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Zarif: We retaliate if JCPOA violated



Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif in an appearance with UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres (R) in New York on July 18, 2017

KRG says cognizant of neighbors security concerns

TEHRAN — The Tehran Times recently sat for an interview with Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) representative in Iran Nazim Dabbagh.

There, we asked Mr. Dabbagh about the current KRG push for a referendum as follows:

Please speak about Jalal Talabani's recent trip to Tehran and if it had anything to do with the referendum.

A: As you know, there are cordial relations between Mr. Talabani and the Islamic Republic of Iran. Due to his critical health condition, he wasn't able to visit Iran over the past few years. That

was why our friends in Tehran proposed him travel to Iran to get some rest in a special resort after his medical team gave the approval. He was in Iran for a few days and left on Thursday.

He's always been interested in optimal political ties between Iran and Iraq, and believes that Iranians and Kurds have had the same geography, race, and religion.

Over the past months, a key issue has been the referendum decision. Why did you come up with that decision?

A: The referendum issue is in line with our Kurdish movement. It began decades ago and has been moving ahead all this time. →2

\$200m of projects inaugurated in Persian Gulf islands

ECONOMY TEHRAN — Nine d e s k large development, and tourism projects,

worth 8 trillion rials (about \$210 million) came on stream in the two Persian Gulf islands of Kish and Hen-

On Monday, seven projects were inaugurated in Kish Island, ISNA reported.

Changing the eastern breakwater of Kish Island's harbor and constructing 24 ro-ro concrete docks (designed to loading and unloading wheeled cargos such as cars and trucks) was the first project, implemented through 285 billion rials (about \$7.5 million) investment. The project will create direct jobs for 40 persons.

The second project was the establishment of Mahan Med Maymeh medicine and medical equipment production unit in Kish Industrial Estate through 700 billion rials (about \$18.5 million) and €20 million invest-

The third one was the construction of Ocean Aqua Park through 1.8 trillion rials (about \$47.6 million) investment by the private sector. It is planned to create jobs for 400 people.

The construction of a power plant and also a water desalinator was the fourth project. The power plant was built at the cost of 500 billion rials (about \$13.2 million). \rightarrow 4

efforts for Middle

Chinese President Xi Jinping pledged

on Tuesday to make "unremitting" ef-

China's Xi

'unremitting'

East peace

pledges

Iran selfsufficient in building missiles, drones, smart bombs: IRGC general

The commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps Aerospace Division said on Tuesday that Iran is self-sufficient in producing various types of surface-to-surface missiles, drones and smart bombs, Press TV reported.

"[Iran's] self-sufficiency in manufacturing advanced surface-to-surface missiles, unmanned aerial vehicles, smart bombs, radar and air defense systems, electronic warfare [devices] and other issues correctly proves that we can overcome all problems by relying on domestic capabilities," Brigadier General Amir Ali Haiizadeh said in a meeting with a group of lawmakers.

Referring to a recent missile attack on terrorists positions in Syria's eastern province of Dayr al-Zawr, the commander said the IRGC Qods Force had initially given the list of 60 targets to the Aerospace Division, but eventually six missiles were fired at three main targets.

Hajizadeh added that all the missiles hit the targets and completely destroyed the Daesh Takfiri terrorists' underground bases and tunnels, noting that some pictures of the destroyed tunnels have already been released.

On June 18, the IRGC fired six medium-range surface-to-surface ballistic missiles at Daesh bases in Dayr al-Zawr, which killed more than 170 terrorists, including a number of commanders and senior elements, and inflicted heavy damage on their equipment and systems.

The missile attack came after gunmen mounted almost simultaneous assaults on Iran's parliament and the mausoleum of the founder of the Islamic Republic Imam Khomeini on June 7. Daesh claimed responsibility for the assaults, which killed 17 people and injured over 50 others.

Hajizadeh also pointed to the U.S. role in the creation of the ongoing challenges in the Middle East, saying that Iran was currently engaged in a war in multiple fronts.

Trump certifies for second time Iran nuclear deal

POLITICS TEHRAN — The erratic, s k hostile U.S. administration certified on Monday that Iran is pressing ahead to act in compliance with its much cherished nuclear deal with world powers, ending weeks of mind reading into President Donald Trump.

It was the second time Trump certified Tehran's compliance with the accord since inauguration as president in January, despite censuring it as "the worst deal ever" during the 2016 presidential trail.

By U.S. law, the State Department must notify Congress every 90 days of Iran's compliance with the so-called Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), which removed sanctions against Tehran in exchange for it scaling backing its nuclear program.

The deal allows Trump to stop renewal of or hold in place two sets of four- and six-

Pursuing the carrot and stick policy toward Iran once more, the administration, however, imbedded its certification to Congress of Iran's compliance with a philippic of Iran's non-nuclear activities, saying Iran is "unquestionably in default of the spirit" of the deal.

Washington is also weighing additional sanctions against Iranian entities to target the country's ballistic missile program and what it calls "state sponsorship of terrorism", two items not covered by the deal, CNN quoted a senior administration official as saying.

On Tuesday, the Office of Foreign Assets Control of the U.S. Department of the Treasury designated 16 entities and individuals, including seven entities and five individuals for engaging in activities in support of Iran's military or Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard

Corps (IRGC) and two Iranian organizations involved in Iran's ballistic missile program.

Iran has long complained that Washington's new sanctions are in default of the "spirit" of the nuclear deal, saying it is preventing Tehran from reaping the accord's full benefits.

Speaking to reporters in New York on July 14, the second anniversary of the nuclear deal, Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said "the U.S. government has not let Iran to gain benefits from the deal completely" and "the U.S. has remained committed to the agreement at the least level"

In an interview with the U.S.-based National Interest just hours before the U.S. administration's certification, Zarif threated that Tehran "has other options available, including withdrawing from the deal", in case each of the signatories does "a major violation".

forts toward promoting peace in the Middle East following a meeting with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, as China steps up its diplomatic engagement with the region.

Palestinian officials have urged China, which supports an independent Palestinian state, to do more in the Middle East peace process.

Chinese envoys occasionally visit Israel and the Palestinian Territories, though China has traditionally played little role in Middle East conflicts or diplomacy despite its reliance on the region for oil.

Speaking to reporters after meeting Abbas in Beijing's Great Hall of the People, Xi said the international community paid close attention to the Middle East peace process

"As the Palestinian people's good friend, partner and brother, China hopes Palestine and Israel can achieve peace as soon as possible and live and work in peace. China will make unremitting efforts for this," Xi said, after receiving a Palestinian medal of honor from Abbas.

China has historically had a good relationship with the Palestinians.

The Middle East, however, is fraught with risk for China, which has little experience navigating the religious and political tensions that frequently rack the region.

Deputy Chinese Foreign Minister Zhang Ming later said Xi reiterated support for the establishment of a Palestinian state, and also called for the security of both the Palestinians and Israelis to be protected.

t is important to advance a political settlement on the basis of the two state solution, Zhang added, paraphrasing Xi.

U.S. President Donald Trump has renewed efforts to get Israeli-Palestinian talks going again, after they collapsed in 2014.

His Middle East envoy, Jason Greenblatt, announced an Israeli-Palestinian water agreement last week but dodged questions on whether he was making headway on reviving peace talks. →13

Oil extends bounce as dollar slumps

Oil prices extended a rebound Tuesday, bolstered in part by a weaker dollar a day after a week-long rally fizzled on data that showed U.S. production would continue to trend higher this year.

On the New York Mercantile Exchange, light, sweet crude futures for delivery in August rose 72 cents, or 1.5%, to \$46.74 a barrel. September Brent crude on London's ICE Futures exchange gained 76 cents, or 1.6%, to \$49.18 a barrel.

On Monday, oil prices fell about 1% and

finished with their first loss in six sessions. That came as the U.S. Energy Information Administration said total U.S. oil production will likely notch 113,000-barrel a day rise in August from the previous month to hit 5.585 million barrels a day. If confirmed, this would mark an eighth-straight month of U.S. output

The rebound comes as the dollar fell following a decision by Senate Republican leaders to scrap a vote on legislation to repeal and replace Obamacare. The failure to pass

the legislation cast doubts on the outlook for other growth-friendly policies.

A weaker dollar tends to help commodities priced in the currency as it makes them less expensive to users of other currencies.

The bounce comes as traders remain concerned about still-bloated global inventories, which has shown little signs of retreating despite a continuing production cut pact by the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and other heavyweights like Russia. (Source: Market Watch)



Marivan's Kalash to become world heritage

Young boys in the Iranian city of Marivan wearing traditional handmade shoes, called Kalash, pose for a photo, July 18, 2017. A delegation from UNESCO paid a visit to Marivan the same day to take final steps to register the city on the world heritage list for its Kalash.

Kalash is a particular lightweight and breathable footwear made of natural cotton and leather. The mostly white colored shoes are frequently worn by youth and seniors equally.

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS



Iranian Parliament votes to punish U.S. for sponsoring terrorism

TICS TEHRAN — Iran's parliament e s k unanimously passed a motion on Tuesday aimed at punishing the United States for sponsoring terrorism throughout the Middle East.

Addressing an open session of the parliament after the vote, Parliament speaker Ali Larijani lauded the motion, saying the approval is a sign of "the Iranian nation's determination" to counter U.S. measures in the region.

Larijani further said the unanimous vote signaled that all Iranian MPs from rival factions are united in this



Total deal highly profitable: Iran

CS TEHRAN — Government spokesman e s k Mohammad Baqer Nobakht on Tuesday praised the \$5 billion gas deal recently signed between Iran and France's energy giant Total, saying the French company's investment would be highly profitable

The project will generate \$85 billion of income in a 20-year period, Nobakht told reporters at his weekly press conference.

Foreign investors will receive \$12 billion of the income and the rest would go to Iran, he noted, adding that the contract is unprecedented since the nuclear deal went into effect.



Former MP proposes twohouse system

POLITICS TEHRAN — Mohammad-Reza e s k Bahonar, the former deputy speaker of Iran's parliament, has said it is necessary to establish a two-house system, saying many countries have successfully implemented such a system.

In an interview with the Arman newspaper published on Tuesday, Bahonar said the current system has many structural problems.

"I came to the conclusion a long time ago that the country cannot be ruled by one Majlis (parliament)," he said, adding that a new two-House system is needed to



Parliament receives periodic report on nuclear deal

POLITICS TEHRAN — Iran's Foreign Ministry has e s k submitted the sixth quarterly report to the parliament on the process of the implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), the official name for the nuclear deal between Iran, six world powers and the European Union.

