cavendish subgroup of the species and are genetically nearly identical.

These bananas are sterile and dependent on propagation via cloning, either by using suckers and cuttings taken from the underground stem or through modern tissue culture.

The familiar bright yellow Cavendish banana is ubiquitous in supermarkets and fruit bowls, but it is in imminent danger. The vast worldwide monoculture of genetically identical plants leaves the Cavendish intensely vulnerable to disease outbreaks.

Fungal diseases severely devastated the banana industry once in history and it could soon happen again if we do not resolve the cause of these problems. Plant scientists, including us, are working out the genetics of wild banana varieties and banana pathogens as we try to prevent a Cavendish crash.

One of the most prominent examples of genetic vulnerability comes from the banana itself. Up until the 1960s, Gros Michel, or "Big Mike," was the prime variety grown in commercial plantations. Big Mike was so popular with consumers in the West that the banana industry established ever larger monocultures of this variety.

(Source: Business Insider)

## Microbial communities thrive in deep-down fracking wells

Microbes have a remarkable ability to adapt to the extreme conditions in fracking wells, according to a study published in the October issue of Nature Microbiology.

Scientists led by researchers at Ohio State University found that microbes actually consume some of the chemical ingredients commonly used in the fracking process, creating new compounds which in turn support microbial communities below ground. The process allows the microbes to survive in very harsh environments that include very high temperatures, pressures, and salinity.

The work, based on samples from hydraulically fractured wells in Pennsylvania and Ohio, helps scientists understand the complex interactions among microbes -- important for understanding the planet's environment and subsurface. The findings also help scientists understand what is happening in fracking wells and could offer insight into processes such as corrosion.

David Hoyt, a scientist within the Environmental Molecular Sciences Laboratory (EMSL) at the Department of Energy's Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, was part of the team that ferreted out the geochemical indicators of microbial activity.

The team studied microbes in fracking fluid from more than a mile and a half below the ground surface. Researchers measured the metabolic byproducts excreted by the microbes, which can tell scientists what compounds the microbes are producing, where they are drawing energy from, and what they need to stay alive.

The sampling of a microbial community's byproducts or metabolites gives insight into the community the same way a blood test yields information about a person's health, eating habits, and lifestyle.

(Source: EurekAlert)

## Oxygen shift may be key to resetting biological clock

A small shift in the oxygen levels in the air could act as a "reset" button for the biological clock, according to a new study in mice.

Mice in the study that were exposed to a brief dip in the levels of oxygen in the air that they were breathing adjusted more quickly to a new circadian rhythm than mice that received steady levels of oxygen, the researchers found.

In other words, the dip in oxygen levels seemed to help the animals adjust to the mouse equivalent of jet lag, according to the study, which was published on Oct. 20 in the journal Cell Metabolism.

The thought of changing oxygen levels may sound scary, however, the oxygen levels to which the mice were exposed in the study were not so low that they were harmful. The levels used in the experiment were similar to the oxygen levels common on airplanes, the researchers, led by Gad Asher, a senior scientist said.

The research was aimed at developing a better understanding of a body's circadian rhythm, or biological clock. The clock is found in the brain of all mammals, and it somehow communicates with nearly every cell throughout the body, but scientists have not known how this communication happens.

In mice, oxygen levels in the cells fluctuate throughout the day, according to the study. The researchers proposed that oxygen might be the missing signal.

(Source: Live Science)

# PGPIC, Most Profitable Holding Co. with Global Reputation and Petrochemical Industry Leader in Country



The Annual Ordinary General Assembly of Persian Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company, for the fiscal year closing on June 20, 2016, was held at the venue of Research Institute of Petroleum Industry (RIPI) in the presence of more than 97 percent of shareholders of the company. While submitting his report to the Board of Directors of the company, Chief Executive of Persian Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company (PGPIC) Eng. Adelnejad Salim responded to the questions raised by shareholders.

In the beginning, the senior official of the company said that his holding will get the lion's share of petrochemicals in the country in very near future.

Projects at hand do not have any financial problem, he said, adding: "Negotiations are underway in order to finance 800 billion rials for the construction of petrochemical projects through stock market."

When Bandar Imam Petrochemical Complex was set up, it was in dire need of 120,000 barrels of feedstock, he maintained.

Upon transferring NGL 3200 Project to Persian Gulf Petrochemical Holding Company, problem in the field of provision of feedstock has been settled in a way that the company will witness a rosy and bright future ahead, he maintained.

He emphasized: "Persian Gulf Bidboland Gas Refinery is of the main priorities of the company. With the studies made in this regard, the first phase of this giant project will become operation by 2018."

According to statistics, capital of Bidboland Gas Refinery increased from 10 to 8,000 billion rials.

Stocks of Bouali Sina and Borzouyeh petrochemical companies are ready to be offered at Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), he said, adding: "As soon as the disputes of the two companies with the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) are settled, stocks of the duo will be offered."

Turning to the construction of petrochemical projects in Boroujen, Kazeroun and Mamasani, he said: "These projects are in dire need of pipe-laying operations by the government in a way that Boroujen Petrochemical Complex needs pipeline as long as 330 km at large."

## Managing Director's Remarks

As you know, simultaneousness of some events in previous year such as fluctuations of oil price, demand-based developments and changes of exchange rate, etc. created many complexities and problems at the market of oil and petrochemical products. Relatively inappropriate economic conditions in world and considerable drop in oil price index as much as 74 percent (74%) on the one hand and reduced 28 percent of petrochemicals' price on the other hand created a tougher competition among main players at petrochemical market. Generally speaking, the said issues affected petrochemical companies in world tremendously in a way that average income rate of top 10 petrochemical companies in world reduced as much as 22 percent (22%), showing a significant decline. However, income rate of some prestigious petrochemical companies reduced up to 50% while income rate of Persian Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company (PGPIC) reduced only 18 percent as compared to a year earlier due to the wise and scientific management as well as adoption of suitable strategies.

With its full awareness on the role of planning in development of organizations, Persian Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company embarked on compiling the Fifth Five-Year strategic plan in 1393 (March 20, 2014 - March 19, 2015). The company corrected and revised the previously adopted programs in the last Iranian year in 1394 (ended March 19, 2016), the most important of which is as follows: correction of general strategy of the company from "Sustainable Profitability and Development" to "Sustainable Value-Creation and Development".

In the same direction, highlights of activities in each of strategic aspects are presented in this report. With the wise and logical planning made, the production volume of petrochemicals at this company hit approx. 18.7 million tons in the last Iranian calendar year (ended March 19, 2016), showing a significant six percent growth as compared to a year earlier. Given the above issue, the company accounted for approx. 40 percent production share of petrochemicals in the country. With the incessant follows up made in this regard, the company's export of petrochemicals shown a considerable 49 percent growth in the same period. In general, the company managed to export eight million tons of petrochemicals in the last year (ended March 19, 2016).

Of the other salient achievements of the company, it should be referred to the improvement of operational conditions, improvement of energy consumption indicators, promotion of HSE culture, etc.

With injecting more than 10,000 billion rials liquidity to national and giant Persian Gulf Bidboland Gas Refinery project, it is considered as the most strategic and important projects of the company. Presently, construction operation of this project is underway with more than 36% physical progress. Moreover providing feedstock for downstream industries, this project will play an important role in profitability of the company and will yield at least \$700 million profit for the company annually.

Obtaining ownership of giant project (NGL-3200), com-

pleting the processing of transferring it to the private sector as the first NGL unit, buying the 20% shares of KAVIAN Petrochemical Company in line with implementing the strategy of diversification and optimization of investment portfolio, etc. are considered as the other important measures taken by the company in the field of investment and development projects. Like Bidboland Gas Refinery project, NGL-3200 project plays an important and basic role in providing feedstock for downstream industries. Once it is put into operation, more than \$350 million profit will be yielded for the company.

Thanks to its best performance, Persian Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company was introduced as an exemplary petrochemical unit for third consecutive year in terms of indicators of sales, exports and profitability. The company ranked first and top petrochemical unit in the country. According to ranking of ICIS Intl. Institute, the company, moreover maintaining its second rank in the Middle East, climbed 10 places up and was introduced as top 100 petrochemical companies in world.

