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# TEHRAN TIMES



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## Rouhani sees no hurdle to mutually beneficial ties between Tehran, Helsinki

**POLITICS TEHRAN** — With the removal of sanctions against Iran at the back of the nuclear deal, President Hassan Rouhani said on Wednesday he will see no hurdle to expansion of all-encompassing relations with Helsinki.

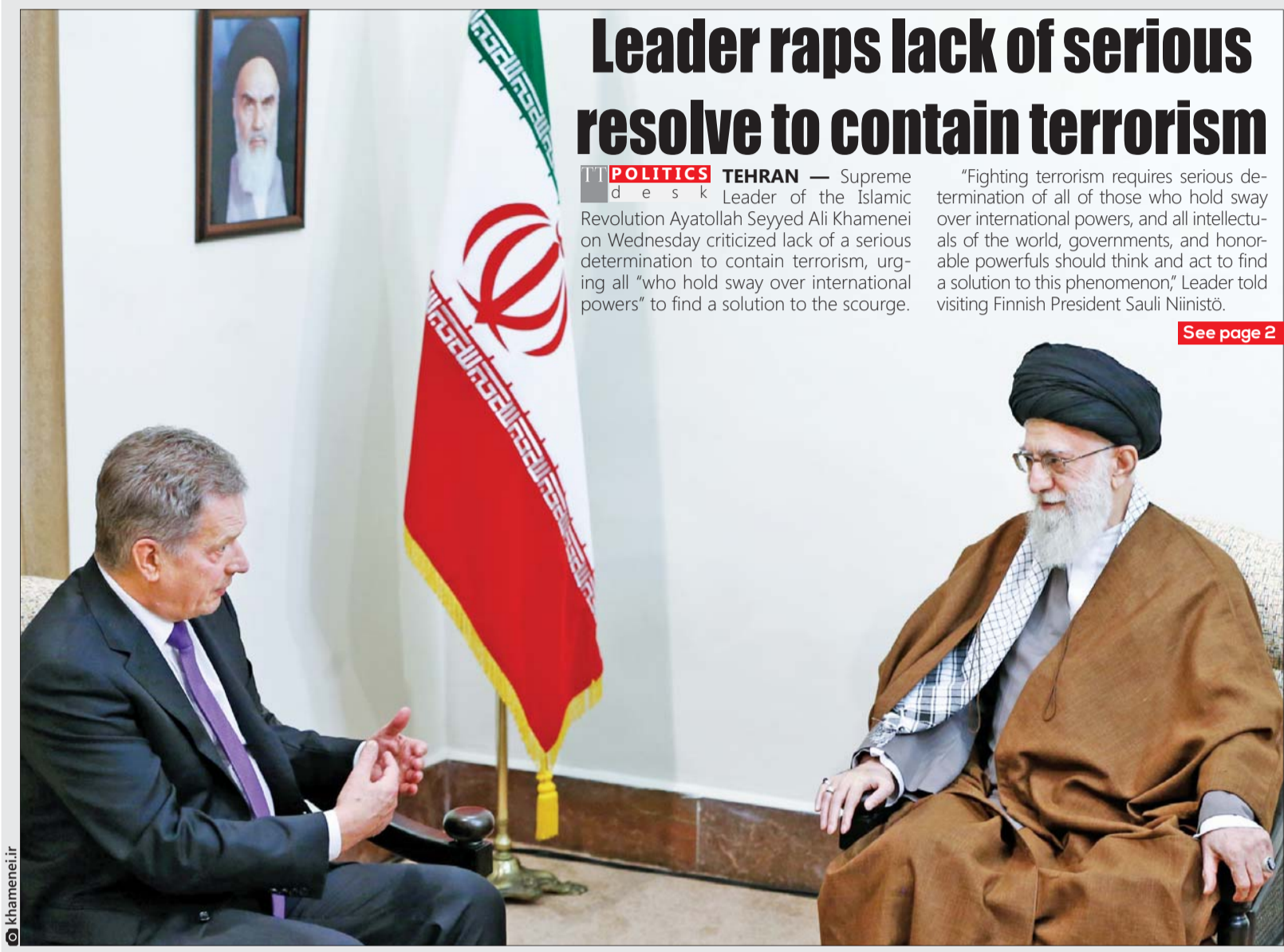
"Sanctions which used to be a main hurdle to expanding bilateral ties are now removed," Rouhani told visiting Finnish President Sauli Niinistö, who arrived here at the head of a large business delegation.

Rouhani saw an upgrade in ties with the north European country in line with Tehran's interest in stronger contacts with EU member states.

"During today's discussions, we addressed the [existing] capacity of relations between Iran and the European Union, especially after the JCPOA and the European side's willingness to expand [bilateral] economic, scientific, and technological relations."

Rouhani further referred to the fertile ground for mutually beneficial cooperation between Tehran and Helsinki.

"Today, there are good potentialities and grounds for investment in different sectors of industry, energy, transportation, and telecommunication in Iran, and we welcome Finnish companies' participation and investment in these areas," he was quoted as saying in the meeting. →2



## Leader raps lack of serious resolve to contain terrorism

**POLITICS TEHRAN** — Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei on Wednesday criticized lack of a serious determination to contain terrorism, urging all "who hold sway over international powers" to find a solution to the scourge.

"Fighting terrorism requires serious determination of all of those who hold sway over international powers, and all intellectuals of the world, governments, and honorable powerfuls should think and act to find a solution to this phenomenon," Leader told visiting Finnish President Sauli Niinistö.

See page 2

## Iran's non-oil exports up 4.3% yr/yr

**ECONOMY TEHRAN** — Iran's exports of non-oil products in the first seven months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-October 21) stood at \$24.657 billion, with 4.34 percent rise from \$23.633 billion in the same period last year, Fars news agency reported on Wednesday citing the country's customs administration.

Iran also imported \$24.051 billion of non-oil goods during the mentioned time span, witnessing a 0.1 fall from the figure of the previous year.

Gas condensate, liquefied natural gas (LNG) and fuel oil were the main exported items, with China, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Iraq, Turkey and South Korea as the major export destinations.

Corn, soy bean, rice and auto parts were the major products imported during the first seven months of this year. China, UAE, South Korea and Turkey were the top exporters of goods to Iran in the mentioned time.

According to customs data, in the past Iranian calendar year, which ended on March 19, 2016, the value of the country's non-oil trade reached over \$83 billion.

In the past year, Iran exported \$42.415 billion worth of goods while its imports reached \$41.499 billion, showing a 16.11 percent decrease in the value of exports and a 22.53 percent decline in the value of imports when compared to its previous year.

## EGFI inks MOUs with German, Swiss insurance companies

**ECONOMY TEHRAN** — The Export Guarantee Fund of Iran (EGFI) has signed memorandums of understanding with Swiss Export Risk Insurance (SERV) and Germany's Hermes Insurance Company.



According to the MOUs, which were signed on the sidelines of the Berne Union annual meeting in Lisbon, Portugal, the insurers will collaborate with the Iranian fund on the exchange of economic, commercial, and banking data, IRNA reported on Wednesday.

"After the implementation of the nuclear deal, different European insurance companies have expressed tendency towards participating in Iranian projects and financing them," Kamal Seyyedali, the head of EGFI, said.

The Berne Union was founded in 1934 by private and state export credit insurers from France, Italy, Spain and the UK. Its vision is to be the leading network of the international credit and investment insurers for the purpose of information exchange, sharing of expertise, and networking among its 50 members.

## Trump appeals mostly to white middle class: Georgetown professor

**INTERVIEW**  
By Javad Heirannia

**TEHRAN** — A professor of political science at Georgetown University tells the Tehran Times that Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump is mostly capitalizing on the white middle class.

"Trump appeals mostly to the White Middle class and, especially men, who feel that they have been neglected by Washington and its internationalist elites," Hunter notes.

Hunter says Trump is appealing to the white middle class because they see their living standards have fallen and their job being lost due to globalization.

Following is the text of the interview:  
**■ What is your prediction of the U.S. presidential election?**

A: There is still three weeks until the election. A lot could happen in three weeks. Already the divulgence of some of Hilary Clinton's e-mails have raised questions about her pro-



They have also shown her close ties to Wall Street and the

financiers who many people in America blame at least for part of America's economic problems. Therefore although most opinion polls indicate that Hillary Clinton is likely to win the elections, a surprise Trump victory cannot be totally ruled out. Much would also depend on the turnout of the respective candidates supporters. For example, a low turnout by African-Americans and the Latinos would diminish Hillary's chances of victory. →13

## Young Iranian artists honored at Korea's Bio-Art Contest

**ART TEHRAN** — Young Iranian artists Shahrzad Kusha and Mana Sorahi have won prizes at the 4th Bio-Art Contest in Seoul, South Korea.

Kusha received the Gwacheon National Science Museum Award for her painting entitled "Blue" and Sorahi won the Jury Award for her painting entitled "The Egg of Life" during a special ceremony on Tuesday, the organizers announced.

"Survival" was the central theme of the contest, which is jointly organized by the Medicinal Bioconvergence Research Center (Biocon) at the Seoul National University, the Seoul Bio-



science Company and the Gwacheon National Science Museum.

"This contest is the cultural event for science and art to decipher the beauty of our life and to project this beauty onto artwork" the organizers said.

Six winners are honored with cash prizes every year. In addition, 20-30 artists are presented with honorable mentions.

Parisa Pur-Ranjbar, Alireza Nosrati, Zohreh Mehravipur and Reza Nasr Esfahani, all from Iran, received honorable mentions at the competition.

An exhibition that opened at the Gwacheon National Science Museum on Tuesday is showcasing a selection of works through November 6.

## Defense minister: U.S., allies should stop backing terrorists

**POLITICS TEHRAN** — To end the crises in Middle East the U.S. and its allies should stop supporting terrorists and abandon the idea of partitioning countries in the region, Iranian Defense Minister Hossein Dehghan said on Wednesday.

There are reports that the

Al-Nusra Front, an al-Qaeda affiliate, is using civilians as human shield in the Syrian city of Aleppo and prevents them from leaving the city.

"The U.S. and its regional and extra-regional allies chant humanitarian slogans while giving the terrorist groups such as Jabhat Fateh al-Sham or Al-Nusra Front

green light and prevent the people from getting out of the military regions so that they be used as human shields."

Russia and the Syrian army resumed bombing Aleppo after a pause. The United States and its allies have been critical of Russia and Syria for targeting Al-Nusra militants in eastern Aleppo.

Dehghan said the Islamic Republic has repeatedly warned about the danger of terrorist groups to international security, however the hegemonic powers are backing these groups.

He also said that spread of terrorism and extremism in the region is aimed at serving the interests of the Zionist regime of Israel.

## Dutch expertise ready for Iran's dredging, desalination projects: minister

**SOCIETY TEHRAN** — Dutch experts are ready to help Iran implement its dredging and water desalination projects, the Netherlands Minister of Infrastructure and the Environment, Melanie Schultz van Haegen, said on Tuesday.

Heading a high ranking trade delegation comprising officials in the fields of water, sea and port development, Haegen made the remarks over a visit she paid to the southern Iranian port city of Bandar Abbas, neighboring the Persian Gulf, IRNA news agency reported.

"Dutch companies are prepared to cooper-



Melanie Schultz van Haegen is paying a visit to a water treatment plant in southern Tehran

ate in the implementation of desalination and dredging projects with Iran," Minister Haegen said.

She further expressed readiness for transferring knowledge in the aforesaid fields to Iran.

Mentioning the importance of taking the environmental issues into consideration in development she stated that with economic growth comes a greater responsibility to protect the environment so it is essential to look for ways to conserve the environment and water resources.

**EMSCO**  
Production Capacity to Hit 10m Tons by Yearend  
See page 12

**PERSPECTIVE**  
By Heidar Soheili  
Political expert

## Erdogan and the Mosul dilemma

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan is strongly insisting to participate in the battle to liberate the northern Iraqi city of Mosul from ISIL occupation.

He has also come up with some reasons. He argues that he is concerned about the condition of Sunni Arabs. He also has a strong emphasis on fighting ISIL.

Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi has sarcastically thanked Erdogan accusing him of spreading his influence in northern Iraq. Taking into consideration the founder of the Republic of Turkey's insistence on domination over of Kirkuk's oil and a regret by the new Turkish leaders for losing northern Iraq and parts of northern Syria, always highlight the real intention of Ankara's new leaders, including Erdogan.

However, the story is different this time. Baghdad holds the current Turkish leaders mostly responsible for supporting terrorist groups. Nonetheless the official charges against Ankara are few, yet lots of accusations are made against Turkey unofficially. Baghdad believes ISIL, to a very high extent, owes its existence to Turkey, and the aim of Ankara is to covertly support and protect key ISIL figures and also to protect the confidential documents regarding the hidden relations between Turkish officials and the ISIL leaders as well as other terrorist groups.

Another issue is that Baghdad suspects that Ankara might create a new network comprising of tribes, nomads and the ISIL sympathizers under the guise of fighting terrorism.

Turkey categorically rejects such claims, however it does not hide its claim that it is seriously concerned about the fate some Sunni Arab tribes and nomads. Turkey is also very worried about the activity of the Kurds. →13



MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS



**Iran unveils long-range, radar-evading drone**

**IT POLITICS** TEHRAN — Iran has unveiled a new light-weight, long-range stealth unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) capable of flying at a maximum altitude of 10,000 feet.

The drone was put on show on Wednesday at an expo showcasing the latest achievements by the Iranian Aviation & Space Industries Association, Press TV reported.

With a weight less than 20 kilograms and a flight time of over 15 hours, the drone can conduct such non-military missions as those for mapping, filming and image-collecting.



**Boroujerdi holds talks with French Senate president**

**IT POLITICS** TEHRAN — Alaeuddin Boroujerdi, chairman of the Majlis National Security and Foreign Policy Committee, held talks on Tuesday with Gérard Larcher, president of French Senate in Paris, Mehr reported.

The two senior lawmakers stressed the significance of progress in the relations between Tehran and Paris.

They also talked about regional issues, including the crisis in Syria, the developments in Iraq, the situation in Yemen, efforts in Lebanon to elect a new president, and the fight against terrorism.



**Amir-Abdollahian welcomes expansion of Iran-Chile ties**

**IT POLITICS** TEHRAN — A special aide to Majlis speaker for international affairs has said that an expansion of relations between Iran and Chile will serve the interests of the two nations.

Hossein Amir-Abdollahian made the remarks in a meeting with Chile Charge d'affaires to Tehran on Wednesday, IRNA reported.

Touching upon the two countries' vast potentials, Amir-Abdollahian underscored that more exchange of visits would pave the ground for utilizing the untapped potentials and help further enhance relations between the two nations.



**Cypriot parliament speaker due in Iran**

**IT POLITICS** TEHRAN — The president of the House of Representatives of Cyprus is slated to visit Iran on October 30 at the invitation of Iranian Majlis speaker Ali Larijani.

During his three-day visit, Demetris Syllouris will meet senior Iranian officials, including his counterpart Ali Larijani, Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, and head of Expediency Council Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, the IRIB reported on Wednesday.

Last year, Iran and Cyprus signed a treaty on the avoidance of double taxation on income and capital.



**Terrorism common threat to Iran, Russia: envoy**

**IT POLITICS** TEHRAN — Tehran's ambassador to Moscow has said terrorism is a common threat to both Iran and Russia, noting that extremism can be uprooted in the region only through joint efforts.

"We believe that all the forces should be combined to tackle this issue and only after that (the countries could) be engaged in other problems," Mehdi Sanaei told Sputnik on Tuesday.

He urged the U.S. to be more sincere in its fight on terrorism, in Syria in particular.



**EU resolution has problems: Iran human rights chief**

**IT POLITICS** TEHRAN — "The recent EU resolution on Iran has many problems," Iran's human rights chief said on Wednesday.

"The European Union is not entitled to tell us we have to mend ourselves," said Mohammad Javad Larijani.

He also said the Islamic Republic will not authorize the European Union to open an office in Tehran, Fars reported.

Such an office will be a "house of corruption, and the Judiciary will not allow such a thing," Larijani stressed.

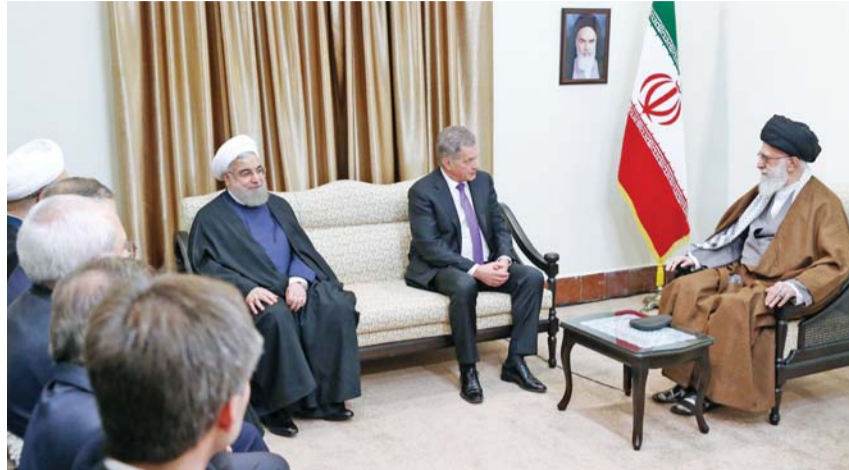
# Leader raps lack of serious resolve to contain terrorism

## Finnish president hails Tehran's war on terrorism

**IT POLITICS** TEHRAN — The Leader also rapped opportunistic governments for their cost-benefit approach toward the issue of terrorism, saying, "These governments calculate all issues on the basis of their own interests and are not thinking about uprooting the disease of terrorism whether in Iraq or Syria."

Ayatollah Khamenei further rejected defining terrorism in terms of links to unofficial circles, highlighting that some governments are committing terrorist acts, as well.

"Terrorism should not be taken to mean terrorist acts committed by unofficial groups only, and the mass killings of people at the hands of certain governments similar to the Saudis' attack on the people in a mourning procession in Yemen, which left hundreds dead and wounded, are also the worst type of terrorism, and there is still no serious determination to confront such acts after the passage of a year and seven months," the Leader emphasized.



Referring to Iran's stance on the Syrian crisis, the Supreme Leader said, "America and some other countries insist that the Syrian government has to change, this is while to end the war, the initiator and agents of warmongering should be introduced."

The Leader then underscored the importance of implementing agreements signed between Iran and Helsinki over the past months as well as those during the presidential visit, saying, "The memoranda of understanding between the two govern-

ments should be implemented, and their non-implementation will leave an improper reflection on the people's mind.

During the meeting, which was also attended by President Hassan Rouhani, Mr. Niinistö expressed satisfaction over his visit to Tehran.

Hailing his negotiations with Iranian officials as successful, Niinistö said four memoranda of understanding were signed during the visit.

The Finnish head of state gave assurance that the agreements will bear fruit.

He also referred to the developments over the past ten years and the spread of terrorism across the world, saying terrorism has emerged in wider scopes and has displaced hundreds of thousands of human beings, including mothers and children, in Iraq, Syria, and Yemen.

President Niinistö concluded his remarks with reminding the key role of Iran in the region and hailing Tehran's efforts in fighting terrorism.

## Araqchi urges Islamic countries to show real face of Islam

**IT POLITICS** TEHRAN — Iran's deputy foreign minister has said that the most important task of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation is to introduce the discourse of real Islam and present the real face of Islam, ISNA reported.

Abbas Araqchi made the remarks during the 4th International Model-OIC (4th IMOIC) that kicked off on Wednesday in Mashhad, Iran.

"All strata of Islamic communities have the duty to substitute the West's violence-laden discourse on Islam with a discourse on real Islam," he said.

The deputy foreign minister went on to say, "Nowadays, blind sectarianism, fratricide, as well as Takfiri and Daesh terrorism have presented an ugly image of Islam to the world that is alien to its identity."

Araqchi denounced what he called "blind terrorism" for committing heinous crimes in different countries such as Iraq and Syria.

"Terrorism would have completely taken over Syria and Iraq if it were not for Iran and other Muslim countries' great efforts in this fight," he added.

The deputy foreign minister also called

on certain regional countries to stop backing ISIS and other Takfiri groups, saying "those countries should join the fight against terrorism."

He further urged youth in Islamic communities to play a key role in cementing Islamic unity.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Araqchi lauded the OIC member states for their resistance against the Zionist regime and solidarity with the Palestinian cause.

"The majority of the organization's member states are countries that were liberated from Western colonialism in the

recent decade."

Araqchi described the goals of the organization as "promoting international peace, unity, creating friendly atmosphere as well as fighting the Zionist enemy and liberating Quds."

He also said the Muslim world is facing common threats, that if neglected, would pose great danger to Muslim nations.

"Iran's Foreign Ministry is fully prepared to cooperate with OIC Youth Forum in order to move toward promoting unity among Muslims across the world," Araqchi said.

## Rouhani sees no hurdle to mutually beneficial ties between Tehran, Helsinki

**IT POLITICS** TEHRAN — Among other cooperation fields, the president referred to tourism, health, forestry, and environment, where the two can establish effective ties.

However, for the two sides to achieve the goals, strong banking connections are required, a point Rouhani was mindful of.

"Boosting correspondent banking connections between Iranian and Finnish banks is the most urgent need to propel economic relations between the two sides."

He also highlighted the importance of consultation

between Tehran and Helsinki on key regional and international issues such as terrorism, extremism, and drug smuggling.