The report, which was submitted to the Parliament National Security and Foreign Policy Committee on Monday, briefs the lawmakers on the implementation of the deal, as well as its impacts on the country's nuclear program and economy, and the other parties' commitment to the deal over the past three months.



Talks needed to address Turkev's damming projects: top MP

TICS TEHRAN — A senior lawmaker s k underlined on Tuesday the necessity to hold talks with neighboring countries regarding Turkey's large scale damming projects, also known as GAP.

Alaeddin Boroujerdi, chairman of the Majlis National Security and Foreign Policy Committee, said if the projects are carried out without consultations with other countries, all regional countries, including Turkey itself, will have to face its consequences.

The war-torn Iraq and Syria have been adversely affected by Turkey's damming projects which trap waters of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, leading to dust storms and other environmental problems.



Ashgabat hosting seminar on marine spatial planning

TICS TEHRAN — The International Ocean Institute (IOI) is holding a seminar on marine spatial planning in Ashgabat for experts from Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Russia and Turkmenistan, the Turkmen government said in a message on Tuesday.

"The seminar is aimed at improving the competence and practical skills in marine spatial planning that is related to understanding the role of ecosystems. Special emphasis is placed on coordination of interests of various agencies when working in coastal zones and the sea," read the message.

Zarif: Iran to retaliate if JCPOA violated

Iran, S. Arabia can work together to end regional conflicts, FM Zarif suggests

By Negar Asadi

TEHRAN — Iran, S. Arabia can work together to end regional conflicts, FM Zarif suggests.

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has warned the Donald Trump administration that Tehran has the option to abandon limits on its nuclear program in case the nuclear agreement, officially called the JCPOA, is violated.

"If it comes to a major violation, or what in the terms of the nuclear deal is called significant nonperformance, then Iran has other options available, including withdrawing from the deal," Zarif told The National Interest on Monday.

The nuclear deal was signed between Iran and the United States, Britain, France, Germany, China, Russia and the European Union on July 14, 2015. The UN Security Council approved a resolution on July 20, 2015, endorsing the agreement. It took effect on January 16, 2016.

"As we've said in the past, we wanted that agreement to be the foundation and not the ceiling. But in order for that to serve as a solid foundation, we want to make sure that the obligations by all sides have been fully and faithfully implemented. And if we get that, then we have an opening to further progress," he said.

Zarif: We either win together or lose together

On the regional situation, Zarif said,



"We don't see the situation in our region as a winning or losing battle. It's a situation where the initial U.S. invasion of Iraq has led everybody to lose. Because we believe that the situation in today's world is so interconnected that we cannot have winners and losers; we either win together or lose together."

Zarif also said that Shias, Sunnis and Kurds are all important segment of Iraqi society with whom Iran needs to have relations.

"Iran has rushed to the aid of the Iraqis, not just the Shias, but everybody. For us, the Shias, the Sunnis, the segment of Iraqi society with whom we countries from whose nationals, almost

Citing an example of Iran's help to Iraqis when Daesh invaded Iraq in 2014, the foreign minister said, "We went to the support of the Kurds: when they had been invaded by ISIS, we were the first to go to Erbil to secure it and to rescue it, basically, from a Daesh occupation."

He added there are certain countries in the Middle East who have been "consistently" supporting terrorism.

"You have countries in the region who have consistently supported extremists... Some countries consistently supported Kurds—all of them are an important the wrong groups—these are the same

94 percent of those engaged in acts of terror, came—so we are talking about a consistent record on their side and a consistent record on the Iranian side."

He added that Iran does not seek to exclude Saudi Arabia from the security calculus of the Middle East region.

"We believe that Saudi Arabia is an important part of that security, as we believe that other countries in the region should be an important part of that security understanding."

■ Iran, Saudi Arabia 'don't need to try to exclude each other'

Iran's chief diplomat also said on Monday that Iran and Saudi Arabia can work together to end conflicts in Yemen

"We certainly hope that if we don't agree with each other about the situation in Yemen or about the situation in Syria we can still work with each other in order to bring those situations to an end," Reuters quoted Zarif as saying at the Council on Foreign Relations think tank in New York.

When asked if he was worried about direct confrontation between Tehran and Riyadh, Zarif said, "We certainly hope not We don't have to fight; we don't need to fight. We don't need to try to exclude each other from the scene in the Middle East."

Elsewhere, he said that there was no communication between himself and U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, but that "doesn't mean there can't be".

Kurdistan Region cognizant of neighbors' security concerns

1 -> Our strategies and procedures are time bound. Once it's a sit-in, protest or fight. Today is the era of diplomatic, parliamentary and popular activities. In spite of a number of Kurds being in the top echelons of the government over the past years, no step has thus far been taken to implement bilateral agreements between the Kurdistan Regional Government and the central government. Nor have Kurds' 💆 constitutional rights been upheld. On top of that, our budget has been cut as well.

As the war with Daesh (Islamic § State) broke out, the Kurdish peshmerga was the star of the battlefield both in Syria's Kobani and Iraq. The Kurdish forces had already been influential in the Fallujah and Al Anbar battle- ខ្មី grounds, and were crucial in keeping Baghdad and those areas under Article 140 of the Iraqi Constitution safe and secure. (Article 140 of the Iraqi Constitution calls for normalization of areas it refers to as disputed, to be followed by a referendum on whether or not those regions want to be part of the Kurdistan Region. According to the Constitution, the article should have been implemented by the end of 2007, and so far no referendum has been conducted on this issue.) This is while the Iraqi army stopped resisting Daech fighters and fled the war zone Had it not been for peshmerga forces, the Iraqi forces would have had to rush to retake Kirkuk after Mosul. Daesh even had plans to attack Erbil and maybe had eyes on Iranian borders.

The point is that throughout this period, the Iraqi government did nothing to help the peshmerga forces. Kurdish lawmakers voted for the formation of Hashd al-Sha'abi (Popular Mobilization Forces) just to regret doing so a while later because the peshmerga law that is part of the Iraq government was not approved by the parliament. The Iraqi government did not provide the Kurdish forces even with the basic tools.

There are a few agreed-upon projects in the Iraqi parliament, including agreements on oil revenue, peshmerga forces and guidelines for relations between the central Iragi government and the Kurdish Regional Government. Altogether, these are parts of the so-called Article 140 of the İraqi Constitution.

Interjection: You mean failure to reach agreements on the afore-mentioned issues has brought you to the stage a referendum?

A: Well, these sticking points are not limited just to the ones I cited. As a matter of fact, now that the fight against Daesh has finished, we have our own dialogues. What if the Hashd al-Sha'abi takes power and certain Iraqi authorities decide to pursue the same Baathi policies towards Kurds? The question is how long the Kurds should wait to have their voice heard and their requests granted. That's why the Kurdish leadership, coupled with the backing of five major groups and other



Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) representative in Iran Nazim Dabbagh

In spite of a number of Kurds being in the top echelons of the government over the past years, no step has thus far been taken to implement bilateral agreements between the Kurdistan Regional Government and the central government. Nor have Kurds' constitutional rights been upheld. On top of that, our budget has been cut as well.

non-major ones, insists on holding the referendum. There are of course differences over the timing of the referendum and optimal conditions for holding it. In fact, no Kurd dares to say he doesn't want to get independent. The referendum process is a sort of parliamentary, democratic bid to get into the mind of the Kurdish people on the issue. Overall, the referendum decision seeks the attention of the Iraqi government and other actors that the Kurdish government wants in order to achieve its goals via diplomacy and dialogue.

Of course, in response to the independence move, the Iraqi government may choose to fight us. I have overheard some Iraqi authorities saying "we will fight them (the Kurds). If you go down in history and review the Kurdish past before the Safavid and Ottoman dynasties as well as after the First World War, when [...] Mustafa Barzani [took part in leading] the Kurdish movement, you will notice that they all took to arms and sought independence. But the Kurds' independence movement has been so far suppressed by internal and external factors. This is an indication that the Kurds have always been seeking to fight for their rights.

This time is no exception. We may enter into confrontation. There are two pos-

sibilities. Chances of victory and failure are equal. We can't be indifferent to our people's call. Otherwise, it will be treason. In a nutshell, what I am trying to say as the representative of the Kurdish Regional Government is that we believe we should implement the referendum through dialogue with Iran, Turkey, Syria and Iraq and other countries and have their approvals.

We don't plan to declare independence right on the same day the Kurds vote for the move. Before any declaration movement, some steps need to be taken and we are well aware that Baghdad is the starting point for us to discuss the independence of the Kurdish Regional Government. To do so, we have already agreed on our own negotiation team and the first round of negotiations is likely to take place in the near future.

A delegation led by Masoud Barzani headed to Brussels for the first time to enlist support for the referendum.

You mentioned that the expectations of the Kurdistan Regional Government from Baghdad on bilateral agreement are yet to be met. And you already referred to some of these 'sticking points". Could you be more specific?

A: The role of the Kurds in the new Ira-

The Kurdish forces had already been influential in the Fallujah and Al Anbar battlegrounds, and were crucial in keeping Baghdad and those areas under Article 140 of the Iraqi Constitution safe and secure.

qi government has been strongly highlighted by Ayatollah Sistani who once said Jalal Talabani is the key to the country's security. Though Mam Jalal is recognized as a prominent political figure in the region who has served as president, we should bear in mind that he is a Kurd. Had it not been for the backing of the Kurdistan Regional Government and the Kurds, it would've been impossible for him to play such major role.

As per our disagreements with Baghdad, what I have said already are just the basic. Differences over oil purchase and sale, peshmerga forces, and Article 140 have to be ironed out. We reached a consensus on oil a few years ago after the invasion of the U.S. when the whole Iraqi political establishment and we cooperated in all stages of drafting the accord.

The other areas of discord are, as I mentioned before, peshmerga forces and Article 140. The article was passed perhaps because it applies not only to Kurdistan, but to the entire country, Iraq. Major changes were made to Shiite-majority areas such as Najaf, Karbala, Basra, and Al Diwaniyah. Our Shiite friends backed the move in the parliament and approved it, because it was in their interest to do so. They, however, were reluctant to agree with a similar plan in Kurdish-majority areas. Since the passage of the plan in 2008 up to the present, it has been delayed. And these are issues that we disagree on. Unfortunately, the Baathi ideology still dominates parts of the Iragi decision-making body. Such thinking only accepts itself to the exclusion of others no matter if they are Shiites, Sunnis or Kurds, and consequently that breeds disagreement. For instance, neither Ayad Allawi nor Ibrahim al-Jaafari did anything for the Kurds. We even asked for Jafari to step down simply after two years into a four-year tenure, because his polices fell short of being in compliance with the Iraqi Constitution and of being any good for the country's unity.