In addition to promoting its global status and winning first rank in the country, Persian Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company is leader in economic development and international talks. As the first Iranian company and relying upon corporate guarantee letter, the company managed to earmark the first foreign financing scheme, worth €320 million, from Japan. Also, the company managed to receive €200 million finance from Italy and also other €640 million from Japan as well. Also, conclusion of several Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with prestigious international companies in the field of oil, gas and petrochemical industries are of other salient economic achievements of the company. It is predicted that contracts as a result of the aforementioned talks will be finalized in early 2017, details of which will be informed to the shareholders.

Of the other subsidiary companies set up by PGPIC, it should be referred to TEJARAT SANAT Company which was established on Dec. 21, 2015 in order to create capability of managing income obtained as a result of selling products and also integration of sales and marketing operations, etc.

Given the measures taken at the company and prospect of petrochemicals at capital market, it is predicted that the company's status will be improved in terms of profitability. It is hoped that the company will take giant stride in current year for materializing most of its economic objectives in national and international arenas.

## Persian Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company at a Glance

Persian Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company is the largest petrochemical holding which is equipped with financial and technical infrastructures and also the most experienced and skilled manpower. With the production capacity of approx. 24.5 tons of diversified petrochemicals including feedstock, fuel, aromatic, polymerized and base products, PGPIC is considered as the largest producer of petrochemicals in the country. The company accounts for more than 42 percent share of petrochemicals in the country. That is to say that over 42% of petrochemicals is produced in this company. Moreover, the ownership of two main suppliers of utilities based in Mahshahr and Assaluyeh named "FAJR" and "MOBIN" petrochemical companies belongs to this company. Totally, the duo companies generate 2400/megawatt electricity with the steam production capacity as much as 4,400 tons/hour. In addition to the ownership of production companies, PGPIC possesses ownership of two industrial operations Service Company named "Mahshahr" and "Pazargad".

As an engineering and managing arm for development of projects, Persian Gulf Petrochemical Development Management Company presents specialized services related to engineering and managing project to PGPIC. With having long years of experience in the field of providing currency financial resources, National Petrochemical Company (NPC) assists PGPIC in materializing most of its economic objectives.

As exclusive supplier of petrochemicals, TEJARAT SANAT Company started its work in 2015 in the following areas: receiving funds obtained as a result of selling petrochemicals timely, optimal control of cash flow of the company, monitoring and supervising products; sales process, obtaining finance according to the products' sales contracts, promoting business activity of the company in insurance and transport industries, facilitating international relations, paving suitable way for customers to establish direct contact with senior managers of company, etc.



Moreover having more than 88% aromatics production capacity and 70% of PVC products, Persian Gulf Petrochemical Holding Company is the exclusive producer of engineering polymers (PC), polyethylene terephthalate (PET), and Emulsion PVC (EPVC) and epoxy resins in the country.

## Future Production Capacity of PGPIC

In order to diversify products and feed, the company has embarked on developing production capacity within the framework of different petrochemical projects as joint venture both directly and indirectly. The most important directly-invested projects of the company include as follows: Bidboland Refinery, NGL-3200 unit, Hengam, Hormoz and Apadana petrochemical companies.

## PGPIC Status in ICIS Ranking

Every year, ICIS Institute ranks world's petrochemical and chemical companies according to their financial performance. The most important indicators are as follows: sales volume, operational profit, net profit, assets and costs spent for research and development (R&D), capital and manpower costs. Among Iranian companies, PGPIC, Parsian Gas Company and Ta'min Oil and Gas Investment Company were participated in this ranking, in which, PGPIC stood at 34<sup>th</sup> place. In general, the company is leader and pioneer in the Middle East region.

## PGPIC's Salient Achievements



Most profitable Iranian company with 71,340 billion rials profit (before tax deduction),

Highest market valued company at 260,702 billion rials,

Winning 1<sup>st</sup> exports rank with exporting products, valued at \$3,989 million,

Winning 1<sup>st</sup> rank in group of petrochemical companies,

Winning 1<sup>st</sup> rank with highest Value-Added Tax (VAT): 83,845 billion rials,

## Macro Objectives of Company

Promoting stakeholders' satisfaction and loyalty, Developing investment and domestic and foreign companies,

Boosting portfolio of company qualitatively and quantitatively,

Getting lion's share of market share,

Moving towards a knowledge-based company,

Developing value chain with safeguarding environment,

## PGPIC Competitive Advantage from Capital Market Perspective

Holding approx. 9.3% at capital market's value (stocks),

2<sup>nd</sup> largest company in the Middle East region and 34<sup>th</sup> chemical company in world in 2015 according to ICIS ranking,

Investing in over 104 companies active in petrochemical industries both directly and indirectly,

Participating in constructing and commissioning development projects of petrochemical companies as joint venture,

Manufacturing new petrochemicals in complexes such as toluene, styrene monomer, various types of polymers, etc.

Easy access to the international markets,

Correcting and improving production technologies,

Employing the most experienced and talented manpower for commissioning various petrochemical projects,

Setting up representative offices outside the country,

Taking advantage of world most advanced technology, etc.

## Highlights of Achievements from Growth and Learning Perspective

Planning and organizing training courses, promoting technical knowhow of managers,

Localizing and producing catalyst (AR-701) with the help of knowledge-based companies,

Saving and managing costs with the implementation of

complaints and proposal system,

Setting up HR Strategic Committee in order to offer scientific and practical consultation services,

Forcing staff and personnel to observe working standards and criteria, etc.

## Highlights of Achievements from Processes' Perspective

Registering new production record with manufacturing over 18.7 million tons of high-quality products equivalent to 77.2 percent nominal capacity,

Establishing energy management standard (ISO 50001 certificate),

Winning national standards for products,

Launching flare gas recycling project and producing DMDS as unique research project in sweetening of sour gases,

Setting up Earned Value Management (EVM) system,

Promoting cost and temporal performance in company's projects,

Revising and correcting contracts in various fields of activity and reducing volume of costs, etc.

## Highlights of Achievements from Stakeholders' Perspective

Cancelling license for allocation of governmental currency to importing products manufactured by subsidiary companies

through the Ministry of Industry, Mine and Trade,

Obtaining 34<sup>th</sup> rank among top 100 world's petrochemical companies in 2015 according to ICIS Ranking,

Improving structure and promoting domestic and foreign commercial services,

Practicing dynamicity in marketing and identifying new target market for products,

Setting up Customers Club, focusing on key customers and strengthening exports affairs,

## Highlights of Achievements from Social Responsibilities' Aspects

Holding basic environmental training sessions and distributing environmental booklets,

Promoting technical knowhow and skills (general and specialized), boosting HSE among staff,

Setting up specialized Working Group with special emphasis on strategies of reducing industrial pollutions with the possibility of using "H2" and "CO2" and flare gases,

Cooperating with academic centers with offering special research for students,

Supporting Society to Support Cancer Children,

Fulfilling research projects for alleviating noise pollution, etc.

## Highlights of Achievements from Financial Perspective

Finalizing conclusion of civil partnership contract with Bank Sepah (Operating Bank) represented by banking syndicates including banks of Mellat, Sepah, Industry and Mine, Parsian and Tejarat in order to receive facilities from NDFI, amounting to \$2.2 billion,

Optimal management of funds and reducing financial costs,

Reducing logistics costs through regulating welfare policies and removing non-value added costs, etc.

Redefining methods for attracting required financial resources due to the field realities,

Financing based on pre-sales method of Offtake and providing short-term loans (USANCE) convertible into midterm loans,

Changing approach in attracting foreign investor rather than foreign capital,

Participating in prestigious international exhibitions and conference in order to establish direct relationship with international activists,

Offering stocks of FAJR and MOBIN petrochemical compares through stock market, obtaining 5,948,335 million profit,

Repaying long-term facilities (FINANCE) out of selling currency,

Settling or clearing rials and currency debts,

Transferring stocks of APADANA Petrochemical Company from Intl. Petrochemical Company to PGPIC,

Increasing capital of company and also subsidiary companies, etc.

## PGPIC Vision

Persian Gulf Petrochemical Industries Company (PGPIC) was established in line with enforcement of Article 44 of Iran's Constitution which calls for the privatization of major state-owned industries. This comes in the wake of the first phase of privatization in Iran's petrochemical sector. As the largest holding company in the country, PGPIC has formulated its five-year strategic program since 2014 in line with materializing most objectives of petrochemical industries in the country. A five-year program has been devised by the company, details of which will be revised annually for further growth and development. Due to the significance of social responsibilities and issues related to HSE (Health, Safety and Environment), the desired areas in the Balanced Scorecard (BSC) changed from 4 into 5 areas and area of social responsibility was added to four financial and economic, beneficiaries, internal processes, and learning and growth areas.