"We believe there are political solutions to regional problems, and all should help contain terrorism."

For his part, the Finnish head of state hailed the long-standing cooperation between the two nations, saying, "Iran was one of the first countries to recognize Finnish independence."

"I believe that now, the Islamic Republic of Iran and

Finland will cooperate further," said Niinistö, describing the nuclear deal between Iran and the P5+1 states as an important milestone.

"I have brought with me a large business delegation and they have been very satisfied with their discussions with their colleagues from Iran," he said.

There are various areas of potential cooperation between the two sides, including energy, clean tech, information and communications technology (ICT) as well as forestry.

## IRGC chief says commands most powerful regional force

**IT POLITICS** TEHRAN — The Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps chief has said he commands the most powerful force in the beleaguered Middle East now "tenfold" stronger than ever.

"Thirty-seven years after it was established, Sepah (IRGC) is now the most powerful armed force in the region with an invaluable repertoire of defensive experience..." said Major General Mohammad Ali Jafari on Wednesday.

The IRGC chief was making the comments in a ceremony held to launch the

first class of navy students at the IRGC navy college of Imam Khamenei on Wednesday.

IRGC was founded in 1979 after the Islamic Revolution happened. Under the Constitution, the force is responsible to ward off all internal and external threats to the revolution.

It played a major role in the eight-year

war Iraq waged against Iran in 1980.

"Today, Sepah's power is not comparable to that of the sacred defense era, it can be said confidently that by God's grace (IRGC's) defense power is at least tenfold stronger than that of the last year of the war (in 1988)," he highlighted.

"Spirituality, faith, martyrdom spirit,

**IRGC chief says thirty seven years after the establishment of the Sepah (IRGC), now it is the most powerful armed force in the region with an invaluable repertoire of defensive experience.**

## Iran, EU can help resolve regional issues: Velayati

**IT POLITICS** TEHRAN — Ali Akbar Velayati, a senior foreign policy advisor to the Leader, has said that Iran and the European Union (EU) have the potential to cooperate and resolve regional crises.

Velayati made the remarks in a meeting with Swiss Secretary of Foreign Affairs Yves Rossier on Wednesday.

Welcoming the Swiss delegation to Tehran, Velayati said, "The Islamic Republic of Iran, as an influential country in the region and across the world, has great potential to be used by some European countries, including Switzerland, that are willing to resolve regional issues through diplomacy and peace."

Velayati, who is also head of Center for Strategic Research, argued that the founders and supporters of takfiri terrorist groups intend to "target some legal governments in the region" in order to accomplish their "evil goals."



He further said that the threats of these groups would not end in the region. "Every now and then, the terrorists target Europe and other parts of the world."

Velayati also welcomed expansion of cooperation between Tehran and Bern and called on all countries across the world to be determined in the fight against terrorism. Rossier, for his turn, underlined his country's willingness to develop cooperation with the Islamic Republic, saying that Iran plays an important role in resolving regional crises.

## Tehran condemns terror attack in Pakistan

**IT POLITICS** TEHRAN — Secretary of the Supreme National Security Council Ali Shamkhani has condemned a deadly attack on a police training academy in Pakistan's southwestern city of Quetta.

In a message to his Pakistani counterpart, Shamkhani denounced the terrorist attack and expressed sympathy to the families of the victims as well as the Pakistani government and nation.

Sixty people had been killed and 117 others sustained injuries after three terrorists wearing suicide vests hit late in the evening and engaged in a protracted gun battle before one was killed by government force and the other two blew themselves up in the capital city of Balochistan Province.

"The terrorist attack on a police academy and the killing of dozens of young police forces is a sign of unbridled growth of terrorism and



extremism across the region," he regretted.

Shamkhani called on countries in the region to work together to attack terrorism at its roots, "regardless of unnecessary political considerations."

"I express my deepest condolences to your Excellency, to the Pakistani government and nation, and to the bereaved families of those killed in this event, and I pray for a speedy recovery for the injured of the bitter event," the message read.

## International determination needed to fight terrorism, Iran insists

**IT POLITICS** TEHRAN — Iranian Majlis Speaker Ali Larijani said on Tuesday that terrorism has turned into an international problem and international determination is required to fight it.

During a meeting with Bakir Izetbegovic, the president of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Larijani called Iran the safest country in the Middle East region.

He also said that "instrumental use" of terrorism by some countries is one of the reasons behind increase in terrorist activities.

"Unfortunately, training some people with Wahhabi ideology has led to extremism and terrorist moves in the world," he said.

Elsewhere, Larijani said Tehran prioritizes an expansion of economic ties be-

tween with Bosnia and Herzegovina.

"Parliament of Iran supports expansion of ties with Bosnia and Herzegovina," he added. Izetbegovic said that the two countries should increase given the removal of sanctions against Iran.

He also said that terrorism has nothing to do with Islam.

All the Islamic countries are duty bound

to fight terrorism, Izetbegovic added.

He described Iran as a "stable" and "powerful" country in the region that can help regional crises. Izetbegovic added met with Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, President Hassan Rouhani, and Expediency Council chief Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani on Tuesday.



# Iraqi forces edging closer to Mosul liberation

## U.S. air strike kill 60 civilian in Mosul

Iraqi government soldiers have liberated more areas around the northern city of Mosul from the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Daesh) terrorists in a massive offensive aimed at retaking the entire city from the terrorists.

Military sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Peshmerga fighters have established control over the Dirik Village near the town of Bashiqa, which lies 12 kilometers northeast of Mosul, on Wednesday, Kurdish Rudaw television network reported.

Iraq's Joint Operations Command (JOC) also announced that Iraqi counter-terrorism units were only two kilometers away from Mosul, which located some 400 kilometers north of the capital Baghdad.

Additionally, an unnamed Iraqi military official said fighter jets from the United States-led military coalition have struck areas close to the village of Sari Tepe, killing five ISIL terrorists. The slain Takfiris were reportedly involved in the October 21 militant attack against the oil-rich northern city of Kirkuk.

Iraqi army soldiers also unearthed a stash of weapons in the recently-liberated Assyrian town of Karemlash, located around 30 kilometers southeast of Mosul.

The development came shortly after government forces uncovered tunnels, which were formerly used by ISIL terrorists, inside a monastery in the same area.

Moreover, at least 50 ISIL terrorists were killed on Tuesday when explosives planted in two vehicles went off by accident in an eastern suburb of Mosul. A civilian also lost his life in the explosion.

Meanwhile, some 9,000 Iraqi civilians have reportedly managed to flee Mosul, which is under tight ISIL control.

Elsewhere, in the al-Zour area of the eastern province of Diyala, Iraqi army soldiers have discovered a number of missiles, mortar rounds and an explosive belt



belonging to ISIL terrorists.

### ■ Saddam's cousin arrested over Kirkuk attack

Meanwhile, Kirkuk's police directorate announced on Tuesday that security forces had arrested a cousin of slain Iraqi longtime dictator Saddam Hussein in connection with a terrorist assault on the city of Kirkuk last week.

Kirkuk's police chief, Brigadier General Sarhad Qadir, said Nizar Mahmoud Abdul Ghani was arrested along with an ISIL terrorist in the town of Daquq south of Kirkuk.

### ■ Some 9,000 Iraqis displaced in Mosul operation

Furthermore, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) has reported that nearly 9,000 people have been internally

displaced as a result of the offensive to liberate Mosul.

"The majority of displaced people so far are sheltering in host communities. All families, who have fled the fighting, are reported to be in a vulnerable condition and requiring assistance," UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric said on Tuesday.

He added that the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) continues to receive reports of extrajudicial killings and summary executions by ISIL, among other crimes, against civilians as Iraqi government forces are closing in on Mosul.

"The Human Rights Office also continues to receive information that reinforces the belief that Daesh (ISIL) is deliberately using civilians as human

shields," Dujarric said.

### ■ Mosul operations in advanced stage

Meanwhile, Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi announced during a press conference that Iraqi forces have reached an advanced stage in the battle for Mosul.

"We reached an advanced stage in the battle to liberate the city of Mosul, and our plan is not to evacuate the families from the cities during the liberation operations," he added.

He added that Iraqi forces have proved their capability to defend Iraqi towns and cities against the Takfiri militants surprise attacks.

"The international coalition is surprised by the performance of the Iraqi army in the war on Daesh, and we must continue training the security forces and restructuring them away from sectarianism," he added.

### ■ Civilian casualties

In another event, United States-led coalition airstrikes in Mosul have killed over 60 civilians and wounded over 200 more over the past few days, Russia says.

Lieutenant General Sergei Rudskoi, chief of the Main Operational Directorate of the General Staff of the Russian Armed Forces made the announcement on Tuesday.

"During the past three days more than 60 civilians, including children, became victims of these air strikes. More than 200 people were wounded," he said.

He added that Russia is closely monitoring the situation in Mosul and has so far seen no major success in the coalition's operations to liberate the city, he added.

"At the same time there are numerous facts of the U.S.-led coalition's air strikes against residential quarters, schools and other civil infrastructure buildings both in Mosul and in other settlements in the Iraq's Nineveh governorate," he added.

(Source: agencies)

## Russia withdraws request to refuel battle group heading to Aleppo, after intervention from Spain's foreign ministry

Russia says it has cancelled plans for a fleet of its warships to refuel at a Spanish port on their way to Syria.

Vasily Nioradze, a spokesman at the Russian embassy in Madrid, said on Wednesday that the request was canceled, without giving further details, the Associated Press reported.

The Spanish Foreign Ministry also confirmed that Russia had withdrawn its request for the warships to refuel in the Spanish port of Ceuta.

"The Russian embassy in Madrid has just told us that it is withdrawing its demand for permission to stop over for the boats, which means that the stopovers have been cancelled," the ministry said in a statement on Wednesday.

The development came after Spain, a NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) member state, said it was reviewing Russia's request to refuel its naval fleet at Ceuta after passing through the Straits of Gibraltar en route to Syria, where Russian forces are engaged in an anti-terror campaign in support of the Syrian government.

In a statement released on Wednesday, the Spanish Foreign Ministry said that Spain had been allowing Russian navy ships to dock in Spanish ports for years, but that it treated such requests on a case by case basis.

The naval group, which passed through the Channel on Friday, is made up of Russian aircraft carrier Admiral Kuznetsov, as well as a nuclear-powered battle cruiser, two anti-submarine warships and four support vessels,



escorted by submarines.

Ceuta sits on the tip of Africa's north coast, across the Straits of Gibraltar from mainland Spain, and bordering Morocco. The port is part of the EU, but its NATO status is unclear. Since 2011, at least 60 Russian warships have docked in Ceuta.

### ■ NATO irked by Spain's announcement

Meantime, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg claimed that the Western military alliance was "concerned" by the deployment of the Russian warships.

"It is each up to each nation to decide, as has been NATO policy for many years, but we are concerned about the potential use of this carrier group to increase attacks... in Aleppo," Stoltenberg said, adding, "All allies are aware of our concerns."

### ■ Britain echoes NATO's stance

Al Alami group has claimed responsibility for the attack, and has specifically targeted the training college because "it was a soft target".

"This is a group that has been involved in sectarian attacks in the city of Quetta. It's considered to be very strong here," he said.

General Sher Afgan, a senior military commander in Balochistan, confirmed the report, saying calls were intercepted between the attackers and their handlers, suggesting they were from the Al Alami wing of LeJ, a sectarian Sunni armed group.

"We came to know from the communication intercepts that there were three militants who were getting instructions from Afghanistan," Afgan said.

Hundreds of trainees were stationed at the college in the city outskirts of Quetta when masked gunmen carried out the raid late on Monday, and lasted for nearly

five hours.

"They just barged in and started firing point-blank. We started screaming and running around in the barracks," one police cadet who survived told media.

LeJ, whose roots are in the heartland Punjab province, has a history of carrying out sectarian attacks in Balochistan, particularly against the minority Hazara Shias.

Pakistan has previously accused LeJ of colluding with al-Qaeda.

Authorities launched a crackdown against LeJ last year, particularly in Punjab province.

In a blow to the organization, Malik Ishaq, the group's leader, was killed in July 2015 with 13 members of the central leadership in what police say was a failed escape attempt.

"Two, three days ago we had intelligence reports of a possible attack

Elsewhere, British Defense Secretary Michael Fallon also said on Wednesday that London would be "extremely concerned" if Spain refueled the Russian carrier group heading through the Mediterranean towards Syria.

"NATO should be standing together," he added.

Since March 2011, Syria has been hit by militancy it blames on some Western states and their regional allies. Russia has been conducting air raids against the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Daesh) and other terrorist groups in the Middle Eastern country at the Damascus government's request for more than a year now.

### ■ Russia boosts Baltic Fleet

In another development on Wednesday, a report said that Russia was reinforcing its Baltic Fleet in Kaliningrad with two small warships armed with long-range cruise missiles to counter a worrying NATO build-up in the region.

The report by Russia's daily Izvestia quoted an unidentified military source as saying that the vessels, the Serpukhov and the Zeleny Dol, had already entered the Baltic Sea and would soon become part of a newly formed division.

Kaliningrad shares land borders with Poland and Lithuania.

The deployment comes at a time when NATO is planning its biggest military buildup on Russia's borders since the Cold War.

(Source: agencies)

## Yemeni forces, allies seize military base in SW Saudi Arabia

Yemeni army soldiers, supported by fighters from Popular Committees, have established control over a military base in Saudi Arabia's southwestern border region of Najran as they continue their retaliatory raids against Riyadh's military.

The media bureau of the operations command in Yemen released footage on Tuesday evening, showing Yemeni troopers and allied forces exchanging heavy gunfire with the House of Saud regime forces stationed in Alib military base in Najran.

Saudi soldiers at the site can be seen retreating, with scores of them lying injured on the ground as Yemeni forces advance.

Yemeni forces then destroyed an armored vehicle and a battle tank at the military site before confiscating a considerable amount of rifles and military equipment.

Shortly afterwards, Yemeni soldiers and Popular Committees fighters seized the watchtower of the base, and detonated it using explosive charges.

Yemeni sources said Saudi military helicopters fired a number of missiles during the attack on Alib base, but the projectiles failed to strike targets and mishit.

A Saudi unmanned aerial vehicle was reportedly hovering the skies over Alib base at the time, monitoring the movements of Yemeni army forces and Popular Committees fighters.

### ■ More Saudi raids hit Yemen

Early on Wednesday, Yemeni army forces and fighters from Popular Committees repelled an offensive by militiamen loyal to resigned president Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi in the Hayfan district of the southwestern province of Ta'izz.

There were no immediate reports about possible casualties within the ranks of Saudi-backed mercenaries.

Saudi fighter jets also bombed Madfoun and al-Houl areas in Niham district of the northern province of Sana'a, but no reports of fatalities and the extent of damage were quickly available.

Additionally, Saudi warplanes struck areas in the city of Sirwah, which lies about 120 kilometers east of the capital Sana'a, besides two other airstrikes against al-Dawar area in the Mustaba district of the northwestern Hajjah Province.

The House of Saud regime has been engaged in the deadly campaign against Yemen since March 2015 in an attempt to bring back the former Yemeni government to power and undermine the Ansarullah (Houthi) movement.

The United Nations puts the death toll from the military aggression at about 10,000.

(Source: Press TV)

## Diyarbakir police clash with protesters in demo against mayors' arrest

Police in Diyarbakir, Turkey's largest city in the southeast, have clashed with protesters during a demonstration against the detention of the co-mayors of the Kurdish-majority city.

The police used tear gas and water cannon to prevent the protest on Wednesday against the arrest of Gultan Kisanak and Firat Anli. The two mayors were arrested overnight on suspicion of having links to the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK/Partiya Karkerên Kurdistanê) and have also been accused of "inciting violence."



The protesters responded by throwing rocks. They also attempted to march on the town hall. Most of them were undeterred by the heavy police presence as they chanted, "The pressure will not intimidate us."

Security officials said more than two dozen people were detained. Internet services were also down.

Diyarbakir governor's office repeated calls on the people to respect a curfew that has been in place since August 15. The office said gatherings such as the one on Wednesday were "unlawful."

Meanwhile, Turkey's pro-Kurdish People's Democratic Party, also known as the HDP (Halklar?n Demokratik Partisi), said the detention of the mayors was "extremely unlawful and arbitrary."

For more than a year, Diyarbakir and other towns and villages in southeastern Turkey have been subject to a large-scale government crackdown with the military claiming that it has killed or arrested thousands of PKK members. Human rights campaigners and pro-Kurdish parties have challenged the official narrative, saying most of those affected by the crackdown have been civilians.

The Turkish government began the crackdown on the PKK in July 2015. Ankara said at the time that a two-and-a-half-year ceasefire had effectively collapsed after the militant group allegedly killed dozens of civilians in a village near the border with Syria.

The arrest of Kisanak and Anli is the first major case involving Kurdish officials. Diyarbakir's prosecutors said the mayors had allegedly allowed the use of municipal vehicles for the funeral of PKK members.

In the city of Istanbul, dozens of protesters gathered for a sit-in on Istiklal Avenue, but police blocked the move and threatened to intervene.

The demonstrators were carrying a large banner that read, "Municipalities belong to the people, people cannot be taken over." They also chanted, "We are shoulder to shoulder against fascism," and "If you are quiet, you will be next."

(Source: Press TV)

## Pakistan: LeJ behind police academy attack in Quetta

Funerals have been held for those who died in the overnight assault of a police training college in Quetta that left at least 61 people dead and 170 others wounded.

Nawaz Sharif, the Pakistani prime minister, arrived in the provincial capital of Balochistan on Tuesday to pay tribute to the victims of the attack, which was claimed by the banned Lashkar-e-Jhangvi (LeJ) armed group.

Al Jazeera's Osama Bin Javid, reporting from Quetta, said survivors recalled hiding under their beds and jumping off windows to escape the attack.

"We heard harrowing tales of how the trainees escaped when multiple attackers scaled the wall, came into the academy, and lobbed grenades into the various barracks where these trainees were sleeping, and then two of them set off their suicide jackets," he said.

He said an offshoot of LeJ called the

(Source: agencies)



## EU proposes to phase in some bank capital rules: EU document

Banks in the European Union will get more time to adjust to new rules aimed at making sure that lenders hold enough capital against risky assets on their trading books, an EU document showed on Wednesday.

Earlier this year, global banking regulators at the Basel Committee published final standards for their overhaul of capital requirements to cover market-related risks in trading books.

The EU is due to propose next month a law to implement this and other changes to capital requirements made by Basel.

But instead of accepting Basel's "big bang" 2019 start date for the trading book rules, the bloc's executive European Commission is proposing a phase-in, a draft of the EU law seen by Reuters said.

"Own funds requirements for market risk... will be phased-in," the document said.

Transitional arrangements will come as a relief to the banking sector.

It is the latest sign of how the EU is willing to deviate from global standards to ease pressure on lenders, some of which, like Italy's Monte dei Paschi di Siena and Germany's Deutsche Bank, are already struggling to convince investors that they hold enough capital.

Other changes to Basel's standards include easier capital treatment of covered bonds to "prevent a potential significant increase in the capital requirements" to maintain lower funding costs for mortgage loans for housing and non-residential property. (Source: Reuters)

## British workers see biggest fall in wages

Workers in the UK have suffered the biggest fall in wages among the world's richest countries since the financial crisis, research has suggested.

Between 2007 and 2015 wages in the UK fell by 10.4 percent, a drop equaled only by Greece, the analysis by the TUC found.

Women's pay in particular needs to be boosted, the union body said. Women earn on average 19.2 percent less than men, according to the latest official data. The Treasury said the TUC's analysis did not fully reflect living standards. The UK is the joint biggest faller on pay in 29 countries of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) - a forum for wealthy countries who work together to promote financial growth and social wellbeing.

The UK, Greece and Portugal were the only three OECD countries that saw real wages fall, according to the research compiled by the TUC.

### 'Boost women's pay'

Over the same eight-year period real wages grew in Poland by 23 percent, in Germany by 14 percent and in France by 11 percent, the TUC found. As an average real wages increased in OECD countries as a whole by 6.7 percent.

Real wages is a term used for wages that have been adjusted for inflation over time.

"We need to boost pay across the board, particularly for the one in four women still facing low pay," said Frances O'Grady, general secretary of the TUC, a federation of trade unions in England and Wales.

"Wages fell off the cliff after the financial crisis and have barely begun to recover," she added.

She said people could not afford another hit to their pay packets, and that working people should not foot the bill for a Brexit downturn.

### 'We're living in a different age'

Hannah Jongsma, 27, who is originally from the Netherlands and previously worked for the British Medical Association for three years, is now studying for a PhD in psychiatry at Cambridge University.

She gets about £1,100 a month and says the idea of her buying a house is "distant notion" and admits that life has become a "hand-to-mouth existence".

Hannah says her rent alone eats up more than half of her regular monthly allowance.

"We are living in a different age," she says.

"In terms of employment, permanent contracts for example have become so rare... temporary contracts basically mean you cannot plan for the future in the same way."

Conor D'Arcy, a policy analyst for the Resolution Foundation - a non-partisan think tank that looks at ways of improving living standards for Britons on low and middle incomes - said the financial climate had been particularly harsh for "millennials" like Hannah.

He said: "The UK has experienced the most prolonged pay squeeze in over a century in wake of the financial crisis, with young people feeling the biggest pay squeeze of all."

Millennials - people aged 34 and under - earned £8,000 less over the course of their 20s compared to the generation before them, he added.