Again, Nuri al-Maliki completed what his predecessors, opposed to Kurds as he was. Maliki even failed to implement bilateral agreements he himself signed with Masoud Barzani, including 19 articles, and Jalal Talabani. Haider al-Abadi has also made no marked difference for the Kurds. Yet, during his tenure, Irag's situation changed as Daesh invaded the country. So, Abadi postponed addressing disagreements between the Kurdistan Regional Government and Baghdad until the defeat of Daesh. Finding a solution for the current situation has already been delayed for not being a top priority in an insecure Iraq after the collapse of Saddam or under other circumstances. And this shall continue in the future if left unaddressed. For this reason, the Kurds' rights should be upheld. I have been with Jalal Talabani since 1964, and throughout it all, we have been seeking to live in harmony and peace one day. 3

Pro-Russians announce new state in east Ukraine

Pro-Russian forces in eastern Ukrainian territories have announced the creation of a new state, further complicating efforts to put an end to a conflict that has killed more than 10,000 people.

Leader of the so-called Donetsk People's Republic Alexander Zakharchenko said Tuesday that the region, along with a similar republic in neighboring Luhansk province and representatives of other Ukrainian regions would form a state called Malorossiya.

"We, representatives of the regions of the former Ukraine, excluding Crimea, proclaim the creation of a new state which is a successor to Ukraine," Zakharchenko told Russia's Tass news agency, adding, "We believe that the Ukrainian state as it was cannot be restored."

He added that people in Malorossiya would later have the chance to vote on a new constitution. Malorossiya was the term used by the Russian Empire to identify most of the areas which are currently part of Ukraine.

The announcement comes just a day before a new round of talks on the Ukrainian conflict in Minsk. The Belarusian capital has hosted several high-profile meetings over the past years to resolve the crisis which started in late 2014 when some deep political developments in Kiev led to the rise of a pro-Western government at the expense of a Russia-backed one. Leaders of France, Germany, Russia and Ukraine reached a peace agreement in Minsk in February 2015. The deal, which



managed to reduce hostilities on the ground, stipulated that pro-Russians give back territories they had captured in return for wider autonomy and rights for local elections.

Senior leaders from Donetsk said the creation of a new state was no violation of the Minsk II accords. People in Luhansk, however, voiced reservations and said they were still committed to the peace agreement.

The creation of Malorossiya, if really materialize, would be seen as a major victory for Russia and a blow to West's efforts for maintaining the integrity of Ukraine following the 2014 change of regime. Ukraine's Crimea, a peninsula on the Black Sea, decided to rejoin Russia after a referendum held that year. Moscow, however, stopped short of endorsing a similar move for the eastern Ukrainian regions. The United States

and allies in Europe imposed rounds of economic and military sanctions on Russia over the so-called Crimea annexation and continue to blame Moscow for the conflict in Donetsk and Luhansk. Russia denies allegations of providing funds and weapons to militants, but insists that it would intervene militarily if Kiev tries to suppress the ethnic Russian population in the industrial region.

(Source: RT)

Syrian forces continue their gains against ISIL in Raqqah

The Syrian army has regained control of an oilfield in Raqqah after killing all of its occupying the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Daesh) terrorists as part of their operations to fully liberate the country from extremism.

According a military source, the al-Deilaa oilfield, located in the province's southwestern countryside, was liberated following heavy clashes with the Takfiri terrorists.

The source added that three car bombs were also neutralized during the operations.

On Saturday, Syrian government forces managed to seize back oilfields in Raqqah and in the eastern province of Dayr al-Zawr from the terrorists.

Dozens of terrorists were also killed and wounded as government soldiers engaged in fierce clashes with the Takfiris while attempting to retake the oilfields.

Syrian army destroys ISIL tunnel in Dayr al-Zawr

Also on Monday, Syrian forces successfully destroyed a 33-meter long ISIL tunnel complex in Dayr al-Zawr's al-Jabieleh neighborhood that the terrorists were using as a hideout.

The four-floor tunnel system was destroyed after the Syrian air force carried out several airstrikes against the terrorists in the province.

Artillery strikes were also launched against ISIL positions and ammunition depots in the villages of Ayash, al-Jneina, al-Husseiniyeh, al-Tharda junction, al-Panorama, Huweijit Saqr.

Meanwhile, the so-called Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) are engaged in severe clashes with the ISIL in Raggah.

Noting that its forces have reached the center of the city, the SDF said that 11 of its troops have been killed since clashes erupted on Sunday.

Backed by a U.S.-led coalition that purports to be fighting ISIL, SDF fighters first broke into Raqqah on June 6.The fighters have been engaged in fierce fighting with ISIL as they push closer in on the city center.

The SDF, made up of an alliance of Arab and Kurdish fighters, is supported by the so-called U.S.-led coalition with artillery and airstrikes, much to the dismay of Turkey.

The ISIL terrorist outfit seized Raqqah in 2014, the same year when it started its campaign of terror in Syria. It then proceeded to capture large parts of Syrian territory. But the terrorists have suffered major blows by the Syrian army and allies in recent months.

Muslims spike after Trump win

CAIR: Hate crimes against

The number of anti-Muslim hate crimes in the United States rose 91 percent in the first half of the year compared with the same period in 2016, according to a leading Muslim advocacy and civil rights group.

In a report published on Monday, the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) said hate crimes have spiked since 2016, which was the worst year on record for anti-Muslim incidents since the group began its documenting system in 2013.

The number of bias incidents in the first half of 2017 also rose by 24 percent compared with the first six months of 2016, CAIR said.

"The presidential election campaign and the Trump administration have tapped into a seam of bigotry and hate that has resulted in the targeting of American Muslims and other minority groups," said Zainab Arain, a CAIR coordinator working to monitor and combat Islamophobia.

"If acts of bias impacting the American Muslim community continue as they have been, 2017 could be one of the worst years ever for such incidents."

The most common form of Islamophobia from April to June this year involved harassment, defined by CAIR as non-violent or non-threatening in-

cidents

The second was hate crimes, involving physical violence or property damage.

In the 347 cases in which the gender of the victims was identified, males accounted for 57 percent, and females for 43 percent.

Victims were most likely to be targeted at their homes, followed by a highway, road, alley or street. In third place were air, train or bus terminals, the report said.

CAİR said the most common trigger of anti-Muslim bias incidents in 2017 remains the victim's ethnicity or national origin, accounting for 32 percent of the total.

"20 percent of incidents occurred because of an individual being perceived as Muslim. A Muslim woman's headscarf was a trigger in 15 percent of incidents," it added.

The group based its report on data gathered from reported and witnessed cases but acknowledged that under-reporting was a challenge, with many victims failing to notify law enforcement or community institutions.

According to CAIR's 2016 report, anti-Muslim hate incidents rose more than 40 percent compared with 2015.

(Source: agencies)

Venezuela opposition turns heat up on Maduro with strike call

(Source: SANA)

Venezuela's opposition called for a national shutdown against President Nicolas Maduro in a major escalation of protests against a leftist government it accuses of

flouting the people's will.

"We are not going to allow the destruction of Venezuela. The whole country overwhelmingly rejects the Maduro regime," said opposition leader Freddy Guevara, announcing the first 24-hour strike in nearly four months of anti-government demonstrations that have led to some 100 deaths.

The opposition - which wants restaurants, shops and transport to come to a standstill on Thursday - said it would also take steps to set up a "national unity" government and name new alternative judges to the pro-Maduro Supreme

That raised the possibility of a parallel state structure to challenge government-controlled institutions.

The opposition said it brought 7.6 million people out on Sunday for an unofficial vote intended to de-legitimize a man they call a dictator.

Maduro's foes are demanding a presidential election and want to stop his plan to create a controversial new legislative super-body called a Constituent Assem-



bly in a July 30 vote.

They are also seeking freedom for about 400 jailed activists, independence for the opposition-controlled legislature, and permission for foreign humanitarian aid to Venezuelans suffering shortages and hunger

Guevara said the opposition would only talk with the government if the constituent plan was withdrawn. The hardball strategy recalls events before a shortlived coup against Maduro's predecessor and mentor Hugo Chavez in 2002.

Venezuela's leading business group Fedecamaras, which played a major role against Chavez in 2002, said it would be up to each company and its workers to decide whether to heed opposition ac-

On Sunday, opposition supporters voted overwhelmingly - by 98 percent - to reject the proposed new assembly, urge the military to defend the existing constitution, and support elections be-

fore Maduro's term ends.

The 7.6 million people who participated in Sunday's event was just under 7.7 million opposition votes in the 2015 legislative elections, that it won by a landslide.

The turnout followed just two weeks of organization, with voting at 2,000 polling stations, seven times fewer than those used in the official 2015 vote.

Maduro, 54, a former bus driver and long-serving foreign minister for Chavez, narrowly won election in 2013 and his ratings have plunged to just over 20 percent during a brutal economic crisis in the South American OPEC (Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries) member.

Maduro insists opposition leaders are United States pawns intent on sabotaging the economy and bringing him down through violence as part of an international right-wing conspiracy led by Washington and fanned by private domestic and foreign media.

Most Venezuelans oppose the government's Constituent Assembly, which will have power to rewrite the constitution and annul the current opposition-led legislature, but Maduro is pressing on regardless for the vote in two weeks' time.

(Source: AP)

Kurdistan Region cognizant of neighbors' security concerns

≥ Well, the question is this: until when should the Kurds live so? We continue our bid. We may win, we may lose. But God willing, we will make it. Yet, we are fully aware of the geographical position of the Kurdistan Region and we know that any independent Kurdish establishment in Iraq needs to be mindful of the security of its neighboring countries; and Iraq, of course, is the first country we need to reach a consensus with.

Q: As you argued earlier, different Kurdish groups and parties unanimously agree on the referendum decision. However, there are counterarguments. Change Movement (Goran) and Kurdistan Islamic Group (Komal) have voiced opposition. Also, people familiar with the issue have linked the removal of Ala Talabani as the head of the PUK's party faction in the Iraqi parliament to her disagreement with the referendum bid. What is your reaction?

A: This is all media hype. First of all, I should say that there is unanimous agreement within the entire political authority of the Kurdistan Regional Government about the referendum decision. The Change Movement and Kurdistan Islamic Group also fully endorse the move but have reservations in terms of the preconditions for holding the referendum. They demand current issues and challenges of the Kurdistan Regional Government be resolved. Also, they argue that the referendum decision should be approved by the parliament not by the government's leadership. So, they differ on that.