# Blast in Turkish tourist hub injures at least 10

A massive explosion has occurred in the southwestern Turkish tourist hub of Antalya, injuring at least 10 people.

The explosion happened in the car park of a chamber of commerce building in the city on Tuesday.

Antalya's Mayor Menderes Turel said, "10 to 12 people were slightly injured by flying glass."

Images that gradually emerged showed smoke billowing from the wreckage of one vehicle in the car park, which lied outside the building, pointing to a potential car bomb attack.

The cause of the blast was yet to be officially identified, however, and Turel said the incident might have been an accident.

The blast left cracks in the facade of the chamber of commerce building itself, damaged nearby vehicles, and smashed windows of other buildings.

Turkey has been rocked by a wave of deadly bomb attacks in the past 18 months blamed either on the Kurdish



militants of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK/Partiya Karkerên Kurdistanê) or the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Daesh) terrorist group, which is active in neighboring Iraq

and Syria.

■ **Striking an artery of the economy**

The site of the Tuesday blast lies a few kilometers from the airport in Antalya.

Last Friday, two rockets fired by

unknown assailants struck Antalya. Hunt is on for suspected attackers, and 25 people have been arrested so far.

The province of Antalya is located next to the popular tourist areas of Marmaris and Bodrum, and just north of Cyprus. Situated on the sun-drenched Mediterranean coast, the Antalya region is one of Turkey's most popular tourist destinations.

Most recently, bomb explosions rocked the southern Turkish city of Gaziantep, killing three police officers and injuring eight others.

Back in August, an attacker tied to ISIL struck a wedding in Gaziantep, killing 57 people, including 34 children.

Ankara is accused of providing logistical support and safe passage for ISIL terrorists since 2014, when they unleashed their campaign of terror against Iraq and Syria. Turkey now seems to have become entangled with the unmanageable side effects of such sponsorship for the militants.

(Source: Hurriyet)

## Nicolas Maduro talks offer divides Venezuela opposition

Major factions of Venezuela's opposition coalition have denied joining government-proposed talks, just hours after the group's head agreed to hold dialogue with President Nicolas Maduro following intervention by the Vatican.

In a surprise move, Jesus Torrealba, the leader of the opposition Democratic Unity coalition (MUD), had agreed to join the dialogue proposed by the socialist Maduro following his meeting with Pope Francis.

But on Tuesday, Henrique Capriles, the two-time presidential candidate, said "no dialogue has begun in Venezuela," adding that he had found out about the talks on television.

"These devils would use the good faith of Pope Francis to buy more time," he said.

Opposition leaders were caught off guard by Torrealba's decision to join the talks on Monday, which are to be mediated by the Vatican, regional bloc the Union of South American Nations, and three former international leaders on the Caribbean island of Margarita.

"Dialogue cannot mean a government strategy to win time," Torrealba said after meeting a Vatican envoy in Caracas. "It's a space to fight for a better country for all."

No official agenda of the talks was announced, but the opposition is bound to bring up complaints about the foiling of its bid to remove Maduro via a referendum and the sidelining of the National Assembly.

For its part, the government will probably reiterate its charge that its opponents are guilty of fraud, violence and coup plans.

Monday's decision had aimed to calm tensions after the opposition accused Maduro of staging a "coup d'état" by blocking its referendum bid.

The opposition members, who hold a majority in the legislature, had pledged to debate on Tuesday whether to mount a "political trial" against Maduro.

It is calling for nationwide protests for Wednesday as Venezuela's third year of recession has paralyzed the economy, with widespread food shortages and rising prices.

Maduro had a private audience with Francis at the Vatican on Monday. He said afterwards that Francis had supported the opening of a "formal dialogue" between government and opposition.

Emil Paul Tscherrig, the Vatican envoy, said separately in Caracas that both sides had launched a "national dialogue".

He said they aimed to formally open talks on October 30 on the Venezuelan island of Margarita.

Warnings have been sounded of an increased risk of violent unrest in Venezuela.

Clashes at anti-government protests in 2014 left 43 people dead.

On Monday a students' group said 27 people were injured in clashes with police at an anti-government protest in the western city of San Cristobal.

Human Rights Watch, the international non-government group, says Venezuela is in a "profound humanitarian crisis".

A report by the rights group published on Monday revealed that infant mortality and maternal mortality has surged in Venezuela due to a lack of medical supplies.

Maduro calls the economic crisis a capitalist conspiracy.

In recession since the beginning of 2014, Venezuela's economy is facing a contraction of 10 percent this year and inflation of 475 percent, rising to 1,660 percent next year, the IMF (International Monetary Fund) forecasts.

Maduro's public support has fallen drastically. A recent poll found more than 75 percent of Venezuelans disapprove of him.

(Source: agencies)

## German police carry out raids on suspected terrorist financiers



German police on Tuesday stormed an accommodation facility for refugees and 12 homes around the country that were believed to house people suspected of financing terrorism.

Police searched residences in the eastern states of Thuringia and Saxony as well as in Bavaria, the western state of North Rhine-Westphalia and in Hamburg, police in Thuringia said in a statement.

The investigation has so far not uncovered any concrete risk of attack, they said.

No one was arrested during the raids, a police spokeswoman from eastern state of Thuringia said. A non-dangerous substance had been found and that was now being investigated.

The police have been investigating a 28-year-old Russian citizen of Chechen origin since the second half of 2015 who was suspected of preparing "a serious act of violent subversion", the statement said.

They believed he intended to fight for the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Daesh) terrorist group in Syria.

During the course of investigations, suspicion arose that that person as well as 10 other men and three women - all Russian citizens of Chechen origin - were financing terrorism.

The suspects were living in Thuringia, Hamburg and Dortmund, are asylum seekers with unclear residency status, and are aged between 21 and 31, police said.

(Source: Reuters)

## Israeli settler runs over Palestinian family in West Bank



An Israeli settler in a car has run over a Palestinian family of three members in the occupied West Bank, leaving them injured.

According to the Palestinian Information Center, the incident took place near the Qalqilya city in the northern part of the occupied West Bank on Tuesday.

The Palestine Red Crescent Society identified the victims as a Palestinian mother and father and their son.

There have been scores of "hit and run" incidents targeting Palestinians in different parts of the occupied West Bank. The incidents have largely gone uninvestigated by Israeli authorities even as some of them have resulted in fatalities.

On September 10, an Israeli settler ran over and killed a six-year-old Palestinian girl on a road leading to an illegal settlement in the southern part of the occupied West Bank.

Over half a million Israelis live in more than 230 illegal settlements built since the 1967 Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories.

All Israeli settlements are illegal under international law but Tel Aviv is defying calls to stop their settlement expansions.

The new incident came as Israeli forces arrested 12 Palestinians in several dawn raids in the West bank and East al-Quds (Jerusalem) on Tuesday.

Israeli forces also arrested Mohannad al-Zaghal, a guard at the Bab al-Silsila gate of the al-Aqsa Mosque.

(Source: Press TV)

## Two Saudi security officers shot dead by gunmen in Dammam



Unidentified gunmen have shot dead two security officers in Saudi Arabia's eastern city of Dammam, state news channel Al Arabiya reports.

The report said the attackers opened fire on the security officers who were returning from work in Dammam in a private car on Tuesday.

The channel's website posted pictures showing police cars with flashing lights crowding the incident scene which is a residential street in Dammam.

The House of Saud regime has seen a spate of deadly shootings and bombings targeting security forces or the country's Shias over the past year.

In September, two other policemen were shot dead in Dammam which is the capital of the Eastern Province, home to many Shia Muslims.

There have been shootings of security forces in the Eastern Province in the past by militants angry at what they say is repression of their minority community in the Wahhabi-ruled state.

The House of Saud regime, however, has often blamed the Takfiri terrorist group of the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Daesh) for the attacks.

The ideology behind ISIL reign of terror is rooted in Saudi Arabia where Wahhabism is freely preached and tolerated by the kingdom's rulers.