A Treasury spokesman said the TUC's analysis ignored the fact that since the financial crisis the UK's employment rate had grown more than any country in the G7 - which is the world's leading seven industrialized nations.

"Living standards have reached their highest level and wages continue to rise faster than prices - and will be helped by the new National Living Wage," he said.

"But there is more to do to build an economy and country that works for everyone not just a privileged few, and we are determined to do exactly that." (Source: BBC)

# Iran, Bosnia-Herzegovina agree on SMEs co-op

**ECONOMY TEHRAN** — Tehran and Sarajevo desks signed an MOU on cooperation between the two side's small and medium-sized enterprises on Tuesday, IRIB news reported.

The contract was signed by the managing director of Iran's Small Industries and Industrial Parks Organization (ISIPO) and the Minister of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of Bosnia, in the presence of Iranian President Hassan Rouhani and the visiting Head of Bosnia and Herzegovina Presidential Council Bakir Izetbegovic, during a ceremony at Tehran's Sadabad Complex on Tuesday.

The Bosnian delegation, including high-ranking political and economic officials, arrived in the Iranian capital earlier in the day.

President Rouhani and Izetbegovic held a joint press conference after their meeting, 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's visit to Iran] will be a starting point to expand relations," Rouhani explained.



Tehran and Sarajevo signed an MOU on cooperation between the two side's small and medium-sized enterprises in the presence of Iranian President Hassan Rouhani and the visiting Head of Bosnia and Herzegovina Presidential Council Bakir Izetbegovic.

## Turkey to establish exclusive industrial park in Iran

**ECONOMY TEHRAN** — Ali Yazdani, the head of Iran Small Industries and Industrial Parks Organization (ISIPO), told IRNA on Wednesday that Istanbul Chamber of Industry (ISO), on the basis of an agreement with Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture (ICCIMA), will construct its exclusive specialized industrial park in Iran.

"The Turkish side will invest more than \$10 billion on the project to build

140 production units in this park," he said.

As he added, this is the first time in Iran that a specialized industrial park is thoroughly constructed relying on foreign investment.

"They have asked for a 500-hectare land to implement the project and we have proposed 15 locations to them to choose," Yazdani added, "further negotiations are still being conducted in this regard."

## Iran's inflation rate hits 8.7%: central bank

**ECONOMY TEHRAN** — The Central Bank of Iran (CBI) has announced that the inflation rate for the 12-month period ended in the last day of the seventh Iranian calendar month of Mehr (October 21) compared to the same period in the previous year hit 8.7 percent, IRIB news reported on Wednesday.

This is while the Statistical Center of Iran had put the figure at 7.9 per-

cent. The CBI has announced that the inflation rate in the past Iranian calendar year of 1394, which ended on March 19, 2016, compared to its previous year stood at 11.9 percent.

Curbing inflation was one of the major promises by Iranian President Hassan Rouhani during his presidential campaign. Under the previous administration, inflation skyrocketed to cross 44%.

## Post-sanction Iran makes play for Asian investment

Iran on Wednesday urged more Asian companies to invest in the country, saying the lifting of nuclear-linked sanctions had opened vast opportunities for foreign capital.

Central bank governor Valiollah Seif told a business seminar in Singapore that reforms put in place since President Hassan Rouhani took office in 2013 helped restore economic stability while the lifting of the sanctions had reintegrated the economy with the rest of the world.

Iran's gross domestic product is expected to grow 5.0 percent this year and next, up from 3.0 percent over the past two years, Seif told the private seminar of businessmen from Singapore, Malaysia, South Korea and Australia.

Iran in January signed a historic deal with western powers to end years of crippling sanctions in exchange for curbs on its nuclear program, which Tehran has



long insisted was for peaceful purposes.

"The lifting of sanctions has created unprecedented opportunities for investors," Seif said.

Outside oil and gas, investors can also seek opportunities in petrochemicals, steel, copper mining, pharmaceuticals, telecoms, aviation, machinery, tourism,

infrastructure and information and communication technology, he said.

Seif cited Iran's \$450 billion economy, skilled and educated workforce, 80 million population and cheap access to energy resources among the country's advantages.

Iran has the world's biggest gas reserves and the third largest oil reserves, he said.

Hossein Yaghoobi Myab, director-general for international affairs at the Iranian central bank, said at the meeting that since the lifting of sanctions, companies from China, Japan and South Korea had visited Iran.

"We have had a lot of negotiations. Some of them have actually led into concrete agreements and compacts with the Iranian side," he told reporters, adding that there was still "a lot of potential" for further investment talks.

(Source: Yahoo News)

## Hyundai Motor's profit tumbles to a record low

The automaker also warned it may miss its sales targets for a second straight year.

Hyundai Motor's quarterly net profit skidded to its lowest level in more than four years on a protracted strike at home and weakness in emerging markets, and it warned it may miss its sales targets for a second straight year.

Falling far short of consensus estimates, the results come just a day after the South Korean automaker said about 1,000 executives will take a 10 percent pay cut amid a severe slump that also reflects slower growth in more developed markets.

Hyundai also replaced the heads of both its South Korean and China operations this month, after market share losses in both

key markets.

Its woes have only exacerbated pain for South Korea, which has seen its economy take a hit from a major phone recall crisis at Samsung Electronics SNNL -12.28 percent and the collapse of Hanjin Shipping.

Net profit at the carmaker fell 10 percent to 1.06 trillion won (\$935 million) for the third quarter ended September, down for an 11th consecutive quarter. It was far below a consensus forecast of 1.3 trillion won derived from 19 analysts polled by Reuters.

Earnings fell even though the comparison period a year earlier was weak - in third-quarter 2015, profit slid nearly a quarter on slack China sales.

The firm said global shipments dropped

3 percent to 1.085 million vehicles for the third quarter from the same period a year earlier, also squeezed by weak demand at home after tax breaks on new car purchases expired in June.

"The uncertainty surrounding the automotive industry is expected to persist for the time being because of a slowdown in advanced markets and a slump in emerging countries," Hyundai Motor said in a statement.

The automaker's domestic factories were hit by sporadic strike action from July to September in what was its worst-ever labor dispute.

Management and union leaders reached a deal to resolve the issue earlier



this month - but not before Hyundai lost output of about 140,000 vehicles, worth around 3 trillion won in potential sales.

Hyundai shares ended down 0.4 percent after the earnings announcement, versus a 1.1 percent fall for the broader market.

(Source: Fortune)

NEWS IN BRIEF



**U.S. Stock futures down as Apple, oil prices drop**

U.S. stock index futures were lower for the second straight day on Wednesday following Apple's disappointing quarterly sales and a dip in oil prices.

Shares of the world's most valuable public company (AAPL.O) were off 3.4 percent in heavy premarket trading after the company said sales of its flagship iPhones fell for the third quarter in a row.

Oil prices fell more than 1 percent - Brent crude LCOc1 was on track for the fourth day of declines - after Iraq said it did not want to join an output-limiting deal with OPEC members, and U.S. drillers stepped up work.



**Lloyds says it can maintain lending margins despite low rates**

Lloyds Banking Group Plc, Britain's largest mortgage lender, said it expects to maintain lending margins next year and reassured investors on its outlook for dividends.

The bank's net interest margin should hold steady around 2.7 percent in 2017 even as the Bank of England keeps interest rates at record-low levels, and the firm will generate enough capital to pay a higher dividend for this year, Chief Financial Officer George Culmer said on a call with analysts on Wednesday. The stock rose, after earlier dropping as much as 3.8 percent on a decline in third-quarter profit.



**Toyota to recall 5.8 million cars in Japan, China, Europe over Takata airbags**

Toyota Motor Corp (7203.T) on Wednesday said it was recalling about 5.8 million cars at home and abroad over potentially faulty air bag inflators made by Takata Corp. (7312.T), including those used as replacement parts following a 2010 recall.

Automakers worldwide are ramping up the industry's biggest-ever recall after parts supplier Takata, under pressure from U.S. authorities, agreed earlier this year to declare more of its air bags as defective in the United States and other countries.



# Tehran, Helsinki discuss co-op in oil industry

**ECONOMY TEHRAN** — Deputy desk Iranian Oil Minister for International Affairs Amir Hossein Zamaninia and Finnish Secretary of State Peter Stenlund on Tuesday discussed the grounds of mutual cooperation in oil industry, IRIB reported.

Addressing the press after the event, Zamaninia said Finland has ideal technology and experience in various fields like reconstruction and modernization of refineries, collecting flare gas, liquefied natural gas (LNG) plants and offshore installations and several Finnish companies have expressed readiness for cooperation with Iran in such areas.

He further noted that "Finland's crude oil and natural gas is supplied by Russia; the country has two refineries with a total refining capacity of 350,000 barrels per day."

On Tuesday, Finnish President Sauli Niinistö arrived in Tehran at the top of a political and economic delegation on an official invitation by his Iranian counterpart, President Hassan Rouhani.

"We believe that Finland can offer first



Iran's Deputy Oil Minister for International Affairs Amir Hossein Zamaninia (1st L) held talks with Finnish Secretary of State Peter Stenlund (2nd R) in Tehran on Tuesday.

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", Niinistö said, adding "I am confident that

this visit will broaden our economic cooperation and provide opportunities to enhance our bilateral relations."

## Iran offers Rosneft to take part in oil extraction, refining projects

Russia's Rosneft energy company may participate in oil extraction in Iran, the Islamic Republic's ambassador told Sputnik.

Iran offers Russia's energy company Rosneft to participate in oil extraction and refining projects in the country, Iranian Ambassador to Russia Mehdi Sanaei told Sputnik Tuesday.

"Rosneft is cooperating directly with the Petroleum Ministry and the headquarters...The headquarters has various projects, and Rosneft may invest and participate in them," Sanaei said, specifying that these projects include both oil extraction and its processing.

Rosneft and NIOC have achieved good understanding, the ambassador noted, adding that the talks on various proposals are ongoing. Tehran and Moscow are engaged in active and productive consultations on the steps to curb oil production to stabilize global oil market, the Iranian ambassador told Sputnik. "Consultations between Iran and Russia on this issue are ongoing, they are productive. The [Iranian and Russian] ministers, as I've already mentioned, met in Algeria, they are in constant contact. I think that the cooperation between Iran and Russia in this respect is very important," Sanaei said.

**Iranian, Russian energy ministers may meet at OPEC talks in November**

Iranian Oil Minister Bijan Zanganeh may hold talks with Russian Energy Minister Alexander Novak in Vienna on the sidelines of the upcoming Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) negotiations on November 30, Sanaei said.

"The ministers have recently met in Algeria. Perhaps, they will meet in Vienna, possibilities of consultations on some level are not ruled out. In general, contacts between the ministries of energy and oil of

Russia and Iran are developing," he added.

OPEC member states reached an agreement on the sidelines of an international energy forum in Algeria to set a production ceiling of 32.5-33 million barrels per day. OPEC also decided to establish a technical committee to identify the production volume of individual member countries. The OPEC countries are set to finalize the agreement on oil output freeze at the Vienna summit. Other oil producing states, who are not members of OPEC, including Russia, are also expected to uphold the agreement, aimed at stabilizing the oil market. (Source: Sputnik)

## Tehran to host intl. electricity expo early-Nov.

**ECONOMY TEHRAN** — As the country's biggest event desk in electricity sphere, The 16th Iran International Electricity Exhibition (IEE 2016) is due to be held from November 5 to 8 at the Tehran International Permanent Fairgrounds, Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) announced.

According to TPO, 350 domestic companies and 295 foreign exhibitors from different countries including China, Austria, Germany, Italy, France, England, the United States, Taiwan, the UAE, Canada, Poland, Spain, Japan, South Korea, Russia, Turkey, Sweden, Czech, Finland, India and Switzerland are going to participate in the event.

The exhibitors will showcase their products and services in various fields like lighting equipment, wire and cable, electrical switchgears, electrical equipment, etc.

The main objectives of this event are to provide the appropriate context for presenting the industry's latest achievements in different fields such as electrical engineering and industrial automation, presenting opportunities for domestic and foreign companies to hold talks and do business, fostering communication between universities, industry and scientific-research centers and finally enhancing product quality to meet the international standards and etc.

## Iran's North Azadegan oil field ships 2m barrels to China

Two million barrels of crude oil were shipped from Iran's North Azadegan oil field to China on Oct. 24. The exchange marks the beginning of China's recovery of its investment in the field; according to the contract, another one million barrels will be shipped by the end of this month, Xinhua reported.

North Azadegan oil field is part of Azadegan oil field in southwestern Iran, near the Iran-Iraq border. It is a key investment and cooperation project of China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC), China's biggest oil and natural gas company in the Middle East.

In October 2015, the field started trial operation. In April, it began to transport oil, with a production capacity of around four million tons of crude oil per year. In September, CNPC and its Iranian counterpart signed an agreement for China to receive three million barrels of crude oil in exchange for its initial investment.

Since the project was started, CNPC has followed stringent standards for construction, technology and environmental protection. In doing so, the North Azadegan oil field became the first foreign-backed project to win an environmental award issued by the local government. (Source: People)

PICTURE OF THE DAY OEEC/Recieved



## NIOC's investment opportunities introduced in OEEC

**ECONOMY TEHRAN** — desk National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC)'s investment opportunities in the offshore sector were introduced and presented in the Offshore Energy Exhibition (OEEC) 2016 in Amsterdam.

Features of Iran's new oil contracts (IPC) like being long-term and the need for technology transfer were among the topics discussed in the event.

As the biggest offshore energy event in the Netherlands, OEEC is mainly focused on the offshore energy industry, from oil & gas to wind and marine energy.

The event will wrap up today in the Europe Complex of the Amsterdam RAI.

## OPEC production cut would have biggest impact from February 2017

As OPEC ministers prepare to meet in Vienna next month to thrash out a keenly anticipated but still uncertain cut to crude output, oil traders are jostling for position in futures and options markets in a bid to capitalize on any deal.

While any cut agreed by Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) at its Nov. 30 meeting could take effect as soon as Dec. 1, traders say the biggest price impact will be in contracts for delivery in early 2017, especially the February contract, rather than in the spot market.

"The reason why you're not going to see any impact on Q4 2016 prices is because by November when this decision is made you are going to be trading January or February barrels," said Virendra Chauhan, crude oil analyst at trading consultancy Energy Aspects in Singapore.

Even January data will be less affected as it expires on the day of the meeting, leaving February as the first contract that covers the meeting itself.

Market data shows a steady inflow of new positions into the February contract lately, with the number of positions - known as open interest - in February futures up 48 percent since OPEC flagged the prospect of an output cut on Sept. 28.

The options market has also recorded a jump in activity tied to February.

Positions tied to February puts (options to sell) and calls (options to buy) have both risen, but the number of puts at the top five most popular February 'strike prices' increased by roughly twice the amount as the number at the top five call options.

This suggests broadly defensive maneuvers by participants such as producers who likely locked in price floors for some of their future production.

Open interest in March futures, which also cover the period when any potential supply adjustments will be felt, has risen by 12.7 percent since Sept. 28. February and March futures prices are both up by roughly 5.5 percent since then.

The last time OPEC cut output to prop up the market was in 2008, during the unfolding global financial crisis.

The impact of that cut, which took effect on Nov. 1, 2008, was only seen in OPEC's January 2009 production of 28.69 million bpd, down from 30.22 million bpd in two months earlier.

Oil prices fell sharply from around the low \$60 a barrel level in late October, then stabilized around \$45 a barrel in January before recovering over the course of the year.

But the overall situation back then was vastly different. OPEC cut by more than is planned today, slashing output by 1.5 million barrels per day (bpd), but acted in response to a slump in demand.

The key concern now is supply. The U.S. shale revolution has turned the United States into a top-3 producer, and soaring OPEC and post-Soviet era production in Russia has led to an enduring global production overhang.

Most analysts say that global production will remain high even if OPEC does

cut, so they do not expect big price jumps following a deal.

Bernstein Energy this month cut its Brent crude oil price forecast for 2017 to \$60 per barrel, down from \$70 per barrel previously.

"Record supply from OPEC year-to-date, weaker global GDP estimates, and still elevated inventories cause us to lower and flatten our oil price outlook," the firm said.

That view is also reflected in the forward curve for Brent futures of today versus that of 2008.

Back then, the Brent forward price curve just ahead of the anticipated OPEC cut showed a steep contango structure, where prices for delivery six months on were over \$10 per barrel more expensive than those for immediate delivery.

The current contango is less than \$5 for the same time span, suggesting market participants see a much more muted impact. (Source: Reuters)

## 'Solar winds' spur geomagnetic storm that may affect power

Charged particles flowing from the sun have touched off a strong geomagnetic storm across the Earth that can disrupt power grids, satellites and radio navigation systems.

Geomagnetic conditions increased early Tuesday before weakening by midday, according to the U.S. Space Weather Prediction Center. The event led the PJM Interconnection LLC, operator of the biggest U.S. power grid, and Midcontinent Independent System Operator, which manages high-voltage transmission lines across 15 U.S. states and one Canadian province, to issue warnings.

The storms can cause voltage corrections and trigger false alarms in some power system equipment, the Boulder, Colorado-based center said. They can also create drag on satellites in low-Earth orbits, forcing course corrections and disrupting navigation and high-frequency radio signals. The storm's aurora can sometimes be seen as far south as Illinois and Oregon.

The space weather center had issued an alert earlier on Tuesday about a "serious" G3 level storm. They lowered it an hour later to a more "moderate" G2 level watch. PJM canceled its warning at 2 p.m. New York time. (Source: Bloomberg)



## The Quetta attack: Is ISIL extending into Pakistan?

Monday night's suicide attack on a cadet training center in Quetta, Pakistan, which left 60 dead and more than a hundred injured, was ruthless and well-coordinated. But it was also chaotic.

Pakistani authorities were quick to blame Lashkar-e-Jhanghvi, a terrorist group. Meanwhile, an obscure Taliban-affiliate, known as the Hakimullah group, issued a claim of responsibility.



But perhaps of greatest concern for Pakistan is the claim from the Islamic terrorist group's (ISIL) central news agency that the assault was carried out by "Soldiers of the Caliphate."

The fact the reports originated from ISIL's central Amaq news agency rather than that of the local "Khorasan province" also likely constitutes an attempt to diversify the group's international propaganda

narrative away from its faltering defense of Mosul, Iraq. The group's shift toward dramatic attacks overseas, as it loses territory in Iraq and Syria, has as great implication for Dhaka, Bangladesh, as it does for Nice, France.

But how much of a threat does ISIL really pose to Pakistan? The Pakistani government has flip-flopped on the issue. On the one hand, the army has outright rejected the presence of ISIL in the country. "They tried to [sneak] into Pakistan but failed and [were] apprehended," according to Inter-Services Public Relations Director General Lieutenant General Asim Saleem Bajwa.

Yet in September an army spokesman admitted for the first time that ISIL did have a presence in Pakistan, saying attacks against embassies and Islamabad's airport had been foiled.

As well as Monday night's attack, ISIL has said it was responsible for a deadly assault on a hospital in Quetta in August 2016, something denied by the government and attributed to Pakistani Taliban faction Jamaat-ur-Ahrar, as well as an attack on a bus filled with Ismaili Shias the previous year.

These two attacks alone killed more than 120. Smaller scale ISIL-claimed attacks, often motorcycle-borne, have left dozens more dead. Just one day before the latest Quetta attack, ISIL announced it was behind the shooting of an intelligence official in northwest Pakistan.

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# Why Hillary Clinton's plans for no-fly zones in Syria could provoke U.S.-Russia conflict

By Spencer Ackerman

Trump on Clinton's Syria policy: it would 'lead to world war three'.

Retired senior U.S. military pilots are increasingly alarmed that Hillary Clinton's proposal for "no-fly zones" in Syria could lead to a military confrontation with Russia that could escalate to levels that were previously unthinkable in the post-cold war world.

The former strategists spoke to the Guardian as Clinton's Republican rival Donald Trump warned that Clinton's proposal to establish "safe zones" to protect beleaguered Syrian civilians would "lead to world war three".

The proposal of no-fly zones has been fiercely debated in Washington for the past five years, but has never attracted significant enthusiasm from the military because of the risk to pilots from Syrian air defenses and the presence of Russian warplanes.

Many in U.S. national security circles consider the risk of an aerial confrontation with the Russians to be severe.

"I wouldn't put it past them to shoot down an American aircraft," said James Clapper, the U.S. director of national intelligence, last Tuesday in response to a question from the Guardian at the Council on Foreign Relations.

### ■ Air occupation

Those who have patrolled no-fly zones over the relatively freer skies of Bosnia and Saddam-era Iraq fear that a President Clinton would oblige the U.S. to what one retired U.S. air force three-star general described as an indefinite "air occupation". Such a move would risk the lives of U.S. pilots – and dare confrontation with a Russian military which is more aggressive than it has been in years.

Critics of the plan also question how using U.S. military power to establish and police a safe space for beleaguered Syrian civilians would contribute to the downfall of President Bashar al-Assad – the explicit goal of U.S. policy in Syria.

"If she is not politically posturing, it's going to be a disaster. I hope it's political posturing," said John Kuehn, a retired navy officer who flew no-fly zone missions over Bosnia and Iraq. Kuehn who called denying an adversary its airspace "the cocktail party military application of power of choice".

David Deptula, a retired air force lieutenant general who commanded the no-fly zone operations over northern Iraq in 1998 and 1999, said the Russians were a "complicating factor" but considered the problems with



a no-fly zone to be more fundamental.