We are fully aware of the geographical position of the Kurdistan Region and we know that any independent Kurdish establishment in Iraq needs to be mindful of the security of its neighboring countries; and Iraq, of course, is the first country we need to reach a consensus with.

As per Ala Talabani, her removal has nothing to do with the referendum; it is due to some internal issues of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan itself. The removal decision was made by the political bureau of the PUK and has not been applied yet.

Q: Iraq and Turkey have threatened they would resort to force if the Kurdistan Regional Government insists on holding the referendum. What's your reaction?

A: We have imagined all possibilities. The Kurdish leadership is already battle-hardened. While threats by Iraq and Turkey or any other country can't be ignored, we have witnessed the worst scenarios over our history. Turkey, for instance, has launched more than 27 strikes against the PKK and Kurds so far.

I need to clarify that wars are not conducive to solutions. Once there were only 3,000 peshmergas. What was the outcome? Saddam Hossein once said two people wouldn't be allowed to have a sip of water across the Iraqi territory. Due to resistance, one of the two became president of the Kurdistan Regional Government and the other president of Iraq. So, disagreements should not escalate into military confrontation because experience indicates that we are resistant and adamant.

Q: How far do you think it is legitimate for countries with Kurdish communities to voice concern over the referendum decision?

A: I think it's their legitimate right to be worried about the referendum move. But, the question arising here is what the root cause of such concerns are. The Kurds are worried about their future, and this should be resolved.

Interjection: But do you acknowledge that the referendum may set a precedent in the region for other Kurdish communities in neighboring countries?

A: Yes, this may be the case. But we're not to blame for that, and it depends on the governments of those countries. Do the Kurds who are fighting Turkey have a government? A second point to bear in mind is that Iraqi Kurds have no right to intervene in other countries.

Q: What do you say when Iran says it is against the referendum bid in the Kurdistan Region?

A: Unlike other countries such as Turkey, whose president has threateningly said that the Kurds would regret holding referendum, Iran has merely opposition to the decision while supporting the Kurds in a unified Iraq and urging a return to the Iraqi Constitution. That's exactly our demand, as well. We want Article 140 of the Constitution to be reactivated and implemented.

I should reiterate that it's our neighboring countries' legitimate right to be worried. But an appropriate solution has to be wrought. We have always highlighted the importance of respecting the security of regional countries, and we need to assure them we are not posing any threats to them. As a matter of fact, we have no other choice but to pursue such policy because we are a landlocked territory, meaning that we commit suicide if we choose to have strained relations with neighboring countries. Just now, trade flow from Iran to the Kurdistan Region is nearly \$4 billion, without which it would be difficult for us to continue normal life. So, we're well aware that if Iran, Turkey, Iraq, or Syria wish, they can sufficient us.

Q: How do you see the future of the referendum? And what is the way forward?

A: I'm optimistic, and do believe that any nation or ethnicity who insist on defending thir rights would prevail finally. The referendum shouldn't be taken to mean declaration of independence. The move is a sort of popular authority bestowed on the Kurdish leadership; that the referendum bid is backed not only by the Kurdish authorities but also the Kurdish people. And when you have such backing, the people are ready

to defend and preserve what they have voted for.

BRIEF



Meatex 2017 due in mid-Nov. **Meat Exhibitio**

ECONOMY TEHRAN — Tehran is going to host Iran e s k International Meat Exhibition (Meatex 2017) as the second international exhibition of the country in the field of halal protein products and related industries from November 13 to 16.

The exhibition is to be held to meet the need of producers and consumers in markets of Muslim countries in Middle East, Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and East Europe, IRIB news quoted Hormoz Mahbod the executive manager of Meatex as saying.

The event will be held by Tejarat Farasoo Holding at the Tehran International Exhibition and under Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) and Ministry of Industry, Mine,



Iran-Thailand business forum slated for next week

ECONOMY TEHRAN — An Iran-Thailand business e s k forum is scheduled to be held in Tehran on July 24, Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) portal reported.

A handful of Thailand's Halal industry entrepreneurs and businessmen mostly active in areas like food industry, agriculture and cosmetics, are going to attend this forum.

Skin and hair products, oils, rice, , ginger, chocolate, pasta, fruits, vegetables, sugar, sweets, biscuits, canned products, corn and coffee are some of the products to be promoted by the Thai delegation.

\$200m of projects inaugurated in Persian **Gulf islands**

1 -> Vida five-star Hotel and Avay-e Khalij-e Fars Cultural-Recreational Complex were also inaugurated. The hotel was built through 1.7 trillion rials (about \$45 million) investment by the private sector within 48 months. Also, 1.2 trillion rials (about \$32 million) was invested for the construction of the cultural-recreational complex.

Finally, a beach resort named Marina was inaugurated.

Meanwhile, an airport and a dock in Hendurabi Island were inaugurated on Tuesday. Construction of the airport was started four years ago. Hendurabi is regarded as a tour-

Renault sales rise to record level amid boost in Iran: CEO

French carmaker Renault posted record vehicle sales for the first half by 10.4 percent with a renewed push into Iran con-

According to sales chief Thierry Koskas, the company's sales in the reopening Iranian market more than doubled to 68,365 vehicles.

Sales advanced to 1.88 million light vehicles in January-June, he said, at four times the rate of the global auto market's 2.6 percent expansion. (Source: Hürriyet Daily News)

Greek bonds rally to records on prospect of market return

Greek bonds have rallied to post-crisis highs this week as the country eyes the prospect of a return to the debt markets for the first time in three years.

Athens' left-wing Syriza government is looking to test investor appetite for Greek debt for the first time since 2014 as its bailout troubles have receded in the last month. Greece successfully received a €7.7bn tranche of rescue cash from its creditors earlier this month, ensuring it will avoid defaulting on its lenders in July.

The economy is also showing tentative signs of growth after nearly a decade in depression. Economic output grew by 0.4 per cent in the three months to March – still below the eurozone average – but helping the country avoid another

That positivity helped Greece's current 10-year bond yield to hit an all-time low of 5.1 per cent yesterday (yields fall when a bond's price rises).

The country's debt management office is expected to sell a five-year bond in the next week, according to bankers with knowledge of the plans. Greece has not tapped the debt markets since a lull in its bailout problems in 2014.

Since then, the country has been forced into another EU rescue programme and was bought to the brink of a eurozone exit in the summer of 2015. A successful return to the bond markets will be crucial in assessing whether Greece can manage a "clean" break from its €86bn bailout due to expire in August 2018.

Peter Schaffrik at RBC Capital Markets notes the yield on Greece's 10-year debt is below where it stood the last time Athens issued a bond in 2014, "making the current market backdrop appear favourable"

Despite the recent spate of good news, EU and IMF creditors remain divided on the country's debt relief needs. The Washington-based fund has pushed Brussels to provide more generous restructuring on Greece's debt pile – which currently stands at 180 per cent of GDP – as the best way to ensure the country's long-term solvency. (Source: Financial Times)

Iran needs \$5.5b for upgrading its airports

d e s k investment for upgrading and renewal of its airports, IRNA reported quoting an airport official as

According to Rahmatollah Mahabadi, the chairman of Iran Airports Company (IAC), 200 trillion rials (about \$5.29 billion) investment is needed for the airports' overhaul and another \$250 million is also needed for navigation, technical and engineering equipment.

The Iranian official said that to supply technical and engineering equipment for improving domestic navigation, foreign resources should be attracted as soon as possible, since domestic finance cannot meet the existing demand.

Regarding the support of Iranian government and the parliament during the recent past years, he hoped that Iranian air industry will get renovated via purchasing the required equipment in near future.

There are 54 airports across Iran and the number of domestic flights stands at 900 while the figure for passing flights stands at 1,100.



Euro zone banks see rising loan demand in third quarter: survey

FRANKFURT (Reuters) — Banks across the euro zone are set to expand lending in the third quarter, easing access to mortgages, corporate loans and consumer credit, the European Central Bank said in a quarterly survey on Tuesday.

Demand for loans continued to rise in the second quarter and access to credit became easier in most categories, driven in part by increased competition among banks and access to even cheaper whole-

sale and retail funding, the ECB said.

"While most factors contributed to a net easing of credit standards on loans to enterprises in the second quarter of 2017, competitive pressure remained the main contributing factor," the ECB said.

"For loans to households for house purchase and for consumer credit and other lending to households, competitive pressure and risk perceptions had an easing impact on credit standards," it added.

Among the euro zone's biggest countries, access to corporate credit eased the most in Italy and Germany while in the case of mortgages, notably easier conditions were recorded in the Netherlands and Italy, the ECB added.

Keeping borrowing costs ultra low with massive asset buys and negative policy rates, the ECB has managed to push lending growth to its best level since before the bloc's debt crisis, firming hopes that 27.

Europe is finally moving past a nearly decade-long economic slump.

Still, household and corporate lending are both expanding at less than half of the pre-crisis rate as banks, held back by nearly a 1 trillion euros worth of soured debt, are reluctant to lend and instead sit on a massive cash pile.

The survey is based on responses from 142 banks collected between June 12 and

China's property market slows, Beijing prices down for first time since 2015

BEIJING (Reuters) — Home property prices in Beijing fell for the first time in more than two years in June, while Shanghai further declined and Shenzhen stalled, pointing to significant cooling in China's biggest real estate markets, official data showed.

Nationwide, home price growth slowed slightly in June as government efforts to keep prices in check weighed on larger cities, though smaller cities main-

People in the industry expect home price growth in China's largest cities to stay on a mild slowing trend for the next 12 months.

In June, average new home prices in China's 70 major cities rose 10.2 percent from a year earlier, decelerating from May's 10.4 percent gain, according to Reuters calculations based on an official survey out on Tuesday.

On a monthly basis, new home prices rose 0.7 percent in June, the same as the previous month's reading,



Reuters calculations based on data issued by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) showed.

"China's 15 hottest property markets, mostly firstand second-tier cities, remained stable in June as a city-

based property policy continued to take effect," the NBS said in a statement accompanying the data release.

More than 45 cities, most of them top-tier cities with a sizable population, have imposed varying levels of restrictions since last October to curb fast-rising prices, with most of the latest measures introduced in

These measures have started taking some heat out of the market, with sales and investment in property cooling slightly in the second quarter.

The cooling effect is most visible in China's the biggest cities. Price growth in Shenzhen, Shanghai and Beijing slowed to 2.7 percent, 8.6 percent and 10.7 percent, respectively, from a year earlier.