Various terrorist groups operating in Syria, Iraq and elsewhere in the world practice Wahhabism, a radical strand of ideology preached by government-sanctioned Saudi clerics.

(Source: Al Jazeera)

## Yemeni protesters denounce UN 'complicity' in Saudi war

Hundreds of demonstrators have staged a mass protest in Yemen's capital Sana'a, denouncing the United Nations' "complicity" in the House of Saud regime's deadly campaign against its impoverished neighbor.

Large crowds of protesters, who gathered outside a Sana'a hotel where UN Special Envoy for Yemen Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed was staying, accused him of "sympathizing with Al Saud."

"Leave, leave Yemen," the demonstrators chanted. "The UN and the Security Council are complicit in the killing of Yemenis," read one of the banners at the protest.

The protesters, dressed in shirts showing pictures of the victims of an October 8 Saudi airstrike on a funeral in Sana'a,

blamed the UN for inaction in the face of the Saudi aggression. "Yemenis are massacred and we hold the UN responsible for the actions of Saudi Arabia, America, and Israel," shouted the protesters.

On October 8, in one of the deadliest attacks on Yemen, Saudi warplanes bombed a funeral hall packed with mourners in Sana'a, killing at least 140 people.

Washington has been providing logistic and surveillance support for Saudi Arabia in its bloody campaign.

Witnesses said the mass demonstration ended peacefully as the UN envoy was to leave the hotel for Sana'a airport.

A statement published by local Yemeni media said the demonstrators "condemn the UN envoy's intentional ob-

struction of the [peace] talks" and his "silence on the crimes and massacres committed by the Saudi aggressors" against Yemenis.

Despite renewal calls by the UN envoy, a 72-hour cease-fire ended on Saturday. The truce had been brokered by the UN to allow aid to reach families trapped in areas cut off by the war in Yemen.

More than 10,000 people have been killed since the regime in Riyadh launched its campaign in March 2015. The military aggression was meant to reinstall Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi, a staunch ally of Riyadh who has resigned as Yemen's president.

(Source: Press TV)

## Russian FM equates Mosul offensive to Moscow's Aleppo bombing

Russia's foreign minister said on Tuesday that the United States support of Iraqi efforts to recapture Mosul from extremists was equivalent to Moscow's backing of a Syrian government offensive to seize rebel-held eastern Aleppo.

"They are preparing an operation to liberate Mosul from terrorists," Russian news agencies quoted Sergei Lavrov as saying.

"And in Aleppo, the city needs to be freed from terrorists. With the exact same plea as we made in Aleppo, the American coalition is appealing to residents in Mosul, calling on them to leave. Just like in Aleppo, humanitarian corridors have been set up."

Lavrov said that his American counterpart John Kerry had assured him that the situation in Mosul was "completely different" from that in Aleppo.

"In Mosul we planned in advance, while in Aleppo, you didn't plan and civilians are suffering," Kerry said, according to Lavrov.

Russia's defense ministry last week urged the coalition not to "drive terrorists" from Iraq to Syria during the offensive, warning it against the risk of "freely roaming" gangs of terrorists from the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Daesh) terrorist group in the Middle East.

(Source: AFP)

## Iran welcomes EU resolution on normalization of ties

Elsewhere in his remarks, Qassemi called on the European Parliament to do away with politicizing the issue of human rights in Iran so that both sides can sit together and discuss such issues.

"The Islamic Republic is ready to exchange views regarding such topics in a peaceful atmosphere, so that it can introduce Islam's points of view on human rights," he pointed out.

## Iraqi army's elite force pauses advance near Mosul

Iraqi forces have, meanwhile, liberated more than 70 percent of the territory lying to the south of the ISIL-held northern city of Mosul, and are weeding out explosives planted by the terrorist group on their way to the city proper.

On Tuesday, the joint military and volunteer forces liberated three more villages, located to the city's south, from ISIL, the country's war news media reported, with Tweeter pictures showing children rejoicing after the areas' liberation.

Assisting the liberation operations, Kurdish Peshmerga fighters also retook three more villages, namely Khoursabad in the Narwan region, Batnaya in the Tel Kaif district, and As-saf, all located around Mosul.

Security forces also took back a gas plant in Tal Kaif and entirely liberated the heart of the district.

Mosul-based ISIL terrorists have, meanwhile, filled up trenches with oil and set them on fire in order to block the overflying aircraft's field of vision. In one incident, they threw nine of their defectors in one of the burning trenches in Mosul's al-Arabi neighborhood, killing them.

Footage also showed a military Abrams tank ripping through a bomb-laced ISIL vehicle, which had been left at one entrance to the city to block the forces' advance.

Overwhelmed by casualties, the Takfiris threw 40 bedridden patients, most of them elderly, out of the Mosul General Hospital, filling its aisles and emergency ward with their own wounded members, Iraq's al-Sumaria TV network reported.

Locals, meanwhile, said the bodies of most of the victims of the city's clashes had been taken to the al-Qabat district, situated in the city's east.

Also on Tuesday, a Kurdish journalist captured footage of a jet fighter destroying an ISIL car bomb north of Mosul as it was heading toward the Peshmerga forces in Nawaran.

■ **Reports of horror emerging**

Meantime, the United Nations human rights office said it had preliminary reports about scores of mass killings by ISIL around Mosul in the past week.

UN human rights spokesman Rupert Colville told a regular UN briefing in Geneva that the bodies of 70 civilians with bullet wounds had been discovered by Iraqi security forces in the Tuloul Naser Village on October 20, and 50 former police officers being held outside the city had also reportedly been killed.

Fifteen civilians were killed and their bodies thrown into the river in the nearby Safina Village, while six men were tied to a vehicle and dragged around the village, the official said.

He said there were reports that ISIL terrorists had also shot dead three women and three girls and wounded four other children because they were lagging behind during a forced relocation due to one of the children's disability.

■ **A Turkish "if"**

Elsewhere, Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu has said Ankara could launch a "ground operation" in Iraq if it is threatened. "If there is a threat posed to Turkey, we are ready to use all our resources, including a ground operation... to eliminate that threat," Cavusoglu said in an interview with Kanal 24 broadcaster.

He did not explain what could constitute a "threat" to the Turkish state. Kurds, including those in Iraq, have long been considered by Ankara to be "terrorists." Turkey has been hitting their positions, as well as those of Kurdish forces in Syria, with airstrikes for some time.

ISIL, too, may be a source of such a threat. Ankara said this week it had already hit ISIL positions with its artillery at the Bashiqa camp in northern Iraq.

But Cavusoglu's remarks may also be directed at the Iraqi military. Officials in Baghdad, who are engaged in a war of words with the Turks over unauthorized Turkish military deployments to their territory, recently said the Iraqi military may target the Turkish forces if the latter interfere in the on-going battle for Mosul.

■ **Area freed in Anbar**

The development follows as Suhaib al-Rawi, the governor of the vast western Iraqi province of Anbar, has also said that security forces have fully liberated the province's Rutba district, raising the national flag over the district governor's building there.

## Andy Murray determined to overhaul Novak Djokovic as world No 1

Andy Murray feels that consistency on court has given him an opportunity to overtake his long-time rival Novak Djokovic and become year-end world No 1.

The top-ranked Serb currently enjoys a 2,415 points lead, but the reigning Olympic and Wimbledon champion could take top spot before the ATP World Tour Finals in London next month.

Murray could gain 500 ranking points for winning the Erste Bank Open in Vienna this week, which would narrow the gap to the 12-time major winner to 1,915 points.

The stars then gather for the final Masters 1000 event of the season in Paris next week and a combination of Djokovic falling at the semi-final stage along with more tournament success for Murray would cut the deficit to 875 points.

And Murray would become world No 1 when the points gained at last year's ATP World Tour Finals are wiped from the rankings, although he would need to better Djokovic's result in London where the winner would earn 1,500 points.

The 29-year-old is aware that he still needs to make improvements in his already meticulous game if he is to usurp Djokovic at the top of the rankings, but he is ready to give it his best shot.

"I was close, if not to finish number one a few years ago, around the US Open time. But to finish the year-end world number one would be my best chance," Murray told Sky Sports.

"Novak's still got a pretty big lead in terms of points and he plays extremely well on the indoor hardcourts and has played in London whereas I've struggled a little bit so I've got to make some improvements this year if I want to get close to doing that.