"Until a strategy that defines the desired end-state is clearly laid out in a comprehensive way, it's difficult to advocate for a no-fly zone," said Deptula.

"Right now, the way it's being discussed, it's a solution in search of a strategy. Until coalition powers define what it is they wish to accomplish, banding about a solution like a no-fly zone is a non-starter."

The challenges for a no-fly zone over Syria outstrip those the U.S. has faced over Libya, Bosnia and Iraq. Assad's surface-to-air missiles, protecting the Mediterranean coast and southern regions the regime still controls, were formidable before the recent Russian addition of what Clapper, a former air force general, called "very advanced" S-300 and S-400 systems that can blanket the majority of Syrian airspace with missiles.

Staging a no-fly zone requires either the assent of regional allies – Turkey is the nearest potential partner to Syria, but it has concentrated in recent months on improving ties with Moscow after Turkish forces shot

down a Russian jet in November 2015 – or an expensive, open-ended and risky deployment of aircraft carrier groups to the eastern Mediterranean.

But the most distinguishing feature of a Syria no-fly zone in 2017 would be the aerial presence of another great-power air force with an objective which is diametrically opposed to Washington's.

### ■ Confrontation

Russia and the U.S. currently share the skies above Syria and maintain a military-to-military communication channel to avoid confrontation.

But since they operate over different parts of the country and with different objectives – the U.S. in the east against the Islamic State (ISIL), Russia to the west against Assad's opposition – a U.S.-imposed no-fly zone would put their objectives into conflict. No one knows how either side would respond if Russian aircraft violated a U.S. air cordon, nor how to de-escalate a clash before it spiraled into extended combat.

→13

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# Corruption, cronyism and flawed supervision: Banes of banking system

By Samad Habibi

Tehran Prosecutor General has said strict supervision over banking activities would prevent unnoticed corruptions and shed some light to darker corners of the banking interactions.

Abbas Jafari Dowlatabadi told a meeting of the inspecting bodies of private and public banking on Saturday that improved supervision and monitoring activities would prevent violations of the law, where the inspecting bodies should attend to their duties with much zeal and enthusiasm; "however, a lapse in such preventive activities brought banking corruptions to the headlines of mass media and other social networks, with news stories of arrest of high-ranking officials of banks, effectively depriving the public of their confidence to the financial system and casting doubts on the health of the banking at large," he emphasized. "In all dossiers on corruption, banking sector has been directly and indirectly involved, inter alia, are Kerman's Tejarat Bank, Sarmayeh, Dey, and other banks."

"Banking has been a safe haven in all such cases for corruption to incubate, with high-ranking man-

meeting.

"The indictment process of many of these cases had been underway; but a tactic was effectively adopted, apart from filing for insolvency, is to claim, by the band debtors, that they should be dealt merely as bank debtors and should not be indicted in charges of corruption and abuse of public money; a second problem which contributes to the situation sinking to the lower priorities, is that banks would not accept as repayment of debts as physical assets," he lamented. "11 banks had paid a sum of \$ 2.5bn, with 1287 individuals filing for insolvency; the deadlock to be solved requires three fundamental approaches; the first remains with banks to adapt stricter roles and criteria for granting loans; the bank directors should be in the frontline of the fight for corruption; no run-of-the-mill entrepreneur should receive inordinate amounts without putting in stake enough guarantees; cronyism should be abolished and unqualified evidence should not be lent credence as individual's credentials as receiving loans," he recommended.

"Access to public accounts should be restricted to few high-ranking officials and should remain confident-



**Bank directors should be in the frontline of the fight for corruption; no run-of-the-mill entrepreneur should receive inordinate amounts without putting in stake enough guarantees**

communicated through the Court; the Court has refrained from appointing a representative in banks out of fear of parallel structures with intermingled duties which would have negative effect on transparency; this however would not rule out the necessity to provide the Prosecutor's office of cases of corruption; transparency should be the guiding principle in any activity, where the inspecting bodies would work with ease," he said.

Farshad Heidari, CBI's Deputy for Supervisory Affairs also addressed the meeting; "currently, more than 200,000 staff serve in more than 23,000 branches of banks and credit institutions, the majority of whom enjoy high degree of integrity and morality; the source of corruption comes from customers with contacts in high places in the power ladder, along with insufficient transparency and bad legislation; with banking interactions now using more sophisticated technologies, corruptions and swindle cases have declined significantly," he told the meeting.

He believed that covering of violations and avoiding report to higher echelons are major contributors to ever-increasing lawsuits to address the issue; "in fiscal year ending March 21, 2016, banking system carried out 35 billion transactions; the major pitfalls include engagement of corrupt and convicted individuals and individuals specifically referred to banks by people on high places and generally lacked the necessary credentials; there has been considerable amount of concert between public sector and private sector banks in reemploying of retired personnel, which is clear violation of the law stipulating that personnel should receive promotions according to prescribed rules, and that banks should report this to Central Bank," he emphasized.

The meeting where Tehran's prosecutor-general addressed leaves still important matters of the independence of the Central Bank. This is the

cornerstone of a healthy financial system where central bank acts independent of the government to regulate the system as the sole body capable of making critical decisions which would affect the lives of nation. In a free market economy, this is the invisible hand of the market and the forces inside the market that decides to where an economy should go and which decisions should be made. In Iranian setting however, much of the economy is unsupervised and as many observers believe, the hidden part or underground part of the economy is not regulated even by the government itself. In such a situation, Central Bank is merely one of the players in the economic terrain, wielding no significant role in bringing into order the economic movement and dynamics of the much of the economic sectors goes unnoticed by the CB.

In a rentier economy, the privileges are granted to government- and power-affiliated people with little or absolutely no qualities to any economic activity which would be productive. Iran's banking system is not an exception, and the mushrooming of the private banks and institutions provide testimony to this state of malady where unauthorized individuals enter economic activities with sole objective of making profits in environments lacking transparency and supervision; in such settings, the system lends itself to diverse sorts of corruption including money laundering.

Jafarabadi's lamentation that the banks are run without effective supervision are well grounded, to which the Central Bank should be alert; however, it has largely been an onlooker, only occasionally providing to the media statistics of illegally run banks and financial institutions which, assured of their unsurmountable place, mock the banking system and the workings of the CB.

The ever-increasing number of banks and credit and financial institutions following the post-War years when the Construction era of Hashemi Rafsanjani's 8-year incumbency had expanded the economic sector without necessary regulatory bodies monitoring these institutions and credit financiers to which were channeled large amounts of money, earned legally or illicitly; Central Bank however did not retain its key position and became the governments' wallet and a player among others. The situation has recently been addressed as the corruption surfaced in scales unheard of before and when a rentier economy, having enjoyed almost no regulatory supervision and thus evaded accountability, fostered cronyism. The internal mechanisms of the banking system should be self-sufficient in a transparent organizational setting in preventing corruption, and only in extreme cases should the judicial system interfere in the economics of the banking, to which Mr. Dowlati Jafarabadi clearly alludes in recommending the banking high management that they should pioneer efforts to restore health to the banking system.



**The case is further exacerbated when all these cronies file for insolvency and thus easily remaining exempt from further punishment; today, banks are centers of economic power, immense resources, which will definitely lead to corruption and other sorts of abuse.**

agement turning a blind eye on the corruption underway in inner organizational levels and or actively participating to gain their illicit interests," he warned.

Jafari Dowlatabadi also said that two high-ranking officials have been indicted in the case of Sarmayeh Bank. He ascribed the alleged corruption and the consequent circumlocution by the banks themselves of the cases to the culture of rentier economy and cronyism dominant in the financial system, where the system had been pliable vis-à-vis special privileges granted to individuals with contacts and affiliations to higher places to which banks felt indebted. "The case is further exacerbated when all these cronies file for insolvency and thus easily remaining exempt from further punishment; today, banks are centers of economic power, immense resources, which will definitely lead to corruption and other sorts of abuse. Money brings political power as well and where money-laundering is detected in drug trafficking and smuggle of goods, banks have a hand providing the bedrock for illicit activities under cover," he emphasized.

He called all healthy banks to distinguish themselves from the contaminated banking system and stand apart through effective supervision and monitoring which rules out the corruption and possibilities of abuse.

"The majority of the resources received as loans from banks had been invested in projects other than that specified in the agreement. This squanders public money, frustrates production sector and fosters a culture of corruption. A lump sum is potentially a source and impetus for the corrupt customer to bribe others easily," Jafari Dowlatabadi told the

meeting; "currently, more than 200,000 staff serve in more than 23,000 branches of banks and credit institutions, the majority of whom enjoy high degree of integrity and morality; the source of corruption comes from customers with contacts in high places in the power ladder, along with insufficient transparency and bad legislation; with banking interactions now using more sophisticated technologies, corruptions and swindle cases have declined significantly," he told the meeting.

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## After decades of chaos, can Iraq's crises end in Mosul?

By Taha Ozhan

Iraq is the political epicenter of our region, a microcosm of all of the political, economic and demographic problems found across the Middle East and, as a result, the heart of our suffering.

Throughout the 20th century, Iraq has experienced various forms of instability and pain. After 1980 alone, the country was engaged in the longest war of the 20th century with neighboring Iran, suffered the destruction and heavy cost of the Gulf War and, with the dawning of the new millennium, was occupied, pushing uncertainty to a whole new level.

A country that could not break out of a cycle of wars, a cruel sanctions regime, an occupation and a civil war for 36 years still lingers in agony today, with each passing day bringing even more anxiety.

### Layer cake of crisis

In the aftermath of the US occupation, Iraq fractured at three points. First, during the chaos that ensued when the government and military were dissolved under the "de-Baathification" policy; secondly, with the violent polarization and fanatical sectarianism following the 2005 election for which the country was quite unprepared; and finally, the pushing of the Iraqiyyah movement out of the system by a coerced-coalition following the 2010 election.

The third fracture point in 2010 is still the main basis of the crises in Iraq today, the number one result of which is the Islamic State (IS) militant group. Almost 50 years of Iraqi crises have been whittled down to the sole problem of IS, in the same way that the massacres committed by the Assad regime have been glossed over as the fight against IS has been prioritized.

It is as if IS is the worst disaster which has befallen Iraq



in the past 36 years, even though the origins behind the group's emergence are decades of turmoil.

However, IS's presence in Mosul specifically stems from Iraq's post-occupation administration as much as from the group's actions. More generally, almost all of the causes that led to the group's emergence are rooted in the US occupation and the various Iraqi governments formed in the aftermath.

To a large extent, IS drew its military capability from a state bureaucracy and army that was dissolved in the worst and most irresponsible way possible. Similarly, the support that social groups and local tribes gave to IS were a result of the Iraqi government's sectarian policies which made Saddam's methods pale in comparison.

### Strategy gone wrong

The policies between 2005 and 2012 that contributed to the formation of IS in Iraq escalated into a more dangerous phase in the hands of long-time "Damascus affiliate", Nouri al-Maliki.

In Syria, prisons were evacuated in haste, unleashing IS on the Syrian opposition. This policy completely overlooked the potential problems it would cause in Iraq and rapidly cleared the road for IS. Intended to help Damascus, IS instead took over Mosul and turned into a threat for Baghdad.

At this point, independently from the Mosul offensive, the eradication of IS or similar groups in the future will remain a naive approach unless an agenda is advanced to solve the "Sunni problem" in Iraq and in the region.

With Najaf-based groups in the south, the Green Zone in Baghdad and its outskirts, the Erbil government in the north and IS-held areas around Mosul, Iraq has become an extremely difficult country to govern and one without an umbrella of security institutions.

### Share the wealth

From Shia paramilitary groups to transnational terror groups such as the PKK and IS, from independent boutique armies of various Shia groups to Sunni groups, a chaotic situation exists in Iraq. Similarly, the country's social fabric is seriously torn up and fragmented.

In the next phase, there is only one way out: in a country where all of the revenue comes from energy sources, all actors must realize that there must be political sharing for all to partake in the wealth.

At the center of the political sharing crisis, however, lies "the Sunni problem", a legacy from the days of the US occupation when Sunni Arabs, Kurds and Turkmen were marginalized and ignored, an ongoing issue that must be deeply understood now.

A similar catastrophic mistake, as was made in the past, must not be repeated in Mosul. Yet when one looks at the administration in Baghdad and its eagerness to repeat in Mosul what IS has done to Mosul, anyone with sound wisdom should be frightened.

(Source: Middle East Eye)



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# Understanding the symptoms of heart failure

By Richard N. Fogoros

If you have heart failure, it is important for you to know what kinds of symptoms you can expect. By paying close attention to your symptoms, you can help your doctor optimize your therapy, both to keep your symptoms at bay and to reduce your chances of dying from heart failure.

Most symptoms caused by heart failure can be divided into three general categories: symptoms due to lung congestion, symptoms due to reduced cardiac pumping and symptoms due to heart arrhythmias.

## Symptoms due to lung congestion

Lung congestion commonly occurs in heart failure. Heart failure often leads to an accumulation of fluid within the body and increased pressure within the heart. These two factors together cause some of that "extra" fluid to accumulate in the lungs. The result is lung congestion, and this is why heart failure is often referred to as "congestive heart failure."

The lung congestion that occurs in heart failure causes shortness of breath or dyspnea. The dyspnea is most often experienced with exertion. Dyspnea can also occur while lying flat, a condition called "orthopnea." In addition, dyspnea can occur suddenly in the middle of the night, causing one to wake up gasping for air and needing to sit up. Such an episode is called "paroxysmal nocturnal dyspnea," or PND. Recently, "bendopnea" - dyspnea while bending over - has also been identified as a symptom of heart failure.

If heart failure worsens over time, dyspnea can gradually increase to the point of producing physical incapacity. Severe and often sudden episodes of shortness of breath can also occur. This kind of sudden episode called "acute pulmonary edema," is a medical emergency.

The accumulation of body fluid also leads to swelling (or edema) in the legs.

## Symptoms due to reduced cardiac pumping

The main job of the heart is to pump blood to all the body's organs. In heart



Doctors assess the pumping capacity of the heart by the physical examination, and by measuring the left ventricular ejection fraction (LVEF).

failure, this pumping action is usually diminished to at least some degree.

In most cases, the symptoms caused by poor cardiac pumping (also referred to as decreased cardiac output) are experienced only relatively late in the course of heart failure, when the heart muscle has become extremely weak.

When the heart muscle becomes substantially weakened, the heart can no longer pump enough blood to sufficiently supply the body's organs. The most prominent symptoms caused by this reduced pumping capability are extreme fatigue and muscle wasting. However, poor blood flow can also reduce the function of internal organs such as the brain, liver, kidneys and intestines, leading to a host of additional symptoms such

as lethargy, extreme edema, abdominal distention and numerous gastrointestinal symptoms.

Doctors assess the pumping capacity of the heart by the physical examination, and by measuring the left ventricular ejection fraction (LVEF).

The LVEF is the percentage of blood ejected from the left ventricle with each heart beat, so that, for instance, an LVEF of 50% indicates that the left ventricle is ejecting half its volume each time it contracts. A normal LVEF is 50% or higher. Most people who have symptoms caused by reduced cardiac pumping will have an LVEF below 30 to 35%.

Symptoms due to reduced cardiac pumping are usually limited to patients who have dilated cardiomyopathy with a

very low LVEF. Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy and diastolic heart failure are both characterized by relatively well-preserved cardiac pumping action, so these kinds of symptoms are generally uncommon in these conditions.

## Symptoms due to cardiac arrhythmias

Heart failure is commonly associated with heart rhythm disturbances.

Atrial fibrillation is particularly common in people with heart failure. The likelihood of developing atrial fibrillation increases as the heart failure worsens. Atrial fibrillation can produce palpitations - a feeling that the heart is beating rapidly or irregularly - weakness or shortness of breath. Atrial fibrillation also tends to produce blood clots in the left atrium, which can break free and travel to the brain, producing a stroke. These clots can also produce damage to other organs in the body. Anyone with heart failure and atrial fibrillation needs to be on adequate anticoagulation (blood thinner) therapy to prevent such serious events.

Unfortunately, sudden death due to ventricular fibrillation is also disturbingly common in patients with heart failure - especially in patients with dilated cardiomyopathy and some forms of hypertrophic cardiomyopathy. Almost one out of three patients with dilated cardiomyopathy dies suddenly from ventricular arrhythmias. For this reason, many patients with significant dilated cardiomyopathy should be considered for implantable defibrillators.

## Summary

Heart failure can indeed produce some very disturbing symptoms, and can significantly disrupt one's life. Fortunately, significant advances have been made during the last decade or two in treating heart failure. By paying close attention to your symptoms and working carefully with your doctor, with today's aggressive therapy odds are good that you will be able to enjoy many happy and productive years, despite this serious medical condition.

(Source: verywell.com)

## The worst skin care advice dermatologists have ever heard

By Macaela Mackenzie

From strict dietary restrictions to crazy home remedies and insanely expensive (not to mention insanely tiny) jars of "miracle" products, there are a lot of suspect skin care solutions swimming around out there.

And no one has heard more unfounded, questionable, and downright wrong advice than dermatologists. To help us separate fact from fiction, we asked top docs about the worst skin care advice they've ever heard and why it's bogus.

### Your behavior is to blame for your breakout

People blame themselves and think they're doing something wrong. But you break out because of factors beyond your control. People think they're transferring bacteria to their face by touching it a lot or by sleeping on the same pillowcase. Or they blame their diet. But acne is a result of your genetics and hormones. An unhealthy diet and emotional stress can exacerbate acne, but they are not the primary reason for breakouts.

### All-natural products are safe for your skin

In reality natural products are just like other chemicals - some of them are safe, while others are not. In many cases, there is inadequate data for us to be able to base any recommendations on. Poison oak is natural, and that is clearly not something that most people would want to put on their skin. For people prone to developing skin irritation or rashes, plain petroleum jelly is probably the safest product to use.

### The sun is beneficial for certain skin conditions

Phototherapy is a treatment performed in a medical clinic with parameters set for safety and efficacy (a particular wavelength of light is used, exposure time monitored, etc.). But I once saw a patient who somehow ended up consulting an owner of a tanning salon near her house, and this person convinced her that routine tanning in the salon would achieve the same purpose for treating a rash. The reality is that tanning beds are highly linked to the development of skin cancer and are not used to treat skin conditions like rashes. Indoor tanning also ages skin rapidly, accelerating development of wrinkles and sunspots, and deteriorating skin tone and texture.

### You should exfoliate daily for clear skin

Over-exfoliating the skin can strip skin cells not ready to be removed; trigger redness, irritation, and inflammation; lead to raw skin and skin infections; and cause acne as a result of overactive oil gland production. Exfoliation is an integral part of a good skin care routine but should be done gently (not abrasively) and only twice a week. This will help maintain an active skin turnover cycle, keep skin from clogging, and remove dead skin cells and debris in a timely manner.

→13

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## Tehran, Moscow plan visa-waiver talks in December

**T**OURISM TEHRAN — Top Iranian and Russian diplomats are slated to discuss the possibility of abolishing visa requirements for tourist groups from the two sides in December, as they have already loosened restrictions for some certain travelers.

The first phase of the visa-waiver agreement, which went into effect in February 2016, yields exemptions for business people, scientists, and educators as well as several other categories of travelers, Mehdi Sanaei, the Iranian ambassador to Moscow, wrote in his Telegram account earlier this month.



As for the second phase of talks, waiving visas for tourist groups will go under consideration during a joint committee meeting which is to be held in Tehran in December, he said.

In the third phase, which is expected to commence in 2017, the two sides will push for a comprehensive visa-free travel contract that would benefit both the nations, Sanaei explained.

Meanwhile, in an interview with Sputnik International which was published on October 25, Sanaei said "Diplomats from the two foreign ministries would meet in Tehran in December to discuss consular ties, as well as visa-free travel for the citizens of the two nations."

In August 2015, Iran extended visa on arrival for foreign tourists from 15 days to 30 days.

The director of Iran's Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Organization, Masoud Soltanifar, has said the easing of visa rules was opening the door for the return of foreign tourists to Iran.

## A 2,000-year-old unsolved mystery

By Adam H Graham

We can only speculate why these ancient humans — whose perfectly preserved bodies have been discovered.

As my train from Hamburg to Denmark chugged past soggy green fields and sun-dappled birch forests, we passed yet another willow-shrouded bog topped with blue green algae or tidy duckweed.

Even from the moving train, I could sense they were dark and gentle places, peaceful waterholes like the one I imagine Hamlet's ill-fated lover Ophelia drowned in near Elsinore. My train had entered bog body country.



Most bog bodies were discovered between 1800 and 1960 by harvesters burning peat (Credit: imageBROKER / Alamy Stock Photo)

Bog bodies are 2,000-year old humans discovered in the bogs, mires and moors across Northern Europe, from Ireland to Poland.

Many modern archeologists believe that these Iron Age people were sacrificial victims, killed and then delicately deposited in the bog as a ritualistic offering to the gods. Other scholars speculate that they were criminals, immigrants or wayfarers.

Denmark has one of the world's highest concentrations of bogs and bog bodies — many perfectly preserved over the centuries, pickle-like, by acids generated by sphagnum moss, the living foundations of these wetlands. Most were accidentally discovered by turf harvesters between 1800 and 1960 when Denmark still burned peat as fuel.

Forensics and modern autopsies have revealed that almost all of them — both men and women — met a violent end, some with finely wrought nooses around their necks and others with horrifically slashed necks.