From a month earlier, prices in Beijing fell 0.4 percent, marking the first fall since February 2015. Shanghai prices slipped by a further 0.2 percent, while Shenzhen prices remained unchanged.

UK growth will slow as consumer spending is squeezed, forecasts PwC

Record levels of employment will fail to prevent the economy's growth rate slowing this year and next during a period when consumer spending will be squeezed by rising inflation and falling living standards, the consultancy firm PwC has predicted.

PwC said action by the chancellor, Philip Hammond, in his autumn budget would help offset weaker household spending and delayed investment by firms anxious about

But it said the economy's growth rate was still expected to dip from 1.8% in 2016 to 1.5% this year and to 1.4%

John Hawksworth, the chief economist at PwC, said: "Brexit-related uncertainty may hold back business investment, but this should be partly offset by planned rises in public investment. Fiscal policy could also be further relaxed in the 2017 autumn budget to offset the ongoing real squeeze on household spending power.

"There are still downside risks relating to Brexit, but there are also upside possibilities if negotiations go

smoothly and the recent eurozone economic recovery continues. We expect the UK to suffer a moderate slowdown, not a recession, but businesses should be monitoring this and making contingency plans."

Like most forecasters, PwC was surprised by the resilience of the economy in the six months after the EU referendum in June 2016. Growth rates of 0.6% in the third quarter of 2016 and 0.7% in the fourth quarter meant expansion was stronger in the second half of the year than

But the consultancy firm said the economy had slowed markedly in the first half of 2017 and pointed to a sharp reduction in housing transactions as evidence of the blow to purchasing power caused by the decline in the value of the pound since the referendum.

PwC said it expected house price inflation to fall from 7% in 2016 to 3.7% this year, with the previous property hot spot, London, receiving most of the backwash from the Brexit result.

The London property market had been hit most by



economic and policy uncertainty and the recent changes to stamp duty, the consultancy said. House price inflation in the capital in the first four months of 2017 was about 4% compared with about 13% in the same period last year. PwC said the city's housing market would continue to slow, with house prices likely to rise on average by 2.8% this year and by 3.8% in 2018. (Source: The Guardian)

Who needs the USA? These 11 countries are trying to cement a free-trade deal without it

While last week's talks between Trans-Pacific Partnership states failed to produce any major breakthroughs, they did demonstrate members' commitment to inking the wide-spanning free trade agreement.

Since President Donald Trump's administration withdrew the U.S. from the deal, TPP signatories face a daunting task in finalizing a new framework by November — the agreed upon deadline. But under Tokyo's leadership, the group, known as the TPP-11, seems up to the challenge, experts said.

"The TPP-11 countries recognize that a 21st Century, multi-party regional trade agreement in Asia Pacific is very much needed, with or without the United States," said Steven Okun, vice chairman of the Asia Pacific Council of American Chambers of Commerce.

The current "spaghetti bowl of bilateral trade deals" across the region fails to address issues faced by multinational businesses, such as compliance with multi-jurisdictional supply chain regulations and intellectual property rights behind borders, he explained.

A TPP deal is widely expected to address those issues in addition to providing duty-free access for nearly all goods,

Vietnam's Minister of Trade and Industry Tran Tuan Anh held a TPP conference on the sideline of an Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation meeting in Hanoi on May 21, 2017. opening up services and investment and

ensuring cross-border data flows. "All of these upsides to the TPP apply with or without the U.S., so it is not surprising that the remaining members are looking to move forward even without U.S. participation," Okun said.

On the sidelines of last week's meeting of chief negotiators, Japan's Kazuyoshi Umemoto said members had decided to embrace a new framework to take into account Washington's absence. More discussions were needed on whether to revise trade and investment rules from the original pact, he added.

The 11 chief negotiators are now expected to meet again in August or September, Japanese media reported.

"There is a considerable international backlash against globalization and free trade, evident from the U.S. decision to withdraw from the TPP, so Asia-Pacific governments are giving a high priority to making progress with trade liberalization through a number of initiatives, including TPP-11 and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership," said Rajiv Biswas, Asia Pacific chief economist

Thursday also saw the 11 states decide to lower the strict threshold for a deal to come into force, Miha Hribernik, senior Asia analyst at Verisk Maplecroft, said in a recent note, explaining that "the original document had to be ratified by six countries, accounting for at least 85 percent of the total gross domestic product of the original twelve signatories an impossible task without the U.S."

Still, internal divisions between members, particularly Vietnam and Malaysia who are seeking to renegotiate the earlier terms, are among key obstacles to a new accord.

On this front, Biswas anticipated the group would achieve progress, adding that in advancing a new agreement, the TPP-11 may be hoping for other Asia-Pacific countries to join.

And despite members losing increased U.S. market access as a result of Washington's withdrawal, "a TPP-11 deal would still provide greater access to economies such as Australia and Japan, and give each of the TPP-11 a commitment for market liberalization, which will be in the long-term interest of each member," Okun said.

(Source: cnbc)

TEHRANTIMES 5

Oil "stuck in range" as ample supply meets firm demand

Oil markets steadied on Tuesday, supported by firm demand but weighed down by high supplies from OPEC and producers in the United States.

Benchmark Brent crude was up 20 cents at \$48.62 a barrel by 0920 GMT. U.S. light crude oil was 15 cents higher at \$46.17

"We're stuck in a range that, I think, will be tough to break out of without some kind of political factor coming into play," said Matt Stanley, fuel broker at Freight Investor Services.

In a sign of strong demand, data on Monday showed refineries in China increased crude throughput in June to the second highest on record.

But many markets are well supplied and oil for prompt delivery is trading at heavy discounts to forward futures in several parts of the world. As a result, crude oil prices are trading at only around half the levels seen three years

A deal by the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries with Russia and other non-OPEC producers to cut supplies by around 1.8 million barrels per day (bpd) between January this year and March 2018 has so far failed to tighten the market or push up prices.



Although many OPEC countries have restricted production, others including Nigeria and Libya have been allowed to increase output.

Ecuador, a small producer within OPEC, said on Tuesday it was not cutting its production by 26,000 bpd as agreed due to the country's fiscal deficit, which is expected to hit 7.5 percent of gross domestic product this year.

Oil Minister Carlos Perez said Ecuador was cutting only 60 percent of that figure, putting current output at 545,000

"We are not meeting the quota imposed on us because of the obvious

needs the country has," Perez said.

U.S. oil production is also rising steadily, helping soak up much of the market share vacated by OPEC members.

The U.S. Energy Department said in a report on Monday that U.S. shale oil output is likely to rise for the eighth consecutive month in August, climbing 112,000 bpd to 5.585 million bpd.

"With little sign of the OPEC-shale tug of war drawing to an end, the scene is now set for a period of range-bound trading as market players await the next price catalyst," said Stephen Brennock at London brokerage PVM Oil Associates.

(Source: Reuters)

Top oil market summons Poseidon to U.S.-Mideast crude fight

Poseidon is wading into the battle between U.S. crude and Middle East supplies in the world's biggest oil market.

The crude variety named after the mythical Greek god of the sea was bought by an Asian refiner for delivery in September from Royal Dutch Shell Plc, according to traders with knowledge of the matter. State-run Bharat Petroleum Corp. will get 500,000 barrels each of the Poseidon and Mars grades -- both produced in the Gulf of Mexico -- at its refinery in Kochi on India's southwest coast. That's the processor's first purchase of U.S. oil.

Poseidon is the latest grade similar in quality to Middle East supply to lure a

buyer in the world's biggest oil consuming region. It's a consequence of OPEC's output cuts, which has reduced cargoes of the moderately sulfurous sour crude pumped by nations such as Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. That's boosted regional benchmark Dubai against the U.S. marker, West Texas Intermediate -- making American oil cheap enough for Asian refiners to haul it all the way from the Gulf of Mexico to the other side of the world.

"This is a trial cargo, and similar to the Middle Eastern crude we generally use," said R. Ramachandran, director of refineries at Bharat Petroleum, known as BPCL. "We have to see what value it brings on processing at our refineries, before decid-

ing on any long term requirements."

WTI traded at \$1.36 a barrel below Dubai crude on Monday, after it flipped from a premium to discount in December for the first time in at least six months, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. The price at which Bharat Petroleum bought the U.S. crude was similar to the landed cost of Middle East grades, said a company official who asked not to be identified because of internal policy.

The company, known as BPCL, is currently seeking to buy 1 million barrels of U.S. or Canadian crude for Oct. 11-31 arrival, according to a tender document obtained by Bloomberg.

(Source: Bloomberg)





	Public Call		uating Of Tender(F ne-Stage(compresse		Seconed Publish)	
TENDEI Euro	R GUARANTEE Rial	ESTIMATED VALUE (Rial)	Subject of Tender	Tenders Portal Reg. No.	TENDER NO. / INDENT NO	No
16771	587000000	11734092000	P/F ORIENT ENERGY & TECH. 8" DOWN HOLE MOTOR	1492797	Tender No.: FP/09-96/020 Indent No.: 08-22-9645001	1

Brief discription of subject:

National Iranian Drilling Company(NIDC) address pasdaran Blev., Airport Saqare, Ahvaz, Iran hereby intends to purchase spare parts of Lang Fang DOWN HOLE MOTOR from qualified and interested tenderers through one-stage public tender (compressed) upon following terms and conditions:

A) Qualitative evaluation of tenderer

The evaluation is based on article (J) implementing regulations of the law of tenders and also carried out base on worksheets qualitative evaluation inquiry in the tender doucments. Minimum acceptable point of quality is 60.

B) Preparation of tender documents:

Purchasing of documents:

Reciving of documents:

In order to receive the tender documents, 510,000 Rials should be paid to SIBA account number 2174652205004 of NIDC in Bank Meli Iran and providing the original deposit receipt.

Tenderers must be obtain the quality evaluation documents along with tender documents maximum ten days after the date of second

publication in person at the following address: Hall No.:113, 1thfloor, Foreign

Procurement Dept., National Iranian Drilling Company, Airport square, Ahwaz, IRAN
Notice: Only the real or legal persons who apply to purchase and recieve tender ducments from foreign procurment department in due

date will be known as tenderer from tender committee.

C) Delivery of envelopes of bids and call quality evaluating:

Tenderers shall submit simultaneuosly envelopes of bids including bank guarantees(A), financial offer(C) and stamped and signed of tender ducuments(B) along with qualification worksheets in form of software in CD and documentary within 40 days from last day of document received deadline to the following address: Hall No.:107, 1thfloor, Tender Committee, Building operations, National Iranian Drilling Company, Airport square, Ahwaz, IRAN.