"If you talk about getting to number one, it's not about individual tournaments, it's about a 12-month period and obviously you want to be consistent and get to the latter stages of as many tournaments as possible, which I've done the last few months and obviously I will try and do over the next few events if it's possible.

"It's not about one event, it's about a total season of 17, 18 tournaments and whoever performs best over them will get there and right now that's obviously Novak but I'll try my best to finish as strong as I can."

(Source: SkySports)

## Bayern wary of new competition in Bundesliga

Going into this season, FC Bayern München saw Borussia Dortmund as their main competitors. Nothing has changed there by matchday 8 with just six points between the sides, but there are four teams between last year's champions and runners-up. Bayern now have these new competitors clearly in their rear-view mirrors.

Head of the chasing pack are newly-promoted RB Leipzig, who are just two points off the leaders. Bayern centre-back Mats Hummels acknowledges the danger posed by eastern upstarts but still believes they are not the main threat:

"Leipzig have to be up there because Ralph Hasenhüttl has always done great work with his teams, but I still think Dortmund are our strongest opponents."

Bayern chairman Karl-Heinz Rummenigge agrees with Hummels as he sees "great potential in this BVB side." However, the performances of other teams such as Hertha Berlin, 1. FC Köln or Leipzig cannot be ignored and the record champions should show them the respect they deserve.

### Bayern's extra workload takes toll

Unlike FC Bayern, many of the chasing pack, such as Leipzig, Hertha, TSG 1899 Hoffenheim and Köln, are able to concentrate solely on the Bundesliga as they do not have European competitions to worry about this season. However, the champions are perfectly used to playing every three days when in UEFA Champions League action. Coach Carlo Ancelotti has also looked to rotate his squad to reduce the effects of these extra fixtures.

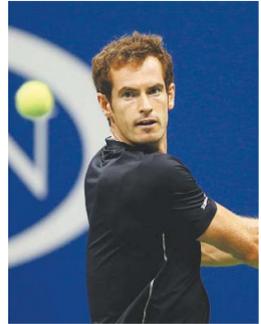
Despite a convincing performance in their 2-0 victory over Borussia Mönchengladbach, which cemented the Munich club's place at the top of the table, Hummels felt the side were "a little flat in the second half after so many mid-week matches." The victory not only brought an end to Bayern's winless spell in the Bundesliga but also extended their impressive run of league games without defeat to 18 matches.

### FCB only focusing on themselves

The Bavarians may be top but they are not running away with it like they have in previous years. After matchday 8 of last season, Bayern already had a seven-point lead over Dortmund. That has not been possible this campaign because of the impressive performances by the sides chasing them in the table.

The top seven are only separated by six points and Thomas Müller is therefore keeping an eye on all the teams close to the champions in the table, not just Dortmund. However, the striker is more concerned about his own side's performances: "We have to win our own matches and improve our game. If we start playing to our maximum then we can start looking at the others, but not until then."

(Source: Bundesliga)



# Jamie Vardy crashes Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi's Ballon d'Or party



Leicester striker flies flag for England internationals but real interest lies in battle for the title of world's third-best player in which Gareth Bale and Antoine Griezmann are contenders.

The Ballon d'Or is back in France Football's possession, even though they contrived to elongate the release of this year's shortlist to such an extent it made Fifa's ceremonies seem snappy in comparison. At the conclusion of the nine-hour announcement on Monday there was still an air of predictability about it all.

Barring the most surprising result in the award's 60-year history, Cristiano Ronaldo will be named the world's best player for a fourth time on 9 January, with Lionel Messi trailing behind. While there were a couple of notable omissions from the list, which will not be cut to three as in previous years, all of the world's best attacking players are present.

Having retaken sole ownership of the award following six years of sharing with the governing body, the magazine decided to drip-feed batches of five players to its website in alphabetical order hours apart and it was not until the final portion that the sole England player to be included, Leicester City's Jamie Vardy, was announced.

A total of 30 rather than the squad of 23 used recently were named and the manner in which the nominees were made public also meant the soporific Ronaldo-versus-Messi debate plumbed new depths. Some of Ronaldo's fans wondered if a conspiracy was afoot because the Real Madrid star had no exclamation mark at the end of a tweet confirming his inclusion while the rest did. On the other hand Messi's supporters moaned the Portugal captain featured in the first batch because he was filed under C rather than R.

Above the inexorable pettiness fastened to this vainglorious contest the dearth of British players among the world's best was again laid bare. Gareth Bale, after a remarkable year

for club and country, has claims alongside Atlético Madrid's Antoine Griezmann to be considered next best after Ronaldo and Messi. But the Wales and Real Madrid attacker is the only other Briton featured aside from Vardy, who was 350-1 with some bookmakers before the announcement. Those odds shortened immediately but it would be quite a shock to see him announced in the top three.

There are eight Premier League players on the list but when it comes to the winner, the Messi-Ronaldo duopoly shows no sign of abating. This year Ronaldo is the overwhelming favourite because he won another Champions League and led Portugal to the European Championship. Significantly for a player who at times has appeared as concerned by personal titles as much as team honours, it would leave him just one behind the Argentina attacker.

It is in the battle for third where the real interest resides. Griezmann and Bale are obvious contenders, with Barcelona's Luis Suárez and Neymar, who brought such joy to Brazil during the Olympic Games, sure to feature high up when the results are announced.

For the sixth time in eight years, the podium will probably belong solely to La Liga. Spain continues to dominate with 13 nominees shared between Real, Barça and Atlético. The figure of eight Premier League players is embellished by two of those arriving in the summer. Would Zlatan Ibrahimovic or Paul Pogba be entitled to a place based on their performances since joining Manchester United? Probably not.

Riyad Mahrez's inclusion is deserved after his role in Leicester's title win, West Ham United's Dimitri Payet dazzled for France in the opening days of Euro 2016 and it is not easy to dispute the inclusion of Manchester City's Sergio Agüero and Kevin de Bruyne, both of whom have looked exquisite at different junctures. Nonetheless, they will all be

tailed off when the results are announced in January.

The last Premier League player to win was Ronaldo in 2008 and for a league so desperate to claim it is the world's best this annual jamboree makes for grim viewing.

Elsewhere on the list there are four goalkeepers but no place for Spain's and Manchester United's David de Gea. Instead, France and Tottenham's Hugo Lloris is joined by Germany's Manuel Neuer, a finalist in 2014, Italian veteran Gianluigi Buffon and Portugal's Rui Patrício.

Perhaps the most baffling outcome is the shortage of defenders. Only the Real pair of Pepe and Sergio Ramos, plus Atlético's Diego Godín are included, which seems odd considering the defensive nature of Euro 2016. The Italy and Juventus pair Leonardo Bonucci and Giorgio Chiellini, Barcelona's Gerard Piqué and Bayern Munich's Jérôme Boateng all have a right to feel aggrieved.

Then again, only two defenders have ever won this award – Fabio Cannavaro in 2006, after leading Italy to the World Cup, and Franz Beckenbauer in 1972 and 1976. Even before Fifa's brief rebranding, this was a contest about more than just performances on the pitch. It is worth bearing in mind Suárez said recently that he would never win the award because it is "more to do with marketing and press than for achievements on the pitch".

The Uruguayan has a point but at least there has been a change to the voting system. Journalists are again in sole control rather than sharing the burden with national team managers and captains. If nothing else it strips away one layer of politics.

Ronaldo and Messi petulantly refused to give each other a vote in previous years, highlighting the level of selfishness among the world's best. But the latter would need a lot more than one insolent vote to sway the results, for this was Ronaldo's year.

(Source: Guardian)

## FIFA fines Spanish FA for breach of transfer rules



FIFA have fined Spain's football federation (RFEF) for breaking rules governing the international transfer and registration of minors by allowing Atletico and Real Madrid to sign underage players from other countries.

In January, world football's governing body banned the Madrid clubs from participating in two consecutive transfer windows for breaching rules regarding the signing of underage non-Spanish players, similar punishment to that handed out to Barcelona in 2015.

FIFA's Disciplinary Committee ruled on Tuesday that the Spanish federation must pay 220,000 Swiss francs (\$221,283) for breaching article 19 of their regulations on the status and transfers of players, which is designed to protect minors.

The Spanish FA have been given a further six months to regularize their "existing system within the country" and have also been issued with a "warning and a reprimand."