Because very little is known about Iron Age Denmark — there was no written language in Denmark then, and few written texts of Romans and Greeks survive — we can only speculate as to who they were and why they were murdered. However, since the majority of Iron Age people were cremated, we do know that these souls met a distinctly different end from their contemporaries. I wanted to visit these bog bodies to get a better insight into the mysterious world they came from.

My first stop was Vejle, a small city of about 100,000 in southeast Jutland, 240km west of Copenhagen. The gorgeous, hilly region is atypical of flat Denmark. The roads corkscrewed around gently rolling farm hills and undulating glacially sculpted valleys, pocked with kettle ponds and woody bogs lined with pink orchids and stiff umber cattails.

I was there to meet with Mads Ravn, head archeologist at the Vejle Museum, who oversees a fascinating collection of artefacts, including Roman coins, inscribed swords and swastika brooches (an ancient symbol that existed before its association with the Nazi Party) that were all found in the bogs and are thought to be votive offerings, possibly for Iron Age gods or deities. (Source: BBC)

# Nasir al-Molk Mosque: Scenic and historic

**T**OURISM Located in downtown Shiraz lies the elegant Nasir al-Molk Mosque, which boasts extensive colored tilework and glass on its façade as well as exquisite architecture inside.

Completed in the end of the 19th century, it is one of the most photographed mosques in southern Iran.

Delicate stuccowork interwoven with arabesque designs and tilework dominated by remarkably deep shade of blue form a peaceful atmosphere for the visitors, in particular when mirrored in the vast yet shallow pool in the courtyard.

Reflection of light through the stained-glass sheets, abundant carved pillars and lavishly-created polychrome faience are amongst elements that enhance the beauty of the mosque's prayer hall.

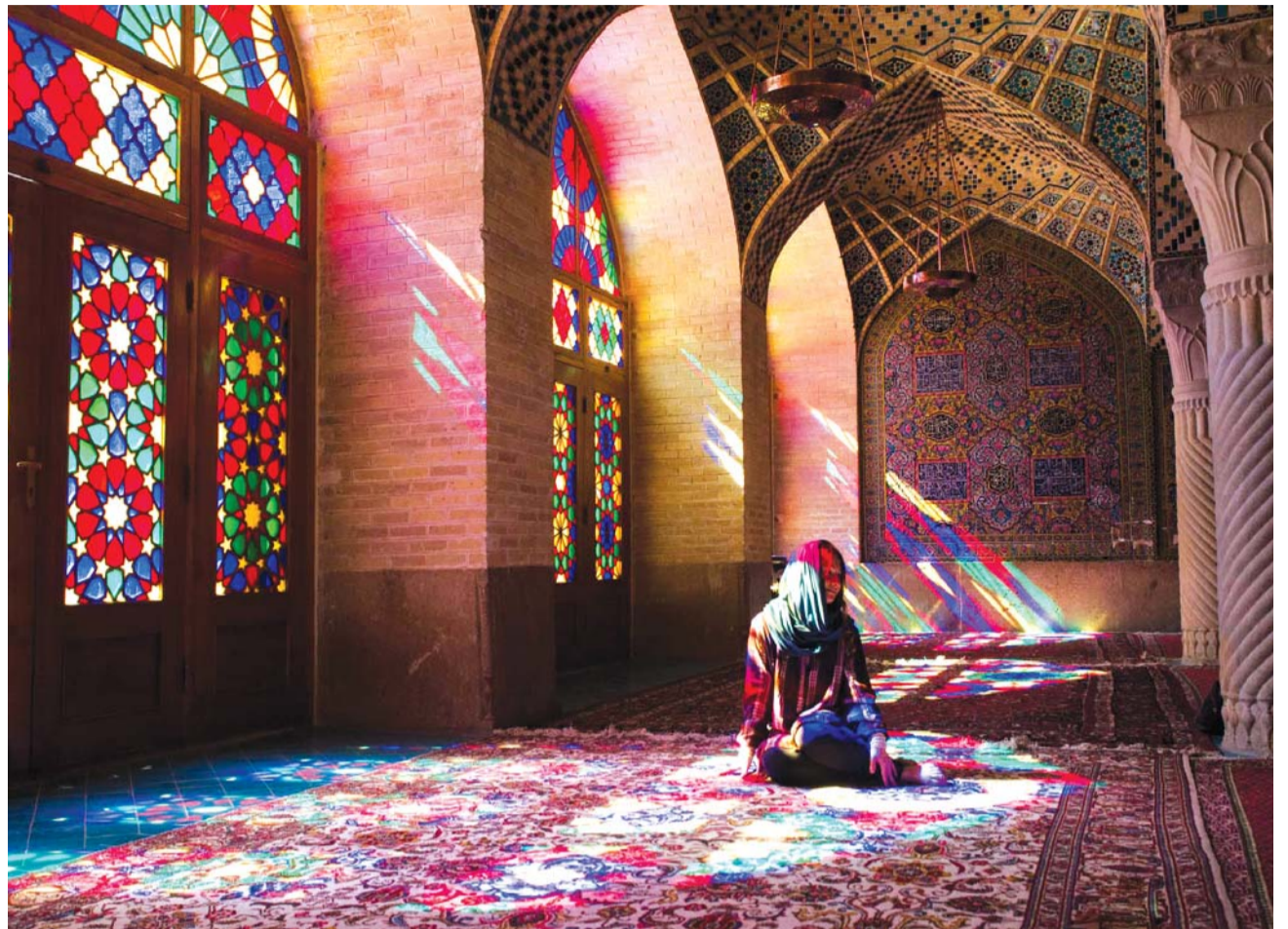
In case one is willing to get shots it is widely recommended to come as early as possible in the morning to picture the prayer hall when it is lit up through the colorful glass frames.

The mosque is named after the Qajar-era merchant Mirza Hasan Ali (Nasir al-Molk) who ordered its construction in close collaboration with designer Mohammad Hasan-e Memar and architect Mohammadreza Kashisaz Shirazi.

Here is a select of comments that visitors to the mosque have posted to TripAdvisor, one of the most popular travel websites in the world:

■ "A place to see in the morning"

It is very nice mosque with wonderfully colored windows. Even in the afternoon it's beautiful. But you should come in the morning when the sunlight shines through the windows. (Julia S. from Switzerland, visited October 2016)



An undated photo depicts a visitor sitting at the prayer hall of Nasir al-Molk Mosque in southern Iranian city of Shiraz.

■ "Rainbow"

A pleasant trip around this location the rainbow of lights formed with reflections of sunlight through windows and interesting museum room. (Ray C. from England, visited October 2016)

■ "A beautiful mosque"

The main thing about this mosque -- as other have said -- are the stained

glass windows which cast beautiful colors on the rugs in the mosque. That is both a positive and a negative. Negative because people (largely young people) come in droves to pose for cameras and take selfies. You get shooed out of the place when prayers start so do watch the clock as you plan your visit. Definitely something to see

in Shiraz. (Tracy K. from the U.S., visited October 2016)

■ "Stunning stained glass windows"

Go early to see beautiful patterns made by the stained glass windows on the carpet. The light changes with the position of the sun and creates different effects. (Crescentra from Singapore, visited October 2016)

PICTURE OF THE DAY 🇫🇮 FINLAND – IRAN FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION/ Ebrahim Zandi



Visiting Finnish President Sauli Niinistö, first lady Jenni Haukio, Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi and a number of his colleagues pose with four Iranian zoorkhaneh athletes at Tehran's Mellat Park on October 24, 2016.

## Egypt seeks new markets, boosts security as tourism drops

**CAIRO (Reuters)** — Egypt hopes to encourage tourists from new markets like China, Japan and Ukraine, a year after Russia and Britain suspended flights to the land of the Pyramids, the country's tourism minister said.

Egypt's tourism industry, a crucial source of hard currency, has struggled to rebound since a mass uprising in 2011. Conditions worsened after the suspected bombing of a Russian plane carrying 224 people from a Red Sea resort in October 2015.

The attack prompted Russia to halt all flights to Egypt and Britain to suspend flights to Sharm al-Sheikh, a resort on the Red Sea. The impact was clear. Egypt's tourism receipts halved in the 2015-16 fiscal year to \$3.77 billion.

Since then, Egypt has made significant efforts to improve airport security and persuade the world it is safe, said Yehia Rashed, the country's tourism minister. It is also looking to attract tourists from countries that until now have not provided many visitors.

## How to make your holiday air travel more bearable

By Martha C. White

There's not much that any traveler can do about the crowds and long lines at airports during the holiday season. But there are ways to cope.

Stay current on flight and airport status. Track the flight status through the airline's app, and monitor the airport's Twitter feed.

Sign up for TSA PreCheck. Frequent travelers are nearly unanimous in their recommendations of this program, which gives expedited passage through security to travelers who have undergone background screening.

There's still time to sign up before this holiday season if you move quickly: The agency says there is about a two-week wait for appointments, and turnaround is about a week more if your background check is clear.

Fly on the least busy days and times. Thanksgiving and Christmas Day tend to have lighter traffic than other times during the holidays, said Patrick Surry,



Passengers waited outside a security checkpoint in December at Ronald Reagan National Airport in Washington. The Transportation Security Administration has hired more screeners. Credit Saul Loeb/Agence France-Presse — Getty Images

chief data scientist at Hopper, an air travel app.

An analysis by Hopper of Thanksgiving week travel patterns finds that, as a general rule, traffic at airports in Western states peaks early in the morning, as travelers try to bridge the time zone difference. Hubs like Chicago and Atlanta also tend to have

busy mornings, while big international jumping-off points on the East Coast have an evening "rush hour" as travelers begin overnight journeys.

Choose your low-fare carrier carefully. A cheaper fare can come with drawbacks, said Gary Leff, co-founder of InsideFlyer.com. Low-fare carriers don't have as much

redundancy in their schedules or the same kind of partner networks as their mainstream counterparts, so a delay or a cancellation could mean being stranded for days rather than hours.

Check prohibited carry-on items and wrapped gifts. The Transportation Security Administration says that some security bottlenecks around the holidays happen because infrequent travelers don't know what they cannot carry onboard the plane with them.

If you bring holiday gifts in your carry-on luggage, don't wrap them, in case T.S.A. agents want to see what's inside.

Beware the short layover. Missing a connection is bad enough, but with planes packed to capacity, finding a seat on a later flight can be a challenge, Mr. Leff warned.

Also consider that while you may be able to sprint to your gate and make your connection, any bags you checked might not move as swiftly. That could leave you at your destination on time, but without your luggage. (Source: The New York Times)



# Improved water splitting advances renewable energy conversion

Washington State University researchers have found a way to more efficiently create hydrogen from water - an important key in making renewable energy production and storage viable.

The researchers, led by professors Yue-he Lin and Scott Beckman in the School of Mechanical and Materials Engineering, have developed a catalyst from low-cost materials. It performs as well as or better than catalysts made from precious metals that are used for the process.

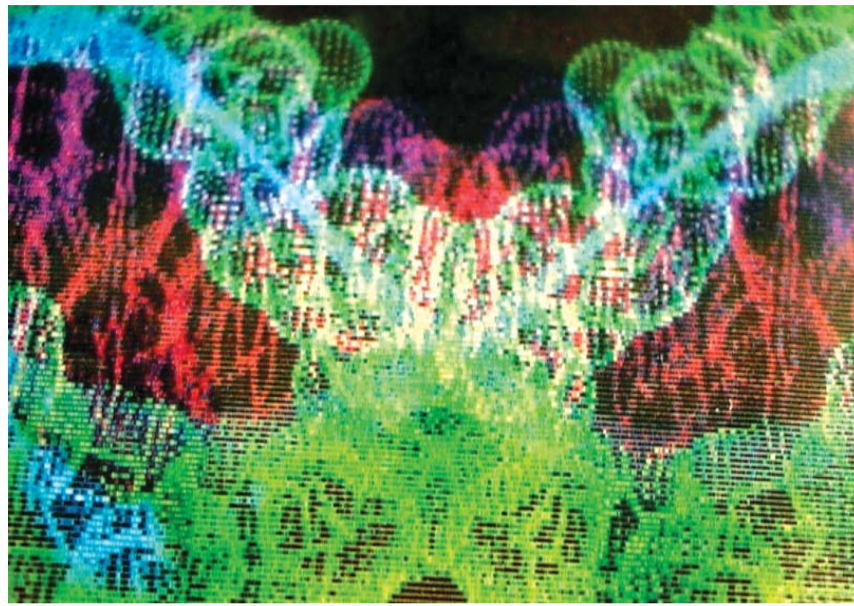
Energy conversion is a key to the clean energy economy. Because solar and wind sources produce power only intermittently, there is a critical need for ways to store and save the electricity they create.

One of the most promising ideas for storing renewable energy is to use the excess electricity generated from renewables to split water into oxygen and hydrogen; the hydrogen can then be fed into fuel-cell vehicles.

"Hydrogen production by electrolysis of water is the greenest way to convert electricity to chemical fuel," said Junhua Song, a WSU Ph.D. student who synthesized the catalyst and performed most of the experimental work.

## Splitting process

Industries have not widely used the water splitting process, however, because of the prohibitive cost of the precious metal catalysts that are required - usually platinum or ruthenium.



Many of the methods to split water also require too much energy, or the required materials break down too quickly. Instead, industries generally use a fossil-fuel-based process to produce hydrogen for fuel cells, which generates harmful greenhouse gas emissions. For their catalyst, the WSU research team added nanoparticles of relatively inexpensive copper to a cobalt-based

**Industries have not widely used the water splitting process, however, because of the prohibitive cost of the precious metal catalysts that are required - usually platinum or ruthenium.**

framework. The new catalyst was able to conduct electricity better than the commonly used precious metal catalysts. It produced oxygen better than existing commercial catalysts and produced hydrogen at a comparable rate.

The researchers used both theoretical modeling and experimental assessments to demonstrate and fine tune their catalyst's effectiveness.

The "modeling helped the researchers gain understanding at the atomic level of how the copper atoms improve the catalyst, which helped in precisely choosing and tuning the elements to enhance performance," said Beckman.

## Hydrogen production

The "research team has provided a new perspective in designing and improving non-precious metal-based catalysts for hydrogen production," said Lin. "This catalyst will pave the way for the development of high-performance, electrolysis-based hydrogen production applications."

The researchers are looking for external funding to scale up their work. They hope to improve the catalyst's stability and efficiency.

The work is in keeping with WSU's Grand Challenges, a suite of research initiatives aimed at large societal issues. It is particularly relevant to the challenge of sustainable resources and its theme of meeting energy needs while protecting the environment.

(Source: EurekAlert)

## Air pollution damages arteries of even healthy young adults, new study shows

Tiny particles of air pollution can damage the inner lining of veins and arteries in young and healthy people, putting them at greater risk of heart disease, stroke and high blood pressure, according to new research.

Air pollution is thought to cause the premature deaths of about 40,000 people a year in the UK, with children and older people with medical conditions thought to be the most at risk.

But the new study suggests that healthy people in their twenties are also being harmed by the particles.

The World Health Organization has warned that air pollution is "wreaking havoc on human health" amid rising scientific evidence about the dangers.

## Air quality

Research into the effects of air pollution on human health is often done by comparing air quality with the health of the local population.

But in the new study, published in the journal *Circulation Research*, a group of 72 people with an average age of 23, from the city of Provo in Utah, provided blood samples during the winters of 2013, 2014 and 2015.

When air pollution rose, the scientists found that the num-

ber of fragments of dead cells in their bloodstream increased.

Scientists are uncertain whether the PM2.5 particles, as they are known, are able to get into the bloodstream themselves or whether they damage the lungs, which then has a knock-on effect.

But one of the researchers, Professor Aruni Bhatnagar, an expert in cardiovascular medicine at Louisville University, said there appeared to be a significant effect on the health of young adults.

## Polluted environment

"These findings suggest that living in a polluted environment could promote the development of high blood pressure, heart disease, and stroke more pervasively and at an earlier stage than previously thought," he said.

"Although we have known for some time that air pollution can trigger heart attacks or strokes in susceptible, high-risk individuals, the finding that it could also affect even seemingly healthy individuals suggests that increased levels of air pollution are of concern to all of us, not just the sick or the elderly."

In addition to damaging the lining of blood vessels, the particles were also "significantly associated" with an in-



crease in immune cells, such as killer T cells, in the body.

Levels of proteins that restrict the growth of blood vessels also increased.

Commenting on the research, Professor Robert Maynard, the former head of the UK Health Protection Agency's air pollution and noise unit, told *The Independent* in an email that the study showed a mechanism by which air pollution might be making people sick.

(Source: The Independent)

## The first photo of Earth from space was taken 70 years ago

Seventy years ago today, humans took a photo of our home planet as seen from space for the first time.

Taken from aboard a Nazi-built V2 rocket on Oct. 24, 1946, the black and white photo shows a smattering of clouds casting shadows down upon our planet.

The photo was taken from about 105 kilometers (65 miles) above Earth by a rocket launched from the White Sands Missile Range long before Sputnik truly began the space age in 1957.

Unbeknownst at the time to the American scientists and engineers who launched the rocket, that photo was humanity's first salvo into what has be-

come one of the most important uses for spaceflight yet discovered.

Taking photos of Earth from above isn't just about tracking weather or even spying. Photos taken of the planet by commercial satellites are used to show people the world through applications like Google Earth. Some organizations also hope to track issues like deforestation or even poverty using the bird's eye view of our home planet.

NASA and other space agencies around the world keep an eye on our planet from above using a variety of satellites equipped with cameras designed to monitor Earth's weather and other systems.

And these satellites have delivered some incredible views of our planet back to people on the ground.

A camera onboard the Deep Space Climate Observatory, located about 1 million miles from Earth, takes an image of the full, sunlit side of the planet every two hours.

In these photos, the world shines like a blue marble against the blackness of space and are designed to show people what they would see if they were to fly out to where the observatory is located.

And of course, since 1946, people have also traveled off the planet and seen their first glimpses of Earth from hundreds of kilometers above.

## Lighting conditions

"Being in space for a whole year, you get this perspective of seeing the Earth through changing seasons and you know, different lighting conditions," former NASA astronaut Scott Kelly, who recently returned from spending a year on the International Space Station, said during a visit to the White House last week. Apollo astronauts were also treated to views of the Earth rising above the moon's horizon.

According to many people who have flown to space, seeing the Earth from above is a transformative experience.

(Source: Mashable)

## S. Arabia Celebrates with Bylaw Ratified by Oil Ministry



Saudi Arabia celebrated with the bylaw approved by the Oil Ministry.

Secretary General of Petrochemical Industry Employer's Association Ahmad Mahdavi announced the above statement and said: "with the new formula, it became clear that Iran's petrochemical industry feedstock 'ethane' has not any change to be competed with Saudi Arabia."

Speaking in his weekly press briefing, he said: "In a for-

mula devised by the Oil Ministry on selling "ethane" gas to petrochemical industries, he said: "In a formula devised by the ministry, none of legal criteria have been taken into consideration. With currently devised formula, not only foreign investor is not attracted in country's petrochemical industry, but also petrochemical units will be closed up gradually."

Price of each cubic meter of methane at eight cents is not profitable at all, he said, adding: "Selling ethane to petrochemical industries in each ton should not be offered less than 200 centers, so that this issue will make competition of Iran with rival countries like Saudi Arabia and Qatar "impossible."

According to the 6th Five-Year Socioeconomic and Cul-

tural Development Plan, approx. \$50-\$70 billion dollars should be invested in petrochemical industry, he said, adding: "With the current price of feedstock, nothing new special thing will be happened."

Liquid Feedstock Price Liberated in All Petrochemical Units

In the end, Secretary General of Petrochemical Industry Employer's Association Ahmad Mahdavi said: "From now onwards, liquid price of feedstock was liberated in all petrochemical units, in which, naphtha feedstock in whole petrochemical industries will be calculated with free exchange rate instead of governmental rate."

## Iran and China Ties to Broaden after Implementation of JCPOA

After a landmark deal signed between Iran and world's six major powers in mid-July 2015 and implementation of Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), the official title of nuclear deal, the relationship between Iran and China will be enhanced.

Deputy Iran and China Friendship Association Ms. Leen Ye announced the above statement and said: "After the implementation of JCPOA, a new horizon has been opened between Iran and China in cultural, technical, investment and tourism fields"

Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIAMA) hosted 7th Annual Iran-China Friendship Association Seminar a couple of days ago.

She pointed to the formation of historical ties between the two countries, dating back to 45 years ago, and said: "During these long years, the two countries have experienced many ups and downs in line with broadening mutual ties."

The two countries of Iran and China have always established a very intimate ties with each other, she said, adding:

"The two countries enjoy high potentials to broaden their ties in trade, business, and cultural, technical, investment and tourism fields."

Ahad Mohammadi Head of Iran and China Friendship Association was the next speaker who pointed to the security situation created in the Middle East region and Iran's political and economic stability and said: "All-out cooperation and collaboration between the two countries plays an important role in restoration of peace to the region."

Chinese President's visit to Tehran a couple of months ago was a turning point in development of bilateral ties in contemporary era and said: "One Road and One Beltway has been proposed by Chinese President in order to revive the Silk Road."

Secretary General of Tehran Chamber of Commerce Bahman Eshghi as the next speaker who said: "Silk Road is highly welcomed by many people of the two countries, so that resorting to Silk Road with historical background will open a bright future for mutual ties."