Notice: The deadline for the refusal of bidders participation in the the tender is the last day of determined for submission of bids. D) Tender Guarantee:

Type of guarantee:

A)Bank guarantees or guarantees issued by non-bank institutions that have activites licensed by the Central

Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

B) The original cash deposit receipt paid to National Iranain Drilling Company. Duration of credit guarantee & quotation:

This duration should be valid for 90 days and extendable maximum For one time in initial credit amount.

More on this & other tenders is accessible by click on. WWW.NIDC.IR

Foreign Procurement Dept
National Iranian Drilling Company

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Creating a virtuous circle with North Korea

South Korea's offer of talks with Pyongyang on minor issues aims to create enough trust and goodwill to tackle the tougher issues. The alternative is more of a vicious circle in military escalation.

With tensions rising over North Korea's nuclear and missile capabilities, the new president of South Korea, Moon Jae-in, has decided to break what he calls "the vicious circle of military escalation." On July 17, his government offered to hold talks with North Korea. The purpose is not to negotiate a much-delayed peace deal but seek dialogue over lesser issues. Those include reestablishing a military hotline, joint hosting next year's Winter Olympics, and resuming the reunion of Korean families separated by the 1950-53 Korean War.

The two sides have not held talks since 2015, or just before North Korea began rapid advances in the firing range of its missiles. Any gradual engagement with North Korea now, Moon hopes, might lead to a virtuous circle of trust and goodwill that allows the two Korean nations to negotiate the difficult issues of nuclear disarmament and mutual recognition.

Simply imposing more economic sanctions on Pyongyang, he claims, will not be easy to achieve. Instead, a peaceful path to settle the North Korean nuclear issue must be opened. "[T]he need for dialogue is more pressing than ever before," Moon said in a speech in Berlin in early July.

His offer of talks over minor issues builds on a long tradition of bite-size diplomacy, or what Henry Kissinger has called "the patient accumulation of advantage." Among diplomats, the notion that virtues such as trust and compassion can create their own self-reinforcing loop and lead to sustaining success is not new. In 1947, U.S. Secretary of State George Marshall proposed using American aid to seed the recovery of a Europe laid flat by war. "The remedy lies in breaking the vicious circle and restoring the confidence of the European people in the economic future of their own countries," he said.

The idea that initial good steps can build on themselves also has a long history in economics – although economists differ on which measures serve as catalysts to enforce economic progress. In a sign of universal confidence in virtuous circles, the United Nations set specific goals in 2015 that would end poverty by 2030, referring to the goals as "sustainable."

Moon's proposal

Moon's proposal for talks with North Korea also builds on a lesson from history to not let problems fester. As Indian Foreign Secretary Subrahmanyam Jaishankar puts it, "Are we content to react to events or should we be shaping them more, on occasion even driving them?" He cites India's strategy of seeking good relations with many countries as one of creating "a virtuous cycle where each one drives the other higher."

North Korea has a long record of agreeing to talks and then merely seeking concessions, such as food aid for its people. Moon's offer does run the risk of rewarding the North's bad behavior. Yet the alternative of military escalation and a chance of a devastating war could be seen as a greater risk.

At the least, the offer may serve as a test of the North Korean regime's current intentions and its perception of its survival. That alone would be helpful feedback. For now, South Korea should be allowed to see if the virtuous can replace the vicious.

(Source: CSM)

Israel's targeting of youth in Al-Aqsa

By Hanadi Qawasmi

Over the course of several months, the Israeli occupation authorities have arrested 13 Palestinian youths in occupied Jerusalem on charges of belonging to a political organization that is prohibited under Israeli law called "Al-Aqsa Youth Organization". Earlier this month, Israeli police filed indictments against five of them.

According to defense lawyers, the arrests took place over three months, and the detainees are being interrogated on charges related to their presence, activity and interest in news relating to Al-Aqsa Mosque. While charges were filed against Mahmoud Abdellatif, Thaer Abu Sbeih, Ayoub Zalloum, Muhammad Al-Bakri and Imad Abu Sneineh, the others are still under investigation and are waiting for clear and precise indictments against them.

Indictments

In the indictments filed to date, the main charge is the one related to being a member of a prohibited political organization, Al-Agsa Youth. In August 2011, former Minister of Defense Ehud Barak issued a decision declaring this organization a terrorist group which is illegal.

According to the indictments, the Israeli prosecution claims that this is an "organization" whose members regularly visit Al-Aqsa Mosque, organize activities related to it, and that they planned to confront settlers who storm the mosque, and that these members were responsible for organizing religious retreats inside the southern mosque during settlers' incursions in the Jewish holidays.

The indictments include a description of normal activities that the occupation's police accuse the prisoners of being responsible

for organizing and participating in inside the mosque. The charges also refer to their participation in a group on WhatsApp, in which they exchange information about the settlers' incursions into the mosque, as the Israeli occupation police claims.

In an effort to exaggerate these activities, the group has been linked martyr Mesbah Abu Sbeih claiming he was one of its founders. He was the one who carried out a shootout that killed two Israeli soldiers in October 2016.

Presence at Al-Aqsa

In an interview with lawyer Hamza Qutaina, one of the four lawyers responsible for following up the case of the young detainees, he said that this charge is not new in Israeli courts and that for the last six years the Israeli prosecution has charged a number of Palestinian youths in Jerusalem with the same charge. He believes it is an attempt by the occupation authorities to criminalize Muslim presence in Al-Aqsa.

He referred to harsh interrogation procedures the young men held in prison are subjected to in Jerusalem, including solitary confinement, prolonged sleep deprivation, long hours of interrogation, and the lack of adequate sanitary products for the prisoners.

Lawyer Khaled Zbarqa, who has previously defended a number of Palestinian who have received the same charges, said in his interview with Al Jazeera Net that the Israeli police are dealing a blow to the Islamic presence in the mosque.

Zabarqa warned that the Israeli occupation may expand the arrests and that it may use this political organization to prosecute any young man who enters Al-Aqsa Mosque on a regular basis.

(Source: middleeastmonitor.com)

The blockade of Qatar is failing

It's hard to imagine the leaders of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates thought it would go this way. Officials from their governments — as well as junior partners Egypt and Bahrain — described the punitive sanctions they collectively slapped on Qatar in early June as an unfortunate but necessary action, aimed at bringing the pesky Qataris to heel. It was as if Qatar, accused by its neighbors of fomenting extremism near and far, was an unruly child who needed to be disciplined.

But in the grown-up world of geopolitics, the Saudi and Emirati-led move against Doha does not seem to be achieving its goals. Rather than isolating Qatar, it has deepened Qatari ties with regional powers Turkey and Iran. Oman and Kuwait, two other states in the [Persian] Gulf Cooperation Council, have not joined in.

Mixed messaging

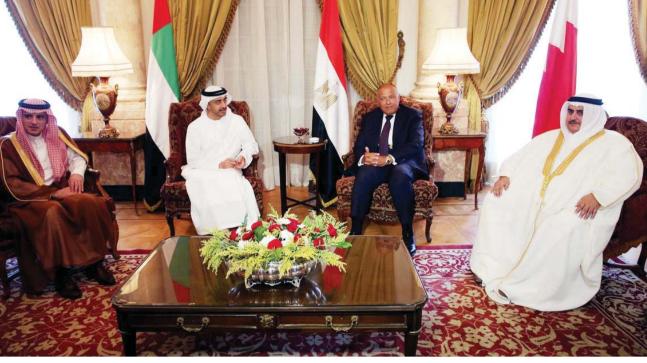
Food supplies and other goods are still flowing into Qatar's docks and airports. And, no matter the White House's mixed messaging, American diplomats appear to be pushing for conciliation and compromise with Qatar rather than seeking Doha's acquiescence to the Saudi and Emirati demands.

"As with their disastrous war in Yemen, Saudi Arabia and the UAE radically overstated their prospects for success and failed to have a plausible plan B in case things did not go to plan," wrote Marc Lynch, a Middle East expert at George Washington University. "The anti-Qatar quartet seems to have overestimated Qatari fears of isolation from the [P]GCC and their own ability to inflict harm on their neighbor."

A new Washington Post report this week added to the awkwardness facing the blockaders. According to unnamed U.S. intelligence officials, the UAE was behind a controversial late-May hack of Qatari government news and social media sites that helped trigger the crisis. The hack attributed false quotes to Qatar's emir, Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad al-Thani, that had him celebrating Iran as an "Islamic power" and praising Palestinian Islamist group Hamas.

Despite Doha's vociferous denials, the furor led Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Bahrain and Egypt to ban Qatari media, then later break relations with Doha and impose their trade and diplomatic boycott. U.S. officials "became aware last week that newly analyzed information gathered by U.S. intelligence agencies confirmed that on May 23, senior members of the UAE government discussed the plan and its implementation," my colleagues Karen DeYoung and Ellen Nakashima reported.

"The officials said it remains unclear whether the UAE carried out the hacks itself or contracted to have them done."



Arab Foreign Ministers meet to discuss the diplomatic situation with Qatar, in Cairo, Egypt.

The White House's mixed messaging, American diplomats appear to be pushing for conciliation and compromise with Qatar rather than seeking Doha's acquiescence to the Saudi and Emirati demands.

In a statement, the UAE's ambassador to Washington, Yousef al-Otaiba, rejected these claims. "The UAE had no role whatsoever in the alleged hacking described in the article," he said, before reiterating his country's complaints about Qatar's maverick foreign policy. "What is true is Qatar's behavior. Funding, supporting, and enabling extremists from the Taliban to Hamas ... Inciting violence, encouraging radicalization, and undermining the stability of its neighbors."

There is plenty of precedent for rumors and murky innuendo fueling tensions in this part of the world: A rupture in relations in 2014 saw false news reports proliferate about Saudi and Emirati citizens being banned from Harrods, the London department store owned by Qatar's sovereign

Long-running disagreements

Analysts explain that the current impasse is an extension of long-running disagreements and tensions with Qatar, which has irritated its larger neighbors by using its riches to play an outsized role on the world stage. At issue are squabbles over support for different proxies in conflicts from Syria and Libya, as well as the provocative work of Oatari-funded network Al Jazeera, which Ri-

The Qataris have also charted a different diplomatic path from their neighbors, playing host to political offices for groups such as the Taliban and Hamas in a bid to mediate regional conflicts. "Against a backdrop of purring limousines and dhows moored in the bay, Doha has become home to an exotic array of fighters, financiers and ideologues, a neutral city with echoes of Vienna in the Cold War, or a Persian Gulf version of the fictional pirate bar in the Star Wars movies," wrote Declan Walsh of the New

"It's always been this place where waifs and strays and unwanted people ended up," said David B. Roberts, the author of Qatar: Securing the Global Ambitions of a City-State," to the Times. "There was no overarching power on the peninsula, so if you were wanted by a sheikh, you could escape to Qatar and nobody would bother you."