The decision was made based on the investigations carried out by FIFA concerning minor players who were involved with, and took part in competitions with, Atletico from 2007 until 2014 and with Real Madrid between 2005 and 2014.

Real and Atletico saw their appeals against transfer bans rejected last month by FIFA's Appeal Committee and will not be allowed to register new players until January 2018.

The Spanish Football Federation is led by Angel Maria Villar, a FIFA vice president.

(Source: Reuters)

## Guardiola tells players to keep the faith - De Bruyne



Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola has told his players not to lose faith in the high-risk, high-reward style of football he has introduced at the Etihad Stadium despite the club's recent winless run, midfielder Kevin De Bruyne has said.

City started the season by winning their first 10 games in all competitions but the momentum has stalled in recent weeks, and Sunday's 1-1 draw with Southampton marked their fifth straight game without a victory.

"He just told us to believe," De Bruyne told the Daily Mail.

"He doesn't want us to have doubts in the way that we are playing. He wanted to make sure that we know the way we are playing now is the good way.

"That was the message. There are a lot of risks in how we play, we know that. I know this is not a very patient world but we are trying something very new."

City have seen their lead at the top of the Premier League evaporate and are ahead of Arsenal and Liverpool only on goal difference. They also trail Barcelona by five points in their Champions League group after three games.

Guardiola has made some big decisions since joining City in July, sending goalkeeper Joe Hart out on loan and dropping striker Sergio Agüero for key games.

De Bruyne said the Spaniard has made it clear there was no place at the club for players who cannot adjust to his system.

"You just need to adapt otherwise you won't fit in. And if you don't fit in then you will have to go somewhere else," De Bruyne added.

City face Manchester United in the fourth round of the League Cup on Wednesday before travelling to face West Bromwich Albion in the league three days later.

(Source: Reuters)

# Iran senior team is our role model: Reza Jafari

Iran U-19 striker Reza Jafari said that the country's senior players are their role models after booking a place in the FIFA U-20 World Cup Korea Republic 2017.

Iran defeated Uzbekistan 2-0 in the AFC U-19 Championship Bahrain 2016 quarter-final thanks to a brace from Jafari.

"I am so grateful to get the goals against Uzbekistan. After hitting the bar both against Yemen and Japan, I really needed a good performance in the tournament. I could not have asked for a better time to score than today," the Saipa FC player told the-AFC.com.

The teenager's quick feet and lethal finishing not only ensured Iran's safe passage to the FIFA U-20 World Cup Korea 2017, it breathes new hope to finally end a 40-year title drought for the Iranians.

"Yes I am aware of our record. We don't see it as added pressure but as added motivation. Our senior players are our role models. We want to succeed just as they have," said the striker who reveres Reza Ghoochannejhad of Eredivisie side Heerenveen as one of his idols.

Iran's senior side have been on an impressive run recently which has seen them reaffirm their position as the continent's best team after leaping 10 places to occupy 27th place in the latest FIFA World Rankings.

"The matches he played in the recent World Cup qualifiers have really inspired me and I hope we can follow his example," added the teenager.

Despite their convincing victory, Jafari warned caution against Saudi Arabia in their upcoming semi-final match. "We cannot underestimate them. They have continued to improve with each match in the competition. But as we said before, we did not come here to just qualify for Korea Republic, we came here to win."

(Source: AFC)



## Team Melli goalkeeper Beiranvand misses Syria clash

**SPORTS** Persepolis and Iran national team goalkeeper Alireza Beiranvand, who suffered an injury in the match against Esteghlal Khuzestan, will be sidelined at least four weeks, club's doctor said on Tuesday.

Beiranvand will miss Persepolis meeting with Sanat Naft in the 10th week of Iran Professional League and also important match of Iran national team against Syria on No-

vember 15 in Malaysia.

Persepolis second choice keeper Bozidar Radosevic will be in the goal for Sanat Naft clash while Alireza Haghighi will most probably wear the No. 1 jersey for Team Melli against Syria.

Beiranvand has kept six clean sheets for Persepolis in this season so far while he has yet to concede a goal in the 2018 World Cup qualifying matches.

## AFC President congratulates teams for qualifying to FIFA U-20 World Cup



Asian Football Confederation (AFC) President Shaikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa has congratulated Saudi Arabia, Vietnam, Islamic Republic of Iran and Japan on qualifying for the FIFA U-20 World Cup Korea Republic 2017. The four teams will join hosts Korea Republic to make up Asia's five representatives at the tournament.

Shaikh Salman said: "This is a remarkable achievement by Saudi Arabia, Vietnam, Islamic Republic of Iran and Japan who have all displayed great determination and consistency to qualify for the FIFA U-20 World Cup Korea Republic 2017."

"Vietnam's achievement in reaching their first-ever FIFA U-20 World Cup is outstanding. I am sure that all four teams will carry on Asia's commendable tradition on the world's stage."

"The AFC U-19 Championship Bahrain 2016 has produced some riveting and

captivating football and I wish all the teams the very best as they look to capture the coveted title."

Saudi Arabia were the first team to reach the semi-finals of the AFC U-19 Championship Bahrain 2016 after a sudden death penalty shootout victory over a resilient Iraq side on Sunday. Vietnam continued to defy expectations with a 1-0 win over hosts Bahrain.

Meanwhile, Japan registered an emphatic 4-0 victory over debutant quarter-finalists Tajikistan on Monday while IR Iran overcame Uzbekistan 2-0 to seal their spot in the semi-finals.

Saudi Arabia will now play IR Iran in the semi-finals, while Vietnam take on Japan on Thursday, with the highly anticipated final scheduled to take place on Sunday, October 30, 5.30pm local time at the Bahrain National Stadium.

(Source: AFC)

## Peyrovani pays tribute to Iran senior team coach Queiroz's influence



Amirhossein Peyrovani paid tribute to the influence of senior national team coach Carlos Queiroz as Islamic Republic of Iran qualified for the finals of the FIFA U-20 World Cup Korea Republic 2017 for the first time in 16 years with victory over Uzbekistan in the quarter-finals of the AFC U-19 Championship Bahrain 2016 on Monday evening.

Reza Jafari scored a goal in each half to give the Iranians a win that takes them into the semi-finals of the continental championship and ensures they take one of the fourth berths available at the competition in Korea Republic next year.

And head coach Peyrovani thanked the former Real Madrid and Portugal head coach for the impact he has had on football in Iran since taking over as national team coach five years ago.

"It's been a long time since the Iranian U-19 team could go to the World Cup, we've had good players but we haven't had the chance to go," said Peyrovani. "Today, I wanted to change my players' mentality so we could succeed."

"This success isn't just for me, this success is for the coaches who are working with all of the teams in Iran, the U-16s, the U-19s and U-23s at all of the clubs and all over Iran. This success I dedicate to my colleagues who have helped me in this job."

"It's especially for the instructors who have taught me and I would like to give special thanks to Carlos Queiroz, the head coach of the national team. So many times in our meetings he was with me and he helped me to change the programme and to bring success."

(Source: AFC)

## Iran books FIFA U-20 World Cup place

Reza Jafari's brace booked Islamic Republic of Iran a place in the semi-finals of the AFC U-19 Championship Bahrain 2016 on Monday evening as Amir Peiravani's side handed Uzbekistan a 2-0 defeat to also qualify for the finals of next year's FIFA U-20 World Cup in Korea Republic.

A goal in each half from Jafari sets up a meeting with Saudi Arabia in the last four, and also sees the Iranians qualify for the finals of the global youth tournament for the first time since 2001.

Jafari's two well-taken goals were backed up by a resolute defensive performance by Iran, who largely limited Uzbekistan to a series of attempts from outside the area that caused goalkeeper Shahab Adeli few problems.

After making a raft of changes for his side's final group match against China, Uzbekistan coach Jasur Abduraimov reverted to his preferred starting line-up as the Central Asian side set their sights on qualifying for the FIFA

U-20 World Cup for the third tournament in a row.

It was the Iranians, though, who made the strongest start and, by the 13th minute, Peiravani's team had taken the lead. Abolfazl Razzaghpour's free kick into the box was miss-controlled by Reza Shekari before the ball fell at the feet of Jafari and he thumped his shot beyond Umidjon Khamroev.