## Saturn's north polar hexagon has changed color

Add this to the long list of celestial End Times portents to keep you up at night: Saturn's north polar hexagon, a six-sided vortex of unknown origin that could easily swallow our entire planet, has changed color. It was blue when the Cassini spacecraft imaged it in 2012, and now, it's bright gold.

The surprising new hue is plainly illustrated in a set of images captured in November 2012 and September 2016, and released by the Cassini Imaging Team last week. While scientists are still working out the details of what triggered the color change, it seems to be related to the accumulation of haze particles inside the hexagon since winter's long night ended.

From November 1995 to the winter equinox in August 2009, Saturn's north pole was tilting into darkness. During this time, photochemical reactions—interactions between sunlight and atmospheric compounds that produce haze—were diminishing. And since the 100 kilometer-deep hexagon acts as a sort of particle barrier, aerosols weren't able to filter back in from elsewhere, resulting in something "like Earth's Antarctic ozone hole," as Kunio Sayanagi of the Cassini Imaging Team put it in 2013.

Since 2009, the north polar atmosphere has been angling back towards the Sun again. Scientists suspect this is triggering a fresh new round of haze production. The "change from a bluish color to a more golden hue may be due to the increased production of photochemical hazes in the atmosphere as the north pole approaches summer solstice in May 2017," NASA wrote in a statement.

It's worth noting that this incredible shift was only documented because we've had a probe orbiting Saturn since 2004. As Cassini gears up for its final, action-packed year of activity, it's worth remembering just how many cosmic wonders this little spacecraft has brought us.

(Source: Gizmodo)

## Bacteria get dangerously weird in space

In 2006, Cheryl Nickerson sent a culture of salmonella bacteria for a ride on the space shuttle Atlantis. Eleven days later, she watched anxiously from the Kennedy Space Center in the dead of night as her bacteria returned safely.

Nickerson, a microbiologist at Arizona State University, and her team then infected hundreds of mice with the salmonella grown in space. At the same time, they infected hundreds of other mice with salmonella simultaneously grown on the ground. They had to work quickly before the bacteria lost the effects of space; it took them about three hours from the time the shuttle landed.

After a few days, more of the mice with space-grown salmonella were getting sick. Normally, salmonella can kill a mouse in about seven days. The mice given the space salmonella started to die two days earlier, and at lower doses than normal.

It was the first time someone had definitively showed that bacteria became more dangerous after spaceflight.

It has been known for decades that something happens to microbes that leave planet Earth. Sometimes they grow faster and get better at causing disease. Just as often they do the opposite; slowing down and becoming less harmful. The biggest risk, experts say, is that the behavior is unpredictable. And when you send people to space—people who are teeming with microbes—there's little room for surprise.

Bacteria were some of the first life-forms sent into space. In 1960, a Russian satellite brought *E. coli*, *Aerobacter aerogenes*, and *Staphylococcus* into orbit and concluded that those organisms could live in microgravity. Over the next 50 years, NASA and other spaceflight programs discovered that not only could bacteria survive, sometimes they thrived.

(Source: The Washington Post)

## 'Many more' corals die in Great Barrier Reef bleaching

More corals are dying and others are succumbing to disease and predators after the worst-ever bleaching on Australia's iconic Great Barrier Reef, scientists said Wednesday.

A swathe of corals bleached in the northern third of the 2,300-kilometer (1,429-mile) long biodiverse site off the Queensland state coast died after an unprecedented bleaching earlier this year as sea temperatures rose.

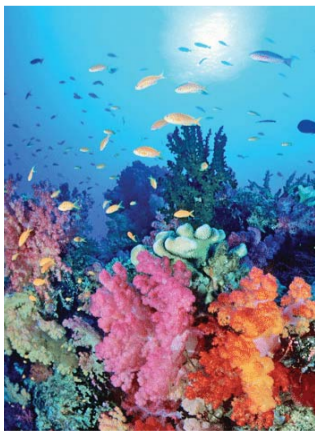
"In March, we measured a lot of heavily bleached branching corals that were still alive, but we didn't see many survivors this week," Andrew Hoey of the Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies at James Cook University said in a statement.

"On top of that, snails that eat live coral are congregating on the survivors, and the weakened corals are more prone to disease. A lot of the survivors are in poor shape."

Researcher Greg Turva said of the reefs surveyed near Lizard Island off Cairns -- a gateway to the giant ecosystem -- the amount of live coral covering them fell from about 40 percent in March to under five percent.

It is the third time in 18 years that the World Heritage-listed site, which teems with marine life, has experienced mass bleaching after previous events in 1998 and 2002.

(Source: AFP)





**11 Iranian universities on world's top 1,000 list**

**SOCIETY** TEHRAN — 11 Iranian educational institutions are ranked among the best global universities by the U.S. News & World Report, a multi-platform publisher of news and information providing authoritative rankings of best colleges, best graduate schools and best hospitals.

These institutions from the U.S. and around 60 other countries have been ranked based on 12 indicators that measure their academic research performance and their global and regional reputations.



Sharif University of Technology, University of Tehran, Isfahan University of Technology, Amirkabir University of Technology, Islamic Azad University of Karaj, Iran University of Science and Technology, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Tarbiat Modarres University, University of Tabriz, Ferdowsi University of Mashhad, and Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences are respectively the top 11 Iranian universities ranked among world's top 1,000 universities in the U.S. News 2017 university ranking.

The number of the Iranian universities have increased by three since last year as University of Tabriz, Ferdowsi University of Mashhad, and Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences are listed among the top universities for the first time this year, head of Islamic World Science Citation Center (ISC) said.

Coming in 435th last year, Sharif University has managed to improve its previous ranking by securing the 405th place among world's top universities in U.S. News 2017 ranking, IRNA news agency quoted Mohammad-Javad Dehqani as saying.

Moreover Islamic Azad University of Karaj which came in 629th has made a remarkable improvement as it held the 736th place last year, Dehqani added.

Iran has also succeeded in keeping the second place regarding the number of the top universities in the region after Turkey, Dehqani highlighted. According to the U.S. News website Harvard University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Stanford University are the world's top universities.

**'Restoring Lake Urmia costs \$7b, neglecting it incurs \$1tn loss'**

**SOCIETY** TEHRAN — The restoration of Lake Urmia is estimated to cost around \$7 billion while consequences of neglecting it may incur losses to the tune of \$1 trillion, the head of Lake Urmia restoration program said on Tuesday.

The figures indicate that how economical it is to revive the lake rather than abandoning the attempts to save it from drying up completely, Issa Kalantari suggested.

Lake Urmia in northwestern Iran was once the largest lake in the Middle East and the sixth-largest saltwater lake on Earth with a surface area of approximately 5,200 square kilometers. The lake has shrunk to 10 percent of its former size mostly due to damming of the rivers that flow into it and pumping of groundwater from the area.

"During 90s the lake's water level was pretty high but we were warned not to be deluded into believing that the lake is all right and taking the lake and future threats into granted as depleting the underground sources in the lake basin could eventually result in the lake's total dryness," Kalantari regretted.

The lake's water level was at 1,278 meters meaning 7 meters higher than its current level and back then none of the responsible organizations believed something could have happened to the lake by 2016, he added.

But things got worse and worse gradually by depleting groundwater resources for farming which has put the lake into a critical condition, but still



the warning fell on deaf ears, Kalantari explained.

He went on to say that "finally with the current administration formed three years ago the lake restoration became a top priority and accordingly the first directive approved by the cabinet was drawing up a 10-year restoration program for the lake."

Currently what is threatening the future of the lake is budget deficit, he stated.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Kalantari

claimed that Lake Urmia's dryness is largely on government's part rather than the people and hold executive and governing bodies accountable for the lake dryness.

**"We exploit 110 percent of the renewable resources"**

Kalantari further announced that annually some 88 billion cubic meters of water replenishes the renewable water resources, however, "we use some 97 billion

cubic water in the country per annum," "in other words while we should use 40 percent of the country's water resources we are milking some 110 percent of them."

Kalantari also explained that "we use some 61 billion cubic meters of groundwater annually and only 10 billion cubic meters of it is being recycled; meanwhile merely some 19 billion cubic meters of water is being stored underground per annum."

**Police: 7-year-old gets pills instead of toy from dispenser**

**ROCHESTER, N.H. (AP)** — Police in New Hampshire say a 7-year-old girl inserted coins into a toy dispenser and received a plastic capsule filled with medications for blood pressure and kidney stones.

Rochester Police Capt. Jason Thomas said Tuesday the

girl put a quarter into the machine for the third time at a pizza restaurant on Friday when it spit out a container that had at least three pills where the toy should have been.

Thomas says two of the pills were blood pressure medication; the third was a capsule of medication to treat kidney

stones. He says the machine is owned by an out-of-state vendor. Authorities are working with the vendor to determine how the medications got into the machine.

Thomas says the toy dispensing machines have been removed since the incident.

**CEO of Esfahan's Mobarakeh Steel Company: EMSCO Production Capacity to Hit 10m Tons by Yearend Inauguration of Naqsh-e Jahan Sports Stadium in Presence of 1st Vice President**



At the threshold of 23rd foundation anniversary of Esfahan's Mobarakeh Steel Company (EMSCO), **Chief Executive of the company Dr. Bahram Sobhani** expounded on the achievements of production and development of this industrial and production unit.

To learn more about the details, our correspondent has conducted an interview with him which comes as follows:

In the beginning, Esfahan's Mobarakeh Steel Company (EMSCO), **Chief Executive of the company Dr. Bahram Sobhani** revealed the implementation of casting machinery No. 5 of the company in the wake of upcoming visit of First Vice President Eng. Es'haq Jahangiri in early next week to Isfahan Province and said: "Once this giant project is put into operation, company's production capacity will increase up to 1.8 million tons."

The senior official of the company pointed to the production capacity of the company in its three subsidiary units of "Mobarakeh", "SABA" and "Hormozgan" and said: "Once expansion project of SABA Steel Company is put into operation by yearend, this unit will attain the production capacity of 10,300,000 tons."

Since the beginning of designing and constructing the company, it was envisioned that raw materials required in this industry would be supplied from domestic mines, he said, adding: "Today, mines and mineral units are manufacturing steel production units, so that they have been turned into consumer."

**EMSCO, Largest Sponge Iron (DRI) Producer in World** In his press briefing in the presence of media companions, **Chief Executive of EMSCO Dr. Bahram Sobhani** said: "With the policies taken in this industrial and manufacturing unit, priority was given to supply feedstock for this manufacturing unit."

Since some mines were consumers of their raw materials due to the manufacturing steel complex, huge investment was made for supplying ore in **Sangan Mine Deposit**.

The company managed to continue its activity in the past year in 1394 (ended March 19, 2016) with importing pellet (conglomerate), he said, adding: "Certainly, imports run contrary to the policies adopted in the field of resistance economy. In this line, the company focused on increasing production capacity."

Turning to this issue that his industrial and production unit is

the largest steel producer in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), he said: "EMSCO accounts for 22 percent share of steel production among these countries."

It should be noted that EMSCO is considered as the largest DRI (sponge iron) production unit in world with the production capacity of 12 million tons at large, he maintained.

**EMSCO Accounts for 1% Share in Country's GDP**

Elsewhere in his remarks, the managing director put the value of assets of the company besides its subsidiary companies at approx. 25,000 billion tomans and said: "With its registered capital, valued at 7,500 billion tomans, this industrial and manufacturing unit is considered as the largest company paneled at Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE)."

The company accounts for one percent (1%) of country's gross domestic product (GDP), he said, adding: "EMSCO also accounts for 5 percent (5%) share in GDP in industrial sector."

**Generating 350,000 Employment Opportunities in EMSCO**

Turning to the performance of the company in the first seven months of current Iranian calendar year (March 20 - Oct. 21) in various production sectors, he said: "In this period, it was planned to produce 7,200,000 tons pellet iron ore, so that the company managed to produce this amount earlier."

Under the plan, it was decided to produce 4,630,000 tons of sponge iron, he said, adding: "With the coordination made in this regard, 98 percent objective of the plan was materialized."

With regard to the production of steel ingot (slab), it was planned to produce 3,600,000 tons, he observed.

He further noted that the company has generated new job opportunities for 350,000 people directly and indirectly who are cooperating with the company.

He put the number of workers at EMSCO at 13,150 while 920 persons have been employed in SABA Steel Production Unit.

It should be noted that **Hormozgan Steel Production Unit** has employed 1,673 persons who are cooperating with the unit directly.

The senior official also put the number of employment generated in the aforementioned unit indirectly at 334,000.

Turning to the stock situation of the company, he said: "30 percent of EMSCO's stocks belong to Justice Shares, 17% of which belongs to IMIDRO (Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization), 13.6 percent of which belongs to Mehr-e Eqtesad Investment Company, 14 percent to SHASTA (Social Security Organization Investment Company) and the rest 21 percent belongs to the other shareholders of the company."

**84% Raw Materials Needed by EMSCO in Supplied inside Country**

Managing director of the company reiterated: "More than 84 percent of raw materials, parts and equipment needed by the company are provided inside the country."

Approx. 1,000 factories including car manufacturing firms, home appliances industries, oil, gas and petrochemical industries use products of the company directly.

He pointed to the subsidiary companies of EMSCO including **Mobarakeh Steel Complex, SABA and Hormozgan** steel production units and said: "These three units are cooperating with the company."

**DRI Unit of Sefid Dasht Steel Production Unit to Be Inaugurated**

Turning to the inauguration of sponge iron (DRI) in Sefid Dasht Steel Production Unit concurrent with the upcoming visit of First Vice President Eng. Jahangiri to this province, he said: "As a provincial project, construction operation of this steel production unit started by IMIDRO in previous years, completion of construction operation of which was delivered to EMSCO."

This provincial project will be put into operation in next week officially, he maintained.

**EMSCO's Productions to Increase 1.8m Tons**

The latest production capacity of the company stands at 5.4 million tons, expandable to 1.8 million tons once Casting No. 5 of the unit is put into operation.

He put the rials amount of this project at 502 billion tomans. **EMSCO** is a 7.2-million tons steel production unit, expandable to 9.5 million tons with considering steel produced in subsidiary companies.

Turning to the production capacity of EMSCO in its three subsidiary units, he said: "Once SABA Steel Production Unit is put into operation, 10,300,000 tons steel will be produced in this manufacturing unit."

**EMSCO Accounts for 50% Share of Steel Production in Country**

He pointed to the steel production programs in the country in 2025 Vision Plan and said: "So far, the company has produced 50 percent of steel needed in the country."

**54% Products of EMSCO Exports to EU**

Elsewhere in his remarks, he pointed to the sale volume inside and outside the country in the first seven months of current year (March 20 - Oct. 21) and said: "In this period, sales share of the company in the country has hit from 65 to 68 percent while

export sales rate has hit 32% decline."

Since its establishment, sales volume of the company inside and outside the country has hit 72 and 17 million tons respectively, totally valued at \$37 billion, he opined.

With the coordination made in this regard, 54 percent products of the company has exported to overseas, he maintained.

**1.5% Share of EMSCO in Using Water in Zayandehroud**

He put the share of the company for using water of Zayandehroud at 1.5 percent.

Turning to the implementation of project for the construction operation of sewage network system in cities of Mobarakeh and Lenjan, he said: "To reduce its dependency to water of Zayandehroud, the company has concluded separate contracts with Isfahan Province Water and Wastewater Company."

**Inauguration of Naqsh-e Jahan Stadium after 22 Yrs.**

75,000-seat Naqsh-e Jahan Sports Stadium will be put into operation after 22 years, he said and reiterated: "Under tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed and sealed by Isfahan Governor-Generalship, Isfahan Province Youth Affairs and Sports and EMSCO, it is decided that completion of construction operation of this stadium will need 30 billion tomans."

Earlier signing and sealing MOU, EMSCO also contributed 180 billion rials to this stadium, he said, adding: "With the coordination made in this regard, this sports stadium will be put into operation in very near future."

**Implementation of a Number of Steel Agreements after JCPOA**

In response to a question on some deals made by the company to be finalized after the implementation of Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), the official title of nuclear deal, he said: "Selling and exporting steel products of the company to Europe is considered as one of the agreements signed in this regard, details of which are underway."

In the end, he said: "Talks are underway with foreign party for the development of Hormozgan Steel Production Company





# U.S.-led coalition killed 300 Syrian civilians in airstrikes: Amnesty

'Syria's Mualllem to hold talks in Moscow'

Amnesty International says the United States-led coalition has killed hundreds of civilians during its air raids in Syria since 2014, calling for an investigation into potential violations of international law during the so-called campaign against terror. "It's high time the U.S. authorities came clean about the full extent of the civilian damage caused by coalition attacks in Syria," Deputy Director for Research at Amnesty's Middle East and North Africa Regional Office Lynn Maalouf said on Tuesday.

Britain-based rights group said as many as 300 civilians had been killed in 11 attacks conducted by the Washington-led alliance since September 2014.

"Analysis of available evidence suggests that in each of these cases, coalition forces failed to take adequate precautions to minimize harm to civilians and damage to civilian objects," Maalouf added.

The Amnesty official further urged independent investigations into possible violations of international law, calling on the coalition to take more precautions prior to their attacks.

"Some of these attacks may constitute disproportionate or otherwise indiscriminate attacks," Maalouf said.

2014 saw the rise of the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Daesh) terrorist group in the country and neighboring Iraq.

Washington subsequently brought scores of its allies under the military umbrella to hit what it calls ISIL targets in the two countries.

The campaign has fallen well short of eliminating the terrorists, raising questions as to the nature of the coalition's military engagement.

In July, a U.S. airstrike reportedly killed



at least 70 civilians, mostly women and children, near the city of Manbij in northern Syria.

There are also reports that the U.S.-led attacks have on numerous occasions hampered counterterrorism operations by Syrian armed forces.

In September, a U.S.-led airstrike hit a military base belonging to the Syrian army, leaving over 80 army troops dead and some 100 others wounded in the eastern part of the country. The raid helped ISIL terrorists make some gains in the area at the time.

The U.S. Defense Department has not made any comment on the latest Amnesty report so far, but it has invariably insisted that the forces are taking enough precautions to avoid civilian fatalities.

## Mualllem to travel to Moscow

Meanwhile, Russian officials have announced that they will host Syrian Foreign Minister Walid al-Mualllem in the coming days for talks on the situation in Syria.

"Syrian Foreign Minister Walid Mualllem's visit to Moscow and his talks with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov are expected on October 28," Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Gennady Gatilov said on Monday.

The visit is the first by a Syrian official to Moscow since the West intensified its rhetoric earlier this month about the role of Russia in the deteriorating situation in northern Syria, where the government, backed by Moscow, is trying to retake a key part of the city of Aleppo from militants.

The West accuses Moscow of committing war crimes by carrying out bombings in Aleppo. Russia has denied the allegations and has vetoed a United Nations Security Council resolution proposed by France for halting attacks on militant-held parts of the city.

Moscow and Damascus agreed to a recent brief ceasefire to allow civilians and militants not affiliated to terrorist

groups to quit eastern Aleppo.

## Syrian forces advance in northern Hama

Also, Syrian army units, backed by pro-government volunteer fighters, have managed to wrest control over a number of areas in the northern part of the country's western province of Hama following separate skirmishes with Takfiri militants.

An unnamed military source told Syria's official news agency SANA that Syrian soldiers and their allies stormed the terrorists' lairs in the Ma'an Village, and seized al-Madajen, al-Burj, Dhahra al-Fots, and Tal Khirbat Kahilah regions on Tuesday.

The source added that scores of foreign-backed extremists were killed in the offensives. A cannon, three mortar rounds and a considerable amount of explosive materials were confiscated as well.

The Takfiri Sham Legion terrorist outfit also announced that one of its military commanders, identified only as Shirikhan, had been killed in a confrontation with government forces in the same Syrian province.

## Infiltration attempt thwarted in Dara'a

Additionally, Syrian military forces foiled an attempt by Takfiri terrorists, who were trying to sneak into the Lajah region of the southwestern province of Dara'a from the Badiya desert.

Dozens of extremists were killed or injured during the failed bid.

Elsewhere, in the northwestern city of Aleppo, located some 355 kilometers north of the capital Damascus, a militant commander of the so-called Free Syrian Army, identified as Ahmed Khairiyah, was killed during clashes with Syrian soldiers.

(Source: agencies)

## Mexico: Arrest warrant for missing Veracruz governor

The Mexican authorities are seeking to arrest a former governor who has disappeared as he faces charges of organized crime and money laundering, officials said.

Javier Duarte has not been seen for days after he resigned as governor of the crime-plagued eastern state of Veracruz last week.

Authorities issued an arrest warrant for him last week and the country's ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) has expelled Duarte, saying the official violated party rules as head of the state.

Duarte failed to attend a hearing of the party's justice committee on Tuesday and his whereabouts are not known.

"The expulsion of Javier Duarte de Ochoa was decided because it has been proved ... that he systematically violated the party rules and ethics codes," the party said in a statement.

Interior Secretary Miguel Angel Osorio Chong told Radio Formula last week that officials do not know where Duarte is but believe he is in the country because immigration authorities have no record of him departing.

Duarte was last seen in the state cap-

ital of Xalapa, Chong said before adding federal prosecutors were preparing a request for Interpol to issue an international arrest warrant if he does leave the country.

The attorney general's office is investigating Duarte on allegations of illegal enrichment, embezzlement and breach of official duty.

The federal tax agency is looking into claims that his administration signed \$174m in contracts with dozens of shell companies.