So the crisis among the wealthy Persian Gulf states rumbles on. Last week, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson carried out a fitful round of shuttle diplomacy in Kuwait, Oatar and Saudi Arabia in an attempt to defuse the situation. The squabbling countries are all U.S. allies — Qatar hosts the United yadh and Abu Dhabi want to see shut down. States' largest military base in the Middle

East — and Tillerson would prefer everyone calm down and get back to other issues, notably the fight against the Islamic State [ISIS]. But his efforts have yet to bear

Tillerson made a public gambit in Doha, signing a memorandum of understanding in which Qatar pledged to do more to block funding for extremist groups in the Middle East and elsewhere. It quickly became a farce. "The Qataris boasted that they were the first in the region to sign such a pact and urged the Arabs allied against them to do the same," my colleague Carol Morello wrote. "The four countries heading the embargo claimed credit for pressuring Qatar into signing, and simultaneously dismissed it as 'insufficient' to end their embargo."

On Monday, as the Emiratis were rejecting the hacking allegations, the Saudi embassy in Washington tweeted lines from an interview with President Trump where he had lashed out at Qatar. It was yet another illustration of the dissonance between the White House and State Department over the crisis — and yet another reminder that the quarrel in the [Persian] Gulf won't stop anvtime soon.

(Source: The Washington Post)

How does ISIS raise funds for terror?

The U.S.-led anti-ISIS campaign has largely succeeded in conquering the group militarily, which has made it difficult for ISIS to operate as a conventional state. As a result of losing most of its urban centers in both

vria and Irag, the ISIS governance model of controlling and administering territories seems to also collapse. Experts, consequently, seem to be focusing on how ISIS is changing its military tactics to guerrilla warfare or hit-and-

run tactics as it goes underground again. But not much attention is being paid to how ISIS's economic practices are evolving to adapt to the group's signifi-

cant financial losses. ISIS has been described as the world's "richest" terrorist organization, due to its ability to generate more revenues

than any other terrorist group. Group's main income resources

Reports indicate that group's main income resources rely on oil sales, internal taxation, extortion, war spoils, the sale of antiquities, human trafficking, ransoms from kidnapping, and foreign donations.

IHS, an analysis and consultancy firm, assessed in December 2015 that ISIS's monthly revenue stood at around eighty million dollars. Of this eighty million, IHS estimated that around fifty percent had come from taxes, and around forty-three percent had come from oil revenue.

ISIS also generates revenue from confiscating assets from areas under its control either because people are perceived to be enemies of the Caliphate or simply because they do not live there anymore.

The dependence on state-like tactics significantly shaped the initial economic war against the group.

The group's financial practices were largely focused on generating money from the territories they controlled as indicated in the IHS report. The group, therefore, was more vulnerable to the U.S.-led military operations to counter ISIS's finances

Since October 2014, U.S. warplanes have stepped-up attacks on ISIS controlled oil infrastructure, refineries, and oil pumps in Syria. Airstrikes also destroyed the group's bulk cash storage facilities, which contributed to limiting its financial capacity.

Economic warfare tactic

Additionally, the U.S. eliminated some of the group's high-ranking financial planners and operatives such as Haji Imam, the finance minister. Nonetheless, the U.S. main eco-



ISIS's main income resources rely on oil sales, internal taxation, extortion, war spoils, the sale of antiquities, human trafficking, ransoms from kidnapping, and foreign donations.

nomic warfare tactic remains to re-capturing the territory held by the group in order to completely stop it from exploiting the populations and economies under its control.

But territorial losses does not only jeopardize the group's financial resources, it also provides new opportunities and relives the group from its main state-like financial responsibilities.

ISIS may have been able to generate more revenue than any other terrorist organization, but it also incurs costs that are unprecedented for such groups. ISIS's ambition to sustain the apparatus of a state, over a large area and at a time of war, is expensive.

The group, as a result of both its substantial financial responsibilities and the war against it, was facing a constant, and increasingly desperate, struggle to raise money. Therefore, the loss of administrative territory allows the group to evolve its financial practices to ensure its survival and ability to come back

According to Renad Mansour and Hisham al-Hashumi, Iraq experts, ISIS is adopting a new tactic which is based on creating legitimate businesses (such as services companies, properties, food, and beverage industries etc.) via profitdriven third parties.

ISIS has cash reserves but cannot invest it directly due to the counterterrorism laws, as well-known ISIS members will always be monitored which limits their ability to maneuver. But the group can overcome this problem by paying a third party to purchase various businesses in order to maintain liquidity and relevance in the war economy.

The new approach centers on its ability massive cash reserves, plundered from major cities such as Mosul, in a manner that will allow it to continue to draw upon them without intervention from hostile powers.

The middlemen are usually of mixed sects and backgrounds who mostly only share economic interests with the group and might not even know about the money source.

"We highly suspect that ISIS is using the same tactic in Syria, but not much is done to study it. The priority for everyone remains to defeat the group militarily," said a senior Western diplomat under Chatham House rules which prevent me from revealing his identity or affiliation.

An unofficial method

ISIS is also dependent on alternative value transfer systems commonly known as the Hawala, which is an unofficial method of transferring money without necessarily moving cash, based on a relationship of trust between different money traders in different locations. Hawala networks ability to avoid electronic transfer methods, make it difficult to track and disrupt. But it is important to highlight that this system in not only used by ISIS, as many legitimate businessmen are also part of this system.

"The only way to receive and send money in all areas outside the regime's control is through Hawala. Many people in regime-held areas also use it. We do not know who is in charge, but we know that it is the only option we have,"

said Mustafa Abdullah, a Syrian activist in northern Syria. Likewise, the group seems to also be investing more in other types of fluid businesses like currency exchange shops. "There is reliable evidence that ISIS involvement in the black economy, such as currency exchange, is significantly growing, which allows it to convert its Syrian currency to Western currencies and transfer it outside the country,"

added the senior Western diplomat. Central to sustaining the U.S.-led anti-ISIS achievements is disturbing the group's financial networks, which aims to ensure its survival while waiting for another opportunity to re-emerge. Therefore, understanding ISIS's evolving financial practices in both formal and informal economies should become a priority.

(Source: Newsweek)

Yemen: The war that isn't happening even as it's happening

By Luciana Bohne

The manipulation of news and the distortion of reality are the most powerful weapons in the hands of power. They can make a whole reality disappear. Yemen's, for example.

A child dies in Yemen every ten minutes from preventable causes, UNICEF reported in June. These deaths are only part of a humanitarian catastrophe, among the worst in the world, including a rampaging cholera epidemic, to which the witness of the overwhelming majority of the West's warmongering Goebbelist media pretends to be deaf, mute, and

Nevertheless, information is accessible. There are sporadic exceptions to the conspiracy of silence in officialdom and the media. The week of July 10, The Independent published in the "Voices" section the appeal of Wael Ibrahim, an aid worker

"It is going to take years to restore any infrastructure like health services, and rewire the city [Sana'a] for electricity. We need more people to talk about Yemen."

Saudi Arabia, backed by the U.S. and Britain, began bombing Yemen, the poorest country in the region, on 23 March 2015—without a Security Council resolution, as has been the tradition for launching western wars since Bill Clinton's 1999 Kosovo War (the bombing of Serbia).

The stated objective of the Anglo-American backing of the Saudi attack was the restoration of Yemen's U.S.-supported government of President Abdrabbuh Mansour Hadi's, which fled to Saudi Arabia under the mounting pressure of the Houthi Shia rebels, accused by the United States of being pawns of Iran, or, dismissively, plain Iran-supported.

Boggles the mind to think of the blithe moral logic that justifies the support of the United States for a (largely faked) uprising in Syria when Iran is not allowed to assist Houthis in Yemen, fighting an authentic civil war, unlike the so-called Free Syrian Army and their hordes of 80% foreign al-Qaeda and Isis allied invaders of Syria's sovereign state in 2011.

The hypocrisy of empire, one supposes: supporting rebels in one case and the legitimate government in another.

For this reason—Iran's backing—the Saudis blockade the air and the ports of Yemen to check the flow of Iranian arms shipments to the rebels, adding to the infamy of the war the infamy of an economic siege—infamy because the largest number of victims in this tactic to encircle Iran are civilians, which is another tradition respected by the sorry, deceptive

The blockade also checks the "flow" of food and medicines and other health necessities, with devastating consequences, as we shall see.

Few honest observers doubt that the war in Yemen, instigated by the Obama administration and their British iunior partners in the Cameron cabinet, is a war of strategy in which the real target is Iran. As in Iraq in 2003, the British partnership is invaluable because of its long experience in the "management" of former colonies the likes of Iraq and Yemen, when the port of Aden was a central and crucial traffic point in the business of running the British empire, which consisted of two thirds of the planet

Claiming that Iran destabilizes the region, against the evidence of a chronic history of interference and aggressions there by the U.S. & Co., Trump's national security advisor asserted in a statement

"As of today, we are putting Iran on notice."

Yemen, thus, is the unfortunate country inconveniently placed by geography between Iran and Western objectives, bombed, economically besieged, its currency in collapse—the war tactics of the feudal Middle Ages.

Since March 2015, 3.2 million Yemenis have been displaced; 13,000 civilians have been casualties (UN official count); 2 million children cannot attend schools; nearly 15 million people have no access to basic medical care.

Last October, a Saudi bomb struck a funeral in Sana'a, killing 114 people (in some reports, 140) and injuring 613 out of 750 mourners in just one such civilian massacre of many—including in marketplaces and refugee camps—prompting United Nations experts to say the Saudis had violated international law, among other reasons because they attacked twice, while the funeral hall was still lit-



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tered with wounded from the first attack, killing the wounded and first responders. In March, a Saudi airstrike killed 40 Somali refugees in a boat, fleeing the war torn country; more recently a market on the Saudi border was struck, killing six chil-

Saudi airstrikes have destroyed schools, hospitals, and vital infrastructures such as electric grids and water supplies all classic crimes against humanity and

King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre (KS Relief), founded by the lately departed King Salman bin Abdulaziz al-Saud in 2015, claims categorically that Saudi Arabia "has no intention of killing civilians." Instead, they intend to "regain the will of the Yemeni people, taken by force" by Houthi rebels.