Uzbekistan pushed for the equaliser throughout the remainder of the half but the Iranian defence restricted their opponents to attempts from long range.

Jasurbek Yakhshiboev slalomed his way into the area, only to see his shot blocked, before a series of attempts by Sharof Mukhitdinov from distance. The first from 30 yards was just over the bar while a free kick from similar distance was collected by Adeli at the second attempt. Meanwhile, Khojajabbar Aljonov's shot hit the side netting 11 minutes before the break.

Less than two minutes after the restart, Iran doubled

their lead, this time capitalising on some slack play in midfield by the Uzbeks. Shekari picked up possession just inside his own half and played a quick ball forward into the path of Jafari, who outstrapped Islom Kobilov before slotting the ball past Khamroev.

Another Mukhitdinov attempt flew over before Shekari squandered the chance to put the outcome beyond doubt when he dragged his attempt at goal well wide of the target, while with 18 minutes remaining Husniddin Gofurov missed the opportunity to pull Uzbekistan back into the game when he headed over the bar from less than six yards out.

The Uzbeks continued to press - and Shahab was forced to make a spectacular one-handed save from Yakhshiboev in the dying seconds - but Iran's disciplined backline gave little away as Peiravani's team closed out the game to seal an historic result.

(Source: AFC)

## Xavi: Man United boss Jose Mourinho prone to seeking 'war not football'

Manchester United boss Jose Mourinho can appear to seek "war not football" during difficult periods, Barcelona legend Xavi has said in the Daily Mirror.

However, Xavi, who played for Barca during Mourinho's three-year reign at Real Madrid, said the Portuguese remains one of the finest coaches in the game and that his renewed rivalry with Pep Guardiola "can be the best in football."

The enmity between Barca and Madrid escalated during Mourinho's time at the Bernabeu and, speaking ahead of Wednesday's Manchester derby in the EFL Cup, Xavi said: "Sometimes, when things don't go well for Mourinho, he wants war not football -- like when he was at Madrid -- and I hope we don't see that again in England."

Xavi has already backed his former Barca boss Guardiola to change English football in his role as Manchester City boss and the 36-year-old midfielder, currently playing for Qatari club Al Sadd, said his battle with Mourinho is an added bonus for the country.

"When I knew they would be rival coaches again, I knew it would be good for football," Xavi said. "I knew it would be especially good for English football. They're two of the best coaches in the world and their duel can be the best in football."

United, though, are currently seventh in the Premier League table after Sunday's 4-0 loss at Chelsea and questions are being raised over Mourinho's management.

The Times reported on Tuesday that Mourinho has adopted a "hands-off and distant approach" in training. The newspaper, citing a source close to a senior United player, said Mourinho sometimes gave instructions at the start of sessions before heading to work at his desk, leaving assistant Rui Faria in charge. The paper added: "Mourinho's cold approach to his players in one-to-one situations has also disappointed some United players."

After beginning the season with four successive wins in all competitions, United are enduring a testing period. They lost 2-1 to Guardiola's City in the Premier League on Sept. 10 and have won only four of their nine games since, with two of those coming in the Europa League and one in the EFL Cup.

The EFL Cup victory over Northampton Town set up Wednesday's fourth-round meeting with City, and Xavi expects Mourinho -- who won the League Cup three times with Chelsea -- to take the competition seriously.

"The domestic competitions have to be everything for United and Mourinho this season," he said. "I don't think this season they can win the Premier League. These competitions are their hope for a trophy."

"Once Mourinho has had another transfer window, maybe they'll be ready, but for now they must secure a finish in a Champions League spot -- that's where United belong."

"Pep will also want to win his first competition with City," Xavi said. "That will be important for him."

"Even with City dropping some points in the league, I still think under Pep they'll be champions this season."

(Source: ESPN)

## Cristiano Ronaldo will get over Madrid whistles, rediscover form - Zidane

Real Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane says that whistles for Cristiano Ronaldo at the Santiago Bernabeu are not a concern and his out-of-form player will soon be back among the goals.

Ronaldo, 31, had another difficult evening during Sunday's 2-1 La Liga win over Athletic Bilbao at the Bernabeu, being whistled by his own team's fans as he went a fourth straight game at home without scoring.

Zidane told a news conference that he himself had also been whistled at by the demanding Bernabeu crowd during his time as a Madrid player, and that the club's all-time record goal scorer Ronaldo was "used to" such treatment.

"I don't understand [the whistles]," he said. "But they also whistled me, I know it can happen. It means the Bernabeu is special, it demands the maximum. Cristiano is used to that, and is not worried about it. We know how important the fans are."

Ronaldo has taken 20 shots at goal in his last two games at the Bernabeu, with just four on target, and has just four goals in total for Madrid so far this season.

"I spoke with him about other things, as that does not worry me," Zidane said. "I want him to score two or three goals each game, but I am not worried as I know it will happen. He is not converting the chances, but the important thing is he gets them. Soon he will score them, and it will all be calmer."

Asked about a replay of Alvaro Morata's winning goal against Athletic, in which Ronaldo raised his arm and looked to the linesman in what some have claimed was an appeal for offside against his own team, Zidane laughed.

"We just think about our own things, what is going on inside," he said. "There is so much external stuff that we cannot control and is not worth commenting on. The best thing is just to let it go and focus on what happens on the pitch."

Zidane once again was asked whether it was right that he so often picked his "BBC" trio of Gareth Bale, Karim Benzema and Ronaldo when other younger, Spanish options such as Morata and Lucas Vazquez were impressing.

"You have been asking me this for the last five months at least," Zidane said. "I have three phenomenal players. For me, they are very important for the team. The others might play less, but they are just as important. It is always like this, some players have much more time than others. People can have their opinions, but I have my job to do."

Zidane did not reveal whether Ronaldo and other players such as Bale, Benzema and Toni Kroos would be rested for Wednesday's Copa del Rey last-32 game at third-tier Cultural Leonesa -- Madrid's first game in the competition since last year's expulsion for fielding an ineligible player.

"The system will not change much," he said. "But there will be other players who will start tomorrow. There will be rotation. We can only bring 16 players, so some will have to stay in Madrid. But we know how important this competition is, and we want to win it."

(Source: SoccerNet)



### Poem of the day

Khajala grant one request, and only one,  
Wish me God-speed, and get your preaching done;  
I walk aright, 'tis you who see awry;  
Go! heal your purblind eyes, leave me alone.

Khayyam

### Prayer Times

Noon:11:48 Evening: 17:34 Dawn: 4:57 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:22 (tomorrow)

■ Managing Director: Ali Asgari  
■ Editor-in-Chief: Hassan Lasjerdi  
■ Editorial Dept.: Fax: (+98 21) 88808214 editor@tehrantimes.com  
■ Switchboard Operator: Tel: (+98 21) 43051000  
■ Advertisements Dept.: Telefax: (+98 21) 43051450 ads@tehrantimes.com  
■ Public Relations Office: Tel: (+98 21) 88805807  
■ Subscription & Distribution Dept.: Tel: (+98 21) 43051603  
■ www.eshterak.ir Distributor: Padideh Novin Co. Tel: 88911433  
■ Webmaster: webmaster@tehrantimes.com  
■ Printed at: Kayhan - ISSN: 1017-94

## “Starless Dreams” wins Children’s Rights Award at Osnabruck filmfest

**T A R T** TEHRAN — Acclaimed Iranian documentary “Starless Dreams” directed by Mehrdad Oskui has received the Children’s Rights Award at the 31st Osnabruck Independent Film Festival, the organizers announced on Sunday.



Iranian filmmaker Mehrdad Oskui (2nd R) poses with his award and a number of jury members during the closing ceremony of the 31st Osnabruck Independent Film Festival on October 23, 2016.

The award sponsored by the Department of Children, Youth and Families of the northwestern German city of Osnabruck has been presented by a jury composed of four young members between the ages of 13 and 17.

“We liked the cinematic implementation as the film gives its pictures a lot of space to speak for themselves. One can see again and again the life-threatening youths on the one hand and the helpless desperate young women on the other,” the jury said in a statement.

The film, which has been acclaimed at several international festivals, shows

the lives of seven young teenage girls sharing temporary quarters at a rehabilitation and detention center on the outskirts of Tehran.