Duarte has rejected the allegations, and vowed to fight the charges when he resigned on October 12, less than two months before his six-year term was set to end.

With his expulsion, the ruling party of President Enrique Pena Nieto said it had re-affirmed its fight against corruption, an issue that had cast a shadow over the PRI.

Veracruz, an oil-rich state on the coast of the Gulf of Mexico, has been marred by drug cartel violence, the murder of 19 journalists and a wave of disappearances in the past six years.

(Source: agencies)

## U.S. Marine Corps lose another F/A-18 in fiery crash

A United States Marine Corps F/A-18 Hornet fighter jet has crashed and burned at an airbase in California, raising questions about the warplane's safety after a hike in incidents involving F/A-18s.

The incident happened on Tuesday evening, when the Hornet's pilot was forced to eject upon landing at the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center in Twentynine Palms, a spokeswoman for the San Bernardino County Fire Department said.

The pilot was taken to the hospital with only minor injuries, according to military officials.

It was not clear what exactly caused the landing mishap and destroyed the jet, which belonged to Marine Aircraft Group 31 from Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort in South Carolina.

The airbase, which is located at about 140 miles east of Los Angeles, is mainly used to train pilots from across the U.S.

Each F/A-18 fighter jet has an estimated price of \$57 million, making the plane "the most cost-effective aircraft" in the US aviation fleet, costing less per flight hour than any other in the U.S.

forces inventory, according to the U.S. Navy.

However, a high number incidents involving the aircraft have prompted growing questions about the way F/A-18 pilots are trained.

Between October 2014 and April 2016, the U.S. Navy sustained a total loss of over \$1 billion in damages caused by fighter jet accidents, according to data by the Naval Safety Center.

The U.S. Navy's Blue Angels aerial acrobatics team lost one of its pilots in June, after his F/A-18 jet crashed.

A Marine AV-8B Harrier jet crashed off the East Coast in May, inflicting some \$62.8 million in damages.

Additionally, two U.S. Navy F/A-18 fighter jets were destroyed in late May, after a mid-air collision during a training mission, American military officials said.

General John Paxton, the assistant commandant of the Marine Corps had warned that American pilots are getting inadequate training due to a severe lack of funding.

(Source: Press TV)

## Why Hillary Clinton's plans for no-fly zones in Syria could provoke U.S.-Russia conflict

Kuehn, now a professor of military history at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, said that escalation could occur by accident, either through a direct confrontation in the air, or through a Syrian or Russian capture of a downed U.S. pilot.

"I see almost nothing positive that can come from implementing [a no-fly zone] at the current time over Syria. Conversely, the potential to make a bad situation worse is very, very high," Kuehn said.

For years, senior U.S. military officers have expressed reluctance to intervene in the Syrian civil war. In 2013, Martin Dempsey, then the chairman of the Joint

Chiefs of Staff, said that even a limited safe zone would cost over \$1bn a month and require substantial air assets and ground troops to maintain. His successor, Joseph Dunford, told the Senate last month that a no-fly zone would "require us to go to war against Syria and Russia" before walking his assessment back under pressure from proposal advocate John McCain.

Clinton, who has long backed a no-fly zone as the Syrian bloodshed has accumulated, acknowledged those concerns in last week's third presidential debate.

"I'm going to continue to push for a no-fly zone and safe havens within Syria not only to help protect the Syrians and prevent the constant outflow of refugees," Clinton said, "but to, frankly, gain some leverage on both the Syrian government

and the Russians so that perhaps we can have the kind of serious negotiation necessary to bring the conflict to an end and go forward on a political track."

But strategists have a hard time understanding how a no-fly zone provides the U.S. with a large enough leverage to trade with Assad or Russia, given their objective is, respectively, self-preservation and the preservation of a client.

"I don't understand how a no-fly zone gets you to a political settlement. There's no history supporting that. There were no-fly zones in Iraq for close to a decade and it settled nothing," said Joshua Rovner of Southern Methodist University.

(Source: The Guardian)

**"I'm going to continue to push for a no-fly zone and safe havens within Syria not only to help protect the Syrians and prevent the constant outflow of refugees," Clinton said.**

## The Quetta attack: is ISIL extending into Pakistan?

### The ISIL presence

The ISIL presence in "Khorasan" (a geographic term from Islamic history it uses to refer to Afghanistan and Pakistan) has been as much an exercise in brand and franchising as in organization and mobilization.

The majority of its fighters are disillusioned Taliban militants who have pledged allegiance to "Caliph" Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, and there appears to be little direction or strategy from Mosul and Raqqa, Syria.

ISIL is increasingly active in Afghanistan. Reports indicate the group may have entered into a truce with the Taliban to focus on their common enemy: U.S.-backed Afghan forces. If true, this would indicate a rare, and concerning, example of collaboration between ISIL and Al-Qaeda-affiliated terrorists.

The top U.S. general in Afghanistan said this month that the group was "very focused" on trying to establish a caliphate inside Afghanistan, with a number of foreign fighters, joining the fight.

Whether directly organizing the Quetta attack, ideologically inspiring its instigators or merely using the assault for propaganda, ISIL has not picked Baluchistan as its Pakistani launch pad by accident. A history of sectarian tension, a strong separatist strain and an established militant base (former Taliban leader Mullah Mansour was killed by an airstrike in the region) provide a potential breeding ground for ISIL's divisive ideology. Terrorists serve as cause, catalyst and consequence of such instability.

(Source: News Week)

## Trump appeals mostly to white middle class: Georgetown professor

1 →

### Basically, what groups vote for Trump?

A: Trump appeals mostly to the White Middle class and, especially men, who feel that they have been neglected by Washington and its internationalist elites. They have seen their job being eliminated, partly because of globalization and their living standards fallen. There is also anger at some cultural shifts as well as what many see as excessive lawlessness, reflected in mass shootings.

### Trump accuses the media of launching a coordinated move against him. Please explain?

A: The mainstream media certainly prefers Hillary Clinton. However, the idea that media has distorted Trump's personality is baseless. The only thing the media has done is to air various statements made by Trump in the past. In this respect, Trump has only himself to blame.

### Considering the short time remaining to the presidential election, is it possible to see some issues brought up by both candidates to significantly affect the result of election?

A: There is always the possibility that new and embarrassing issues regarding both candidates could come up. But in view of the embarrassing revelations already made by both candidates about each other, it is difficult to imagine what else could be revealed.

## Erdogan and the Mosul dilemma

1 →

Analysts believe that sending Kurdish Peshmerga forces to liberate Bashiqa which also hosts a Turkish base is a wise move from Baghdad.

Turkey considers the Kurds under Masoud Barzani's command as its allies therefore Ankara is facing many problems to enter the war to liberate Mosul.

Fighting ISIL by seeking support from forces who are hostile to Kurds will cause such a mess for Turkey that its leaders will forget their problems in Syria.

The daily Turkish raids on Kurds in Turkey and Syria and the dissatisfaction and anger among the Iraqi Kurds has created a quagmire for the Turkish president. Therefore it is not so surprising to see that Erdogan has gone into deep thinking and is seriously worried.

## The worst skin care advice dermatologists have ever heard

6 →

5. If you have dark skin, you don't need to wear sunscreen. That is an absolute fallacy. All humans have skin; therefore all people need to protect against sun cancer. Everybody needs to wear an SPF 30 every day—rain or shine, January through December—regardless of skin color.

6. Beauty products that contain placenta can protect against aging.

The amniotic sack and the placenta both contain a lot of maternal immunity. It's kind of a treasure trove of antibacterial proteins, so some people use it for anti-aging and anti-inflammatory properties or to pump up collagen. The reality is your body already has plenty of those proteins and the nutrients from the placenta can't even really get into your skin because the molecules are so big. If you want to stick to the holistic side, licorice root, feverfew, goji berries, and oolong tea all have great anti-inflammatories for skin health.

7. Sun exposure is the best way to get vitamin D. "Opinions are mixed on this. Some evidence suggests that vitamin D produced in the body by solar ultraviolet exposure may help prevent prostate, colon, breast, and other cancers, as well as bone diseases. However, most dermatologists and cancer groups, including The Skin Cancer Foundation, recommend against any unprotected ultraviolet exposure, as there is strong evidence that this contributes to cumulative skin damage, accelerating aging and increasing lifetime risk of skin cancer. Plus, there are effective and noncarcinogenic ways of supplementing vitamin D through diet and supplements."

8. Eating greasy food will give you greasy skin. "Your skin won't produce more oil just because you indulge in some greasy food. There is evidence that high-glycemic foods can cause acne because these types of foods cause an insulin spike that result in a hormonal cascade, which ultimately increases the production of skin oils and acne. Certain dairy products have also been linked to acne—more research is needed but hormones in these dairy products may act as triggers. The only way to know for sure if you have a dietary trigger: Eliminate the potential trigger from your diet for at least a month and see if it makes a difference."

9. Let wounds scab over to help them heal. "The truth is scabs slow wound healing and lead to increased scarring. That is why we recommend wounds be covered with Vaseline, since moist wounds allow for better wound healing (faster and with less scarring)."

10. Facial steams are a good way to clear pores. "Steaming actually breaks the capillaries and can exacerbate rosacea. Steam rooms can also be fungus and mold traps. Stay away from steam rooms or steaming as a part of facials. Retinol and glycolic acid pads are the best way to clear pores."

11. You need to buy hypoallergenic products or you'll have irritation. "Hypoallergenic has no actual definition in the skin dictionary. All products are hypoallergenic in a sense: Every product that's on the market goes through irritancy testing, and anything that crosses a line is going to have a change in formulation to minimize that. People who have especially sensitive skin need to look for products that remove known irritants like fragrances or dyes, which are common allergens."

(Source: greatist.com)



## RFEF fines Valencia for bottle toss at Neymar; Barcelona get warning

The Royal Spanish Football Federation (RFEF) has fined Valencia €1,500 after a supporter threw a bottle during Barcelona's stoppage-time winner celebration at Mestalla on Saturday.

However, they have also criticised the Catalan club's players for their role in the scenes which marred the end of an enthralling match.

Lionel Messi's late penalty sealed a dramatic 3-2 win for Luis Enrique's side and led to the Barca players celebrating in front of the home fans in the Curva Nord.



As they did, a bottle was thrown at them, with Neymar and Luis Suarez among those to claim they'd been hit by the object and drop to the ground.

Referee Undiano Malenco included the incident in his report and the RFEF has deemed it worthy of a fine for Valencia, with the warning of the "closure of facilities in the event that similar incidents occur again in the future."

Los Che have 10 days to decide if they will appeal. Valencia claimed gestures from Neymar provoked the anger among their fans and led to the ugly scenes.

Both the fan who threw the bottle and midfielder Dani Parejo have criticised the Brazilian, with the latter accusing him of "taunting the crowd and antagonising others."

The RFEF has agreed with those complaints, criticising Barca's players for both provoking the incident and then overreacting when the bottle was thrown.

However, it also pointed out that the behaviour did not mean the home supporters were right to react in the manner which they did.

A report released on Wednesday said: "The reproachable behaviour shown by some of the F.C. Barcelona players, who made certain gestures and expressions to the [Valencia] supporters as they celebrated the goal they'd just scored, should not be overlooked."

"Nor was it precisely an example of sportsmanship the way some of the club's players reacted -- without having come into contact with the bottle -- by simultaneously feigning they'd been struck by the object."

"None of the [events] should happen in a sporting competition, which at all times should see mutual respect and fair play between fans and players."

"However, the alleged 'provocation' referred to by Valencia cannot be used as mitigating circumstances or to excuse [the fans or the club] from responsibility."

"The aforementioned behaviour by some players from F.C. Barcelona discredits and ridicules [themselves]. But we insist that nothing, absolutely nothing, justifies a violent reaction by the public."

(Source: ESPN)

## Southgate backs 'hugely influential' England captain Rooney

Captain Wayne Rooney remains a "hugely influential" presence in the England dressing room despite losing his starting spot at his club Manchester United and the national side, interim manager Gareth Southgate has said.

Rooney was dropped from the starting team for England's World Cup qualifier draw with Slovenia this month and has been used as a substitute by United manager Jose Mourinho.

Despite Rooney's lack of playing time, Southgate suggested the 31-year-old will be part of England's squad for the World Cup qualifier against Scotland on Nov. 11 and the friendly against Spain four days later.

"He's the England captain and although he didn't start in Slovenia, to me he is a hugely influential person in that group and that won't change," Southgate told British media.

"Let's see what that scenario is but I thought his leadership qualities in the 10 days with us shone through."

"I haven't spoken to him since the camp but I'm always conscious players are back into a run of fixtures with their clubs, but I will pick up with him and the others later."

Marcus Rashford has been called up for both England's under-21s and the senior side in the past and is backed to replace United team mate Rooney in England's senior team.

Mourinho, however, rejected the idea of him playing for the under-21 side saying it would make "no sense" if the 18-year-old has already established himself in the senior side.

Southgate admitted the youngster should be viewed as somewhere in "between."

"There is a point where young players are still viewed as being part of the development teams," he said.

"There's also a point where we have to decide if they are still in development teams and is that going to benefit them or have they moved through it? As we have seen in the last couple of months Marcus is between the two."

"We have to wait and see what it looks like as we move forward. Everything I have seen Jose say is perfectly reasonable."

(Source: Reuters)



# 'Louis van Gaal was my biggest influence' – Muller

whether it is former or a current. It is difficult to say for a player who was the better coach. But I would say that my biggest influence was Louis van Gaal, because I was at the best age to be influenced."

Muller, nevertheless, rates current boss Carlo Ancelotti highly and believes the Italian can turn things around after a disappointing run of results.

"We have not won for three games in a row now," he said. "That's a situation at Bayern that does not happen too often and that should not happen too often. That's why we are currently looking for the what, why and the how. We talk a lot. But you have to understand we cannot discuss these details in public – otherwise we would kill each other in front of the cameras."

"Ancelotti can be very uncompromising and loud, which is the right thing to do if you have the impression that determination and drive is lacking. Basically he's not the one to yell at you for no reason, when the result is bad."

"He's focusing on things to build up your confidence again instead of yelling at you. I can confirm that. It's the right thing to do, I think."

The striker typically shuns the spotlight and is happy to keep a low public profile.

"I do my thing. I will not change my everyday life and feel restricted," he said. "You won't find me running naked across the Marienplatz asking to be photographed."

"I try to be available for the fans, but sometimes when I'm with my family, wife and friends, I try to project my private life. You cannot please everybody."

Meanwhile, Muller, is still searching for his first Bundesliga goal of the season but has

carved out a reputation as a prolific marksman, despite not having one obviously outstanding skill, save perhaps his knack of being in the right place at the right time.

"Space finder' is a phrase I used in an interview one time, and it's followed me ever since," he said. "But you should not see things too mystically. There are some spaces in football that can turn into more dangerous spaces on the pitch than others."

"Being in the right place has been one of my focusses for a long time. That's what my team expects from me. And it's what I try to do."

"I would not describe myself as an unusual player. The only thing what is unusual is the complete Thomas Muller package, meaning each individual skill is nothing out of the ordinary."

"For instance, when dribbling, I'm not a world leader, and there are strikers who are faster and they shoot more powerfully."

"That alone is not unusual but it might be unusual that I'm still at the top level in Germany and the world as a package called Thomas Mueller. People might not be surprised that I play football in the Bundesliga, but they might be surprised that I play to such a high standard, winning top scorer in the World Cup."

"There's no secret about me and my game. It's just about being in the right spot, mental endurance and strength, trust in my abilities and the understanding of what the team needs."

"It also includes the idea that a long ball into the stands might be the right thing to do rather than trying some spectacular solution right in front of your own goal. I try to do everything that is needed to win and that means I'm just part of a team and try to help the team to be successful."

(Source: Goal)

## El Shaarawy: I'm always thinking about an Italy recall



Stephan El Shaarawy's recent form for Roma has raised his hopes of an Italy recall. Giampiero Ventura's first two Azzurri squads have been devoid of the 23-year-old attacker, who has since scored two goals in his last two appearances for his club.

"It's something I'm always thinking about," said El Shaarawy, who represented Italy from U-16 to U21 level and has netted thrice in 20 senior internationals. "I've always been part of the national team. I love playing [for Italy]."

"Hopefully I can play well [for Roma] in the upcoming matches. There's a lot of competition for places here, but the coach has had faith in me."

"Competition is normal at a big club,

but I've never been worried about it. My goal now is to return to return to the national team through [my form for] Roma."

Italy trail Group G leaders Spain on goal difference in Europe's 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ preliminaries. Albania and Israel are a point behind. Italy are away to Liechtenstein in November in their final qualifier of 2016.

The last World Cup La Nazionale missed out on was Sweden 1958.

El Shaarawy impressed at the FIFA Confederations Cup in 2013, but an injury-ravaged campaign hurt his chances of going to Brazil 2014. The former AC Milan player made just one appearance, from the bench, at UEFA EURO 2016.

(Source: FIFA)

## Ferguson: Scotland can beat England at Wembley



Sir Alex Ferguson believes Scotland have to beat England at Wembley next month to keep their hopes of reaching the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia™ alive, but is confident Gordon Strachan's side will do just that.

England head Group F on seven points from three outings, with Lithuania and Slovenia on five and Scotland a further point back.

"I think they have to win it, but that's not a problem," said the 74-year-old. "It's a hard section with England in it – Scotland have to win it, but they can win it."

"Scotland always do well against England. It's always a great incentive, [being] the underdog. And the [away] support will be fantastic."

"You go back to the European Cham-

pionship qualifier [in 2000] when they were very unlucky. Christian Dailly had a header saved by David Seaman right at the end. But Scotland will do well."

"There's always been talent in Scotland, we have a rich history of producing players and I don't think that changes. We've got some excellent players."

Scotland appeared in six of seven World Cups between 1974 and 1998, but have failed to qualify since.

Strachan was part of a squad coached by Ferguson at Mexico 1986. After firing the Scots ahead against West Germany, the 5ft 6ins midfielder went to jump over the advertising hoardings – only to realise it was too high and instead rested his leg on it!

(Source: FIFA)

## Brazil legend Carlos Alberto passes away

Carlos Alberto Torres, who captained the unforgettable Brazilian team that won the 1970 FIFA World Cup Mexico™, passed away suddenly on Tuesday 25 October 2016 after suffering a heart attack. He was 72 years old.

FIFA President Gianni Infantino expressed his condolences on hearing the news. "FIFA and the world football community are deeply saddened by the death of Carlos Alberto Torres, the great captain of the 'tri' in Mexico. 'Capita' will be missed both as an amazing player and a great leader. We will forever remember him lifting the Jules Rimet trophy and we send our deepest condolences to his family and friends."

Considered the best right-back in the history of Brazilian football, Carlos Alberto was only 25 when he captained the Seleção to their memorable World Cup



triumph in Mexico. In the final against Italy, he sealed victory with a spectacular goal. After Jairzinho found Pele near the edge of the Italian penalty box, the Brazil No10 waited for Carlos Alberto to complete his at-

tacking run into the box before playing the ball into his path. The defender completed one of football's most memorable attacking moves by powerfully driving his shot home with the outside part of his right foot.

Though he grew up as a fan of Botafogo, Carlos Alberto was 19 years old when he began his professional career with Fluminense in 1963. He went on to play alongside Pele at Santos before having a brief spell with his beloved Botafogo. After a second memorable spell with Fluminense, the right-back joined arch-rivals Flamengo in 1977 before moving to the original North American Soccer League (NASL), where he teamed up again with Pele at the New York Cosmos. He also played for the California Surf in the NASL and had a second spell with the Cosmos before retiring in 1982.

(Source: FIFA)



**SPORTS** Esteghlal desk legend Mansour Pourheydari will be immortalized with his own statue, the Iranian club announced.

Pourheydari, who is battling with diabetes, is a member of board of the directors of Esteghlal at the moment.

He began his football career at the age of 17 in Daraei but was transferred to Taj (now Esteghlal) in 1965 and played as a right defender for 10 years and won the Asian Championship in 1970.

Pourheydari also played for Iran national football team and made three caps for Team Melli. He announced his retirement in 1977.

He began his managerial career in 1980 as assistant coach to Abbas Razavi and Asghar Sharafi.

He was promoted as the club's head coach in 1983 after the resignation of Sharafi.

Pourheydari led Esteghlal to its second Asian trophy in 1991.

The coach has also coached Fajr Sepasi and Sanat Naft in Iranian football league.

Pourheydari became head coach of Iran national football team in 1998 and inspired the team to win the Asian Games in Bangkok.

## The statue of Esteghlal legend Pourheydari will be built



## Iran sets sights on AFC U-19 Championship final debut

**SPORTS** Coach Amir Peiravani will call on his players to put their celebrations on hold for another two games as Islamic Republic of Iran set their sights on booking their first appearance in the final of the AFC U-19 Championship Bahrain 2016 for 39 years when they take on Saudi Arabia at Khalifa Sports City Stadium on Thursday.

Iran joined Saudi Arabia, Japan and Vietnam in qualifying for the finals of the FIFA U-20 World Cup Korea Republic 2017 by reaching the last four of the competition, and the Iranians are now focusing on winning the title for the first time in four decades.

The Iranians last won the competition in 1976, when they shared the title with DPR Korea in the third of a run of three consecutive championships, while a year later they lost in the final against Iraq.

That was the country's last appearance in the final, with Iran's best performance in recent years coming in 2000, when they finished fourth on home soil.