KS Relief has hired a British PR firm to spread good tidings about Saudi humanitarian assistance to Yemen: "We're here to help," Indeed, KS Relief has allocated more than \$3 billion for assistance to Yemen: "number one donor for aid and development in Yemen," KS Relief boasts. But, though they deny it, the aid is distributed through various filters, including UN agencies, with secret restrictions as to whom, where, and when. At any rate the campaign for "hearts and minds" in Yemen, sounds as grotesque as its erstwhile precedent in the American war in Vietnam: bomb first, then supply a bandage.

Andrew Smith, for the British Campaign Against Arms Trade (CAAT), told The Independent, a propos Saudi aid to

"Any aid that is helping people is to be welcomed, but the best thing that the Saudi regime can do for the people of Yemen that has killed thousands and brought millions to the edge of starvation."

Out of 27 million people in Yemen, 20 million are food-insecure, famished in other words. Wael Ibrahim refers to statistics released by UN and other agencies:

"As the conflict goes on I'm seeing more and more poverty. There are 20 million people needing help in a population of 27 million people. I've seen famine-like conditions such as children with red streaks in their hair – a sign of malnutrition, and an alarming number of people at therapeutic feeding centres."

Yet, we hear hardly a whimper of protest against this immense suffering among that portion of the American public—the radical left included- which so exercises the vocal cords on behalf of human rights when and where alleged violations coincide with Western intentions of regime change and occupation.

It is puzzling indeed why officials are not instructing the media to manufacture consent for a crusade of human rights in Yemen as they did for Libya and Syria to cover their real intentions. Can they not find a "demon" to raise righteous indignation? An ethnic group, whose human rights are hideously violated by the "demon"? Why is the war in Yemen such a low-profile conflict?

Pardon my cynicism, but the absence of instrumental justification feels like a ghost that refuses to do the job of haunting. Possibly, something too embarrassing could become public knowledge. Possibly a lucrative alliance could suffer.

The American and British weapons industry profit from the war in Yemen—as do, no doubt, all the members of the NATO alliance and beyond. The Obama administration sold on the world's weapons market \$200 billion worth of arms over eight years, the largest U.S. weapons sale since WW II-over \$100 billion to Saudi Arabia alone. The Trump administration has also distinguished itself for a vulgar display of fetishistic attachment to the kingdom of satraps. In June, the U.S. Senate approved (53 for; 47 against) Trump's April arms sale of \$110 billion to Riyadh: \$500 million in precision-guided munitions.

suffering of Yemen. British Campaign Against Arms Trade (CAAT) reported in

The Independent in July: "The UK has licensed £3.3 bn worth of weapons to Saudi Arabia. Right now, UK made fighter jets are being flown by UKtrained military personnel and dropping UK-made bombs on Yemen. The UK is not just a bystander in this war, it is an active

"Partners in crimes" would be more accurate: as mentioned, the British gov-



Since March 2015, 3.2 million Yemenis have been displaced; 13,000 civilians have been casualties (UN official count); 2 million children cannot attend schools; nearly 15 million people have no access to basic medical care.

ernment is training the Saudi Air Force for airstrikes in Yemen, at the same time that Theresa May is withholding a report-study of Riyadh's "ties to extremism." The Saudi pilots are being trained to drop cluster bombs, "precisely" in theory, made in and sold by Britain. Cluster bombs are WMDs if used on civilian centers. They are allowed only for maiming and killing enemy soldiers. The beauty of recent wars is that "army" has become a nebulous concept. So, anything goes.

In the last few days, the British High Court has denied a request by CAAT, calling for the government's suspension of arms sales to Saudi Arabia for use in Yemen, "pending the [judicial] review into if the sales are compatible with UK and EU arms export law," as Andrew Smith wrote for CAAT in The Independent, following

Apparently the arms and military equipment sales to Saudi Arabia-aircraft, helicopter, drones, cluster bombs, and missiles-DO violate the laws of Britain and European Union, otherwise why would the court reject the request for a Judicial Review of the government's practice?

Such is the absent zeal of western institution for protection of human rights that we should remember this infamous decision when next we are being seduced by the bloodhounds in the media into supporting the faux-crusades for random and selective human rights in the world by heartless and mercenary paladins.

To be fair, two thirds of the British public opposes arms sales to Saudi Arabia. Jeremy Corbyn agrees with the majority, calling the petro-monarchy's intervention in Yemen "an invasion," in an interview with Al Jezeera English.

While the crimes in Yemen are being assiduously ignored by the media and covertly aided by governments, their effects are accumulating. An outbreak of cholera is claiming more lives. One person per hour is dying of the water-borne disease. Wael Ibrahim laments in his Independent piece:

"These are the appalling conditions that caused the cholera outbreak in Yemen – I should know, I live here. There is untreated sewage on the streets of Sana'a. Driving near the airport I simply cannot breathe because of the stench."

This situation carries the horrifying echo of what happened in Iraq in the 1990s, under the sanction regime inflicted by the senior Bush and continued by Bill Clinton, for a total of thirteen years. After bombing Iraq's water-supply installations during the Persian Gulf War, the U.S. effectively (and possibly deliberately) poisoned the water by sanctioning the importation of purifying chlorine. As is notorious by now, 500,000 children under the age of five perished. Clinton's ghoulish Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, admitted on CBS that such deaths had been "worth it." The sanctions on Iraq had been pronounced on an August 6th, the month and day of the nuclear bombing of Hiroshima in 1945. Many noted this sadistic coincidence, denouncing the sanctions as a second Hiroshima bomb—this time dropped on Iraq.

The cholera infection, marked by violent diarrhea, is caused by ingestion of water contaminated by fecal matter. The outbreak in Yemen first manifested itself in October 2016, but between April and June of 2017, it became rampant. According to the United Nations' World Health Organization, 300,000 Yemenis are already infected. 1,500 people have died, 55% of them children. Hospitals are full with patients showing symptoms. Clean water, sanitation, and healthcare—the means to check the epidemic—are woefully scarce.

And no one yet asks, "Is it/was it worth it?" Perhaps the question will come up later, when counting the dead will do no harm to the progress of that virtual crime, officially known as the "foreign policy" of the United States in the "Middle East," an abstract map to the planners—not a territory within which people live and will suffer from the plans.

Me? Oh, I turn to literature when speechless at the horror of it all. Who better than Sartre? Without ellipsis, synthesized, from the long passage in his first novel, Nausea:

"The nausea is not within me. I feel it out there. I am within it. I feel it out there in the wall, in the suspenders, everywhere around me. A monster? A giant carapace? Sunk in the mud? A dozen pairs of claws or fins laboring slowly in the slime? The monster rises. At the bottom of the water." (Source: Counterpunch)

Trump's restrictions on Cuba are a detour, not the future

By Arturo Lopez-levy

"The days of Obama's policy toward Cuba are over," U.S. President Donald Trump proclaimed to the approval of a crowd of hardline Cuban exiles Friday in Miami.

And yet, the Trump administration is actually making just a few minor changes. They'll have the following effects.

1) U.S. citizens without family in Cuba hoping to visit the island will face renewed travel restrictions.

2) U.S. citizens and companies will be barred from engaging in financial transactions with Cuban companies run by the country's

3) Per demands made by the Helms-Burton, Cuba will have to make changes in its political system as a precondition for any further major steps toward normalization.

The Trump administration has in essence swallowed a lot of Obama-era achievements. For example, the U.S. embassy in Havana and the Cuban embassy in Washington will remain open; Cuba will not go back on the U.S. State Department's State Sponsors of Terrorism list; a memorandum of understanding to deepen law enforcement cooperation and information sharing is still intact; and there will be no rollback of the wet-foot, dry-foot policy that used to promote illegal and unsafe Cuban migration to the United States.

Reversing these policies would substantially harm U.S. national interests — and, since no other country supports the American policy of isolation toward Cuba, create tension with U.S. allies.

Trump's laundry list of preconditions, on which current and future Cuban leaders must act before further attempts at normalization, is the same old tattered one employed by administrations over the past five decades. Preconditions on Cuba have never been successful, and repeating them will only be met by a refusal from Cuba to change.

For example, Havana can release all political prisoners as part of a good will gesture, but calling multiparty elections under international scrutiny in the next six months as a condition for ending the U.S. embargo is nothing less than a suicide pact for the Cuban Communist Party. There might be some within the Cuban government who favor multiparty elections, but only after the United States ends the embargo and Cuban nationalists can claim a victory. But with the U.S. embargo in place, anybody who proposed a major political opening like that would be denounced as a traitor.

While no democratic transition is complete without multiparty elections, encouraging gradual economic reform and political liberalization is a more appropriate way to build stabilizers and openings than a maximalist approach of demanding elections at the outset. Trump's list simply kills the process before it has a chance to begin. No other country in the entire world supports such a risky destabilization of the Cuban state. "America first" becomes "America only."

There's also the irony of the travel ban for Americans wishing to travel to Cuba on their own. Conservative Cuban-American members of Congress like Sen. Marco Rubio (R-Florida) and Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart (R-Florida), who pushed Trump on the changes, knew that limiting Cuban-American travel and remittances to the island "to starve the Cuban government of resources" would only bring them trouble. As such, that ban only pertains to Americans outside of their own ethnic jurisdictions. Here "America first" becomes "Miami vice."

But not all is lost for those Americans who weren't blessed by having been born in Cuba — or to Cuban families. Cuba, travel agencies, and airlines can still promote forms of travel that comply with new regulations forcing Americans to travel in groups. It might take some time to educate the general public on how to do this, but the massive influx of American travelers (540,000 in 2016) to Cuba suggests the interest to visit the island will endure. Yet the damage to American soft power is already done.

Finally, prohibiting business transactions with companies owned by Cuba's military is a gesture to Trump's Miami sycophants, but not a game changer for Cuba's political structure. The Cuban armed forces will be a key player in the transition of power when President Raul Castro retires in 2018, so attempting to punish them will only provide a political opportunity for Cubans to denounce U.S. interference in Cuban affairs and unify the Castro base with the armed forces.

By this time, one wonders whether the Cuban government might re-assess some of its policiesin the last two years, such as its failure to make decisions about several investment proposals from the United States. Did it make sense to block the tractor factory agreement in the Mariel special trade zone because it didn't bring state of art technology? I don't think so.

As Nobel Prize laureate Joseph Stiglitz demonstrated in his book Creating a Learning Society, developing countries gain by just catching up with the ability of industrial economies to produce technologies that already exist. In