## “The Sis” named best at Afghanistan film festival

**T A R T** TEHRAN — Iranian director Marjan Ashrafizadeh’s “The Sis” won the best feature film award at the Fourth Afghanistan International Women’s Film Festival – Herat, which was held in Kabul from October 19 to 22.

The film is about Tala and Ati (Sis), a mother and daughter who have lived together for many years. Their situation, however, does not last forever, and the days of separation finally arrive.

The film will be competing in the Rome Independent Film Festival, which is scheduled to be held in the Italian capital from November 24 to December 2.

Camille Fontaine from France received the award for best director for “By Accident”.

“I’m a Happy Actress” by Afghan filmmaker Samereh Rezaei was crowned best documentary while the award for best documentarian went to Shirin Barqnavard and Mohammad Reza Jahanpanah from Iran for “Scenes from a Divorce”.



Golab Adineh acts in a scene from “The Sis”.

## World Day for Audiovisual Heritage observed in Tehran

**T A R T** TEHRAN — The World Day for Audiovisual Heritage, which is celebrated every year on October 27, was commemorated during a ceremony at the National Library and Archives of Iran (NLAI) on Tuesday, just two days earlier.

Speaking at the ceremony, NLAI director Seyyed Reza Salehi-Amiri stressed the importance of registration of joint heritage with other countries on the UNESCO’s Memory of the World Register list.

“The registration of joint works with other countries helps increase cultural knowledge of the two countries; it also promotes the message of peace and friendship,” Salehi-Amiri who is also NLAI director added.

“Iran possesses a great number of cultural assets waiting to be added to the World Heritage List. Specifically at the present time, there are 52 works on the waiting list,” he mentioned.

“However, the audiovisual heritage is a field in which we need to work with patience and not get in a hurry,” he remarked.

Salehi Amiri also added that the Iranian National Commission for UNESCO has established several committees in other cities to promote its activities nationwide.

“We have tried to be active in the Iranian National Commission for UNESCO during the past three years,” he said.

He emphasized that the great treasures kept in the country need to be introduced to the Iranians and to the world. “If we do not open these doors, we have done a great injustice to future generations and they will never forgive us,” he concluded.

The Kulliyat-i Sadi (composed of Persian poet Sadi’s Bustan (The Orchard) and Gulistan (The Rose Garden), the Kitab al-Masalik wal-Mamalik (The Book of Itineraries and Kingdoms) written by Abu Is’haq Ibrahim ibn Muhammad Istakhri, and “At-Tafhim” written by Abu Rayhan Biruni have been registered on UNESCO’s Memory of the World Register list.

Also included are “Khamseh” composed by Nezami



NLAI director Seyyed Reza Salehi-Amiri

Ganjavi, “The Shahnameh of Baysunqur” one of three ancient copies of Ferdowsi’s epic masterpiece, and the Endowment Deed of Rab-e Rashidi.

Iran’s Science Minister Mohammad Farhadi, and a number of cultural officials also attended the session.

## NEWS IN BRIEF



### IRIB radio programs win ABU awards

**T A R T** TEHRAN — Two radio programs produced at Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) have recently won awards from the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU).

“Vibration” won the best drama award while “Iranian Online” received an award for best interactive program, the organizers have announced.

In the TV program section, programs from Germany, Japan and South Korea won the main awards while Iranian programs “My Decision” and “Bridge” received honorable mentions.



### “Until Ahmad Returns” competing in Polish filmfest

**T A R T** TEHRAN — Iranian director Sadeq Sadeq-Daqqi’s “Until Ahmad Returns” is competing in the 7th International Historical and Military Film Festival, which is underway in Warsaw, Poland.

The film is about a family living on the southern Iranian island of Khark, which begins to search for their son, Ahmad, after he is missing in action during a military operation during the Iran-Iraq war in 1986.

The festival will be running through October 28.

## War drama puts Mel Gibson back in Hollywood spotlight

**LOS ANGELES (Reuters)** — Oct 25 “Hacksaw Ridge”, the true story of the first conscientious objector to receive the U.S. Medal of Honor, marks the directorial return of actor Mel Gibson a decade after his last stint behind the camera.

The film recounts the heroism of Desmond T. Doss, an army medic who refused to bear arms in World War Two and received the highest U.S. military honor for saving 75 of his comrades.

“You’d have to be made of stone to not respond to the true story of who this man was and what he did,” Gibson said at the film’s Hollywood premiere.

The film starts with a love story set in Virginia’s Blue Ridge Mountains and eventually moves to the Battle of Okinawa in the Pacific, where Doss, played by Andrew Garfield, must pick his way through corpses and dismembered limbs to bring his comrades to safety.

Doss’ acts were “beyond heroic” and “transcendent”, said Garfield, who previously played the superhero Spider-Man.

“It’s an impossible thing to live up to but I can try to capture his essence,” added Garfield, who said he cried when he first read the screenplay.

“Hacksaw Ridge”, set for release in the United States on Nov 4, could put Gibson back in the spotlight.

### PICTURE OF THE DAY Honaronline/Masud Mirmiri



Members of a troupe led by director Shahabeddin Hosseinpur perform “Lady Pistol” (“Tapancheh Khanom”) at Tehran’s Charsu Theater on October 24, 2016. Written by Mohammad-Amir Yarahmadi, the play gives an insight into the clash between tradition and modernism in Iranian society.

## Taylor Swift helps U.S. Grand Prix to a record crowd

**NEW YORK (Reuters)** — Sunday’s U.S. Formula One Grand Prix reversed a trend of declining audiences with its biggest crowd yet, according to organizers who said 269,889 attended over the three days at the Circuit of the Americas.

The numbers were boosted by singer Taylor Swift holding her long-awaited first concert of the year on Saturday night after race qualifying, with some 80,000 watching.

The race, now in its fifth edition, reported a three-day crowd of 224,011 last year with the previous record of 265,499 set on its debut in 2012.

In 2013 and 2014 the official figures were 250,324 and 237,406 respectively.

Bad weather hit revenues significantly last year, with Saturday’s final practice taking place behind closed doors due to flooded conditions and qualifying postponed to the Sunday.

That race turned out to be the title decider, with Britain’s Lewis Hamilton taking his third world championship with Mercedes.

## The \$900,000 question behind Bob Dylan’s Nobel prize

**NEW YORK (Reuters)** — Many writers might give their right arm to be paid almost \$1 million to deliver a lecture. But Bob Dylan’s silence since he was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature might mean he never sees the award money.

The American singer-songwriter, a cultural icon of dissent and protest from the 1960s onward, has said nothing about the award announced two weeks ago. But under Nobel rules, the winner must give one lecture on literature - or in Dylan’s case even a concert - within six months to receive the \$900,000 prize money.

Per Westberg, a member of Swedish Academy that presents the award, has

said that Dylan’s silence is “rude and arrogant”.

The Nobel Foundation does not accept any rejections of the prize - Dylan’s name will be listed as the winner in 2016 whatever he says. But the award money is a different matter.

As a condition, Dylan must give a lecture on a subject “relevant to the work for which the prize has been awarded” no later than 6 months after Dec. 10, the anniversary of dynamite inventor Alfred Nobel’s death.

“That is what we ask for in return,” said Jonna Petterson, spokeswoman for the Nobel Foundation, adding Dylan could also opt to give a concert instead

of a lecture. “Yes, we are trying to find an arrangement that suits the laureate (Dylan).”

The lecture need not be delivered in Stockholm. When British novelist Doris Lessing was awarded the Nobel literature prize in 2007, she was too ill to travel. Instead, she composed a lecture and sent it to her Swedish publisher, who read it out at a ceremony in the Swedish capital.

The Academy honored the 75-year-old Dylan for “having created new poetic expressions within the great American song tradition”.

Dylan’s songs, such as “Blowin’ in the Wind”, “The Times They Are A-Changin’”, “Subterranean Homesick Blues” and

“Like a Rolling Stone” captured the rebellious and anti-war spirit of the 1960s generation and moved many young people later as well.

The Swedish Academy’s choice of Dylan drew some controversy with many questioning whether his work qualifies as literature, while others complained that the Academy missed an opportunity to bring attention to lesser-known artists.

Over the years, only six laureates has declined the prize. One of them was French existentialist author Jean-Paul Sartre in 1964. After Sartre fell on hard times a few years later his lawyer wrote the Nobel foundation asking them to send Sartre the money. They refused.