"We had two plans when we came here, the first was to go to the World Cup and the second was to be champion in this competition," said Peiravani, whose team saw off Uzbekistan to qualify for the semi-final. "Saudi Arabia didn't start very well but they have got better as the tournament has gone on."



"I've seen all of their games. Their football is the same as it always is in Saudi Arabia. They play very easy and relaxed, they don't have any special tactics or put us under pressure with those tactics. But they can do damage to the other team."

"I've had a lot of meeting with players and we have watched their games many times. We have talked a lot about the positives and negatives of their team."

"If our players' motivation hasn't dropped because they have qualified for the World Cup, then we can win but they mustn't think the competition is finished. They must think that this is the last chance to go to the final. They won't have a golden chance like this again. If they concentrate on the match and understand their position then tomorrow we can win."

Saudi Arabia, meanwhile, saw off a

talented Iraq team to book their place in the last four, and the country is also seeking to return to the final for the first time in a prolonged period.

The Saudis last played in the final of the AFC U-19 Championship in 1992, when they defeated Korea Republic to claim a second title in four events. They most recently qualified for the semi-finals in 2010 in China.

Saad Al Shehri's team have been improving throughout the competition following a nervous start that saw them lose their opening game against Bahrain, and the coach is confident his team can book their place in the tournament's deciding match.

"I think we will play well because all of the pressure is gone," he said. "We now need to show the people Saudi football, especially modern Saudi football with this team. I hope we can go to the final and take the title."

"Our slow start was normal because we didn't play any strong friendly games before the championship, we started going step by step and the team can be better than before."

"For the players now, the pressure is finished and we have more than we did before and I hope everyone will see a nice game and that we can go to the final and return with the cup for all of the kingdom."

"Iran are a very good team with a very good defence but, Inshallah, we can reach the final."

## Iran finishes runner-up in IWF Youth World Weightlifting Championships

Iranians have produced commendable performances at the 2016 Youth World Weightlifting Championships in Malaysia, and finished as the vice-champion of the international sporting event.

On Tuesday, Iran's Ali Davoudi pocketed all three gold medals in the over 94-kilogram weight category of the International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) games in Penang Island on the northwestern coast of Malaysia.

The Iranian athlete raised 170 kilograms overhead to be awarded the snatch gold medal. Contenders from Russia elevated 160 kilograms and 157 kilograms respectively to settle for the silver and bronze medals.

Davoudi did better than his opponents in the clean and jerk with 205 kilograms and won the gold medal. His compatriot, Mohammad Reza Roshani, lifted 191 kilograms



to claim the second spot and a silver medal. A representative from Russia struck the bronze with a lift of 190 kilograms.

The young Iranian sportsman ended his campaign on an aggregate of 375 kilograms to clinch the gold medal. A Russian weightlifter occupied the second place with 350 kilograms. Roshani landed in the third overall slot with 342 kilograms.

Russian youth weightlifters won the championships title with 489 points followed by Iran (471) and Poland (456).

The 2016 IWF Youth World Weightlifting Championships started in Penang Island, Malaysia, on October 19 and finished on October 25.

The Islamic Republic of Iran Weightlifting Federation had dispatched a team of eight weightlifters to the event.

(Source: PressTV)

## Life in Manchester 'bit of a disaster', says Mourinho

Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho has said he has struggled to adapt to life in Manchester, labelling his living arrangement in the city as "bit of a disaster".

The Portuguese has endured a mixed start to his stint as United boss, having lost three of his nine league games, including a 4-0 hammering at the hands of Chelsea on Sunday.

Away from the pitch, the 53-year-old said he was far from settled in England's north west city, staying without his family for the first time.

"For me it's a bit of a disaster because I want sometimes to walk a little bit and I can't. I just want to cross the bridge and go for a restaurant. I can't, so it is really bad," the former Chelsea boss told Sky Sports.

"Buy a house? I do not know, I do not know. The reality is that my daughter will be 20 next week, my son will be 17 in a couple of months."

"They are very stable. University in London. Football in London. Friends. So they are in an age where they can't chase me like they did before. So for the first time the family lives in a different way."

"We try to feel it, we try to see the



evolution of our feelings and see how we cope with the situation."

Mourinho also expressed frustration at dealing with the constant attention of the paparazzi.

"You know the history of the paparazzi. For the hotel and the brand that sponsors me, the clothes brand, it's amazing because they are there every day," Mourinho added.

"Everybody knows the name of the hotel. Everybody knows the last arrivals of that brand. So, for them, it is amazing."

Mourinho will seek a quick response from his side after the defeat against his former side when they take on rivals Manchester City in the League Cup on Wednesday.

(Source: Reuters)

## Need time to acclimatise to English football, says Guardiola

Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola has said he is still learning to adapt to the demands of English football as he seeks to end his club's five-game winless run against rivals Manchester United in the League Cup on Wednesday.

City made a blistering start to the campaign, winning their first 10 games in all competitions, but momentum has been stalled in recent weeks, and Sunday's 1-1 draw against Southampton marked the fifth consecutive game without a victory.

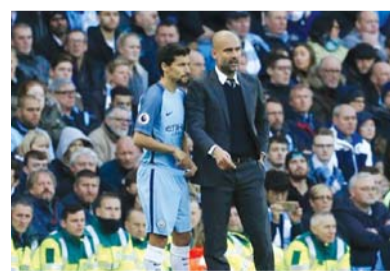
Guardiola's side are also trailing Barcelona by five points in their Champions League group after three games.

"Our last few games have been tough," Guardiola told British media. "If you are winning a game 3-0 in the last 15 or 20 minutes you can have more control and it gets a little easier."

"But we were playing 10 against 11 against Barcelona, it's physical and tough in the Champions League."

"After that there was the game against Southampton, when we made a mistake to go behind. Three days after Manchester United it is West Brom, then Barcelona and they are so important as well," he said.

"I am still learning about football in this



country."

Guardiola has told his players not to lose faith in his high-risk, high-reward style of football, but has said he needs time to assess his side.

"Even when we were winning 10 games in a row I felt we had to make a lot of effort to win those games. You cannot win any game here without spending a lot of energy," he added.

"I am still learning how the team reacts to winning and not winning, to playing at home after a Champions League game, and I am pretty sure I need time."

City, still top of the league on goal difference ahead of Arsenal and Liverpool, travel to face West Bromwich Albion in the league on Saturday.

(Source: Reuters)

## Iran Invited to South Korean U-19 Football Tournament



Iranian national team will participate in the South Korea's U-19 Football Tournament 2016.

The tournament will bring four teams namely, South Korea, Iran, Nigeria and England together from November 18 to 20.

Iran will face the host on November 18.

The tournament is part of the teams' preparation for the FIFA U-20 World Cup Korea Republic 2017.

Iran has already booked a place in the competition along with Japan, Saudi Arabia and Vietnam after advancing to the AFC U-19 Championship semi-final underway in Bahrain.

(Source: Tasnim)

## FIDE Supports Iran to Host Women's World Championship: President

FIDE President Kirsan Ilyumzhinov says that the international federation will support Iran as host of the women's World Championship.

In the FIDE's General Assembly at a meeting held in Baku, Iran was chosen as host of world championship but some well known players namely Nazi Paikidze said that they will not participate in the competition in protest of wearing Hijab.

FIDE's Commission for Women's Chess, meanwhile, called on participants to respect "cultural differences" and accept the regulations.

"In Fide's General Assembly in Baku, Tehran was only candidate to host and I am here to support Iran," Ilyumzhinov told Tasnim news agency.

"In my opinion, sport has nothing to do with politics. Also, FIDE must respect the 'cultural differences' of the other countries."

"FIDE is a great federation which has been founded in 1924 and has 187 members. We managed to host more than 100,000 tournaments in year. At the moment, about 600 millions people play chess around the world," FIDE president said.

"Our main slogan is we must reach the level of one billion chess players in the world which it means we have one billion smart persons in the world."

"Iran is one of the most active federations in FIDE," Ilyumzhinov stated.

(Source: Tasnim)

## Iran starts Asian Roller Skating Championships with 6-2 win

The national Iranian women's inline hockey team has convincingly launched its campaign at the 17th edition of Asian Roller Skating Championships in China, defeating the Indian side in its opening match.



On Tuesday, the Iranian sportswomen played a rather dominating game against their South Asian counterparts in the eastern Chinese city of Lishui, and emerged victorious 6-2 at the end.

Azam Sanaei and Faezeh Modabber scored a brace each for Iran, while Marziyeh Ghandi and Sadaf Mansouri tacked a goal apiece.

The national Iranian women's inline hockey team is scheduled to play against South Korea in its second encounter of the tournament on Wednesday morning, before taking on the hosts later in the day.

The 17th edition of Asian Roller Skating Championships started in Lishui on October 23 and will wrap up on November 1.

The sports event has brought together dozens of male and female roller skaters from various Asian countries, including China, the Islamic Republic of Iran and South Korea.

(Source: PressTV)





### Poem of the day

'Tis said, the pipe and lute that charm our ears  
Derive their melody from rolling spheres.

Rumi

### Prayer Times

Noon: 11:48 Evening: 17:33 Dawn: 4:58 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:23 (tomorrow)

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## Iranian films to compete in Stockholm Intl. Film Festival

**T A R T** TEHRAN — Three Iranian films will be competing in the 27th Stockholm International Film Festival running from November 9 to 20, 2016.



"Malaria" by Parviz Shahbazi

Reza Dormishian's "Lanturi", Mani Haqiqi's "A Dragon Arrives" and Parviz Shahbazi's "Malaria" are the Iranian films that will be competing in the main competition section, the organizers have announced on the website. "Lanturi" is about a lower class young man who falls in love with a beautiful, upper class young woman. But after the woman refuses to marry the man, he pours acid over her in a vicious act of revenge. Navid Mohammadzadeh, Baran Kowsari and Maryam Palizban star in the film.

"A Dragon Arrives!" starring Homayun Ghanizadeh is about three adventurous young men whose fates are endangered by their unauthorized investigations into a seismological phenomenon in an ancient graveyard on a mysterious island.

Starring Saghar Qana'at and Saed Soheili, the film "Malaria" tells the story of a young woman who elopes with her boyfriend to spend her time in the company of a band of street musicians in Tehran.

## Belgian festival screening "Sonita", "Starless Dreams"

**T A R T** TEHRAN — Acclaimed Iranian documentary films "Sonita" and "Starless Dreams" are being screened at the Festival des Libertés, which is currently underway in Brussels.

Directed by Mehrdad Oskui, "Starless Dreams" features seven teenage girls sharing temporary quarters at a rehabilitation and detention center on the outskirts of Tehran.

The film is the winner of the Amnesty International Film Prize at the Berlin Film Festival.

"Sonita" by Rokhsareh Qaem-Maqami is about Sonita, an Afghan refugee living in Iran who fights to keep her dream of becoming a rap star alive, while her family attempts to sell her as a bride.

The documentary won the Grand Jury Prize at the Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah and the Audience Award at the International Documentary Film Festival of Amsterdam.

## American Paul Beatty's race satire wins Man Booker Prize

**LONDON (Reuters)** — Paul Beatty was on Tuesday named as the first American to win the prestigious Man Booker fiction prize, for "The Sellout", a biting satire on race relations in the United States.

The narrator of "The Sellout", an African-American called "Bonbon" tries to put his Californian town back on the map, from which it has been officially removed, by re-introducing slavery and segregation in its high school.

The 289-page novel begins with "Bonbon" facing a hearing in the Supreme Court, looking back over the events that led up to that point.

The language is uncompromising and may offend some readers. So might some of the content - one old black film actor asks to become Bonbon's slave - as Beatty lampoons racial stereotypes. The protagonist's father is unjustly shot by police.

"This is a hard book. It was hard for me to write, it's hard to read," said a tearful Beatty immediately after winning the award at a ceremony at London's historic Guildhall.

"For me, it's just really gratifying that something that's important to me is also important for other people," he later told a news conference.

Chair of the five judges for the 50,000 pound (\$60,900) prize Amanda Foreman said "The Sellout" had been a unanimous choice, reached after a meeting lasting some four hours.

"It plunges into the heart of contemporary American society with absolutely savage wit of the kind I haven't seen since Swift or Twain," she said.

"It manages to eviscerate every social nuance, every sacred cow, while making us laugh and also making us wince ... It is really a novel for our times."

Asked about the language, Foreman said, "Paul Beatty has said being offended is not an emotion. That's his answer to the reader," Foreman said.

"The Sellout" is 54-year-old Beatty's fourth novel. He has also edited an anthology of African-American humor.

It was publisher Oneworld's second Man Booker victory after winning the 2015 prize for "A Brief History of Seven Killings" by Jamaican Marlon James.

# TMCA to loan artworks for Italian show despite domestic opposition

**T A R T** TEHRAN — The Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art (TMCA) announced on Wednesday that it will loan a selection of its Western artworks for a show at Rome's MAXXI Museum despite opposition from Iranian artists and art experts.

"Based on an agreement recently signed by the Iranian president and the Italian prime minister, 30 Iranian artworks and 30 art pieces by Western artists held at the TMCA will be showcased in an exhibition at Rome's MAXXI Museum in January 2017," the TMCA announced in a press release on Wednesday.

During a meeting held by the TMCA in late September to discuss how to loan a selection of its Western artworks to shows at Berlin's National Gallery and Rome's MAXXI Museum, the Iran Painters Association and a number gallery owners voiced their opposition to the TMCA's plan.

The opponents of the plan said that the collection could be confiscated using some lame excuse. They also said that Italy and Germany may return copies of the artworks instead of the originals.

TMCA Director Majid Mollanoruzi and Deputy Culture Minister for Artistic Affairs Ali Moradkhani failed to convince the opponents.

Meanwhile, Berlin's National Gallery has previously announced that it will organize the exhibition of TMCA's artworks from December 2016 to February 2017.



Art fans visit the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art in a file photo.

## Illustration Week to open in Iranian Artists Forum on Friday

**T A R T** TEHRAN — The Iranian Artists Forum will be hosting Illustration Week beginning on Friday.

"A wide variety of programs have been set up during the week including several exhibits and sessions," secretary of the event Kianush Gharibpur said in a press conference held at the forum on Tuesday.

"The Iranian illustrators Society (IIS) used to hold an exhibition of illustrations within its programs during the past years;

however, it was decided to make it a larger event with several more programs," Gharibpur added.

"We Are Illustrates", "New World of Illustration", "World of Design", "World of Charm", and "World of Comic" are among the exhibits to open in several galleries of the forum, he said, adding that a selection of 148 works by 148 illustrators will go on display in the "We Are Illustrators" exhibit.

"Kalantari Who Was an Illustrator"

highlighting works by Parviz Kalantari (1931-2016), who was famous for his paintings of Iranian indigenous nomadic life, is also one of the exhibits to be set up during the event.

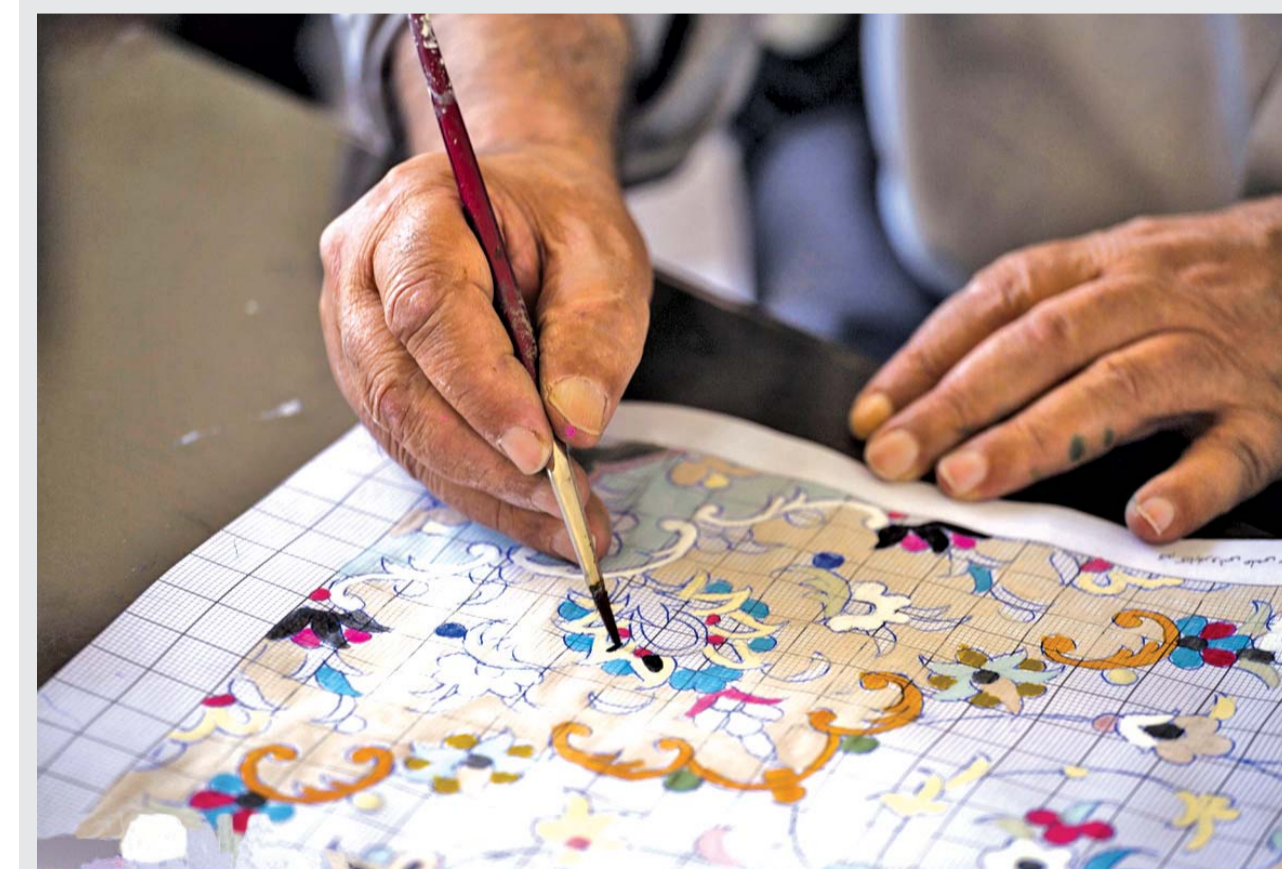
A number of sessions as well as film screening programs have also been arranged on the side section.

"The works will not be for sale. We also plan to pay due attention to the rights of both the illustrators and the publishers during this week," he added.

IIS Director Kamal Tabatabai, also attending the conference, noted that the society has long had plans to establish a museum of illustrations, and the Tehran Municipality in district 12 has promised to dedicate a historical building for the museum.

He also added that the society will symbolically celebrate the day of the illustrator during the week aiming to register the day on the Iranian national calendar next year.

### PICTURE OF THE DAY IRNA/Hossein Afkhami



An artist creates a carpet design at his atelier in Kashan, a major center of Persian carpets in central Iran, on October 25, 2016.

## Hollywood actresses celebrate women's progress in film, politics

**NEW YORK (Reuters)** — A host of female stars have turned out to celebrate the Elle "Women in Hollywood" awards in Beverly Hills as the U.S. election, which could provide the United States with its first female president, draws near.

Actresses Felicity Jones and Lupita Nyong'o as well as "Twilight" co-stars Kristen Stewart and Dakota Fanning hit the red carpet on Monday for the annual awards that celebrate the contribution of women to the film industry.

Many of the actresses touched on the U.S. election, just two weeks away, which could see Hillary Clinton become America's first female president.

"I think the power and the presence of America on the international stage in the world it will really be sending an amazing message if there is a female president," said British actress Helen Mirren.

"I've been to these events before and it is a lot of fun to get women together to tell their stories ... especially now during this election process when women have had some dirt kicked on them," said Oscar winner Kathy Bates, alluding to the rhetoric that has marked the political campaign.

## Tehran Intl. Short Film Festival establishes Kiarostami Awards

**T A R T** TEHRAN — The organizers of the 33rd Tehran International Short Film Festival have established the Kiarostami Awards to be presented to influential Iranian cineastes active in the field of short films.

The award has been established in the name of Abbas Kiarostami (1940-2016), whose name will remain eternal in the history of Iranian cinema, the Iranian Youth Cinema Society (IYCS) announced in a press release published on Wednesday.

In addition, the best of the top works competing in the festival will receive Rumi Awards. This special award has been established to honor the ancient culture and literature of Iran.

IYCS is the main organizer of the festival, which will be held at Tehran's Charsu Cineplex from November 8 to 14.

Eleven films by Iranian and foreign filmmakers will be screened in a section dedicated to movies about Islam.

"The Past" by Wathab Alsagar and "The Photo" by Baqer Alrabi, both from Iraq, "That's Mine" by Maryam Kashkulinia from Iran and "The Safe Territory" by Luca Innocenti from Italy are among the movies selected for the section entitled "Films about Islam".

Twelve movies by Asian filmmakers will also be screened in the Asian competition section.

"Syria, My Love" by Hayk Matevosyan from Armenia, "Senior Teacher" by Mo Sha from China and "The Past" by Zohreh Erdoagan from Turkey are among the films.

Also included are "Winter's Butterfly" by Shoji Toyama from Japan, "Road Kill" by Aaron Kim and "Stay" by Sangwook Ahn, both from South Korea, and "Mast Qalandar" by Divij Roopchand from India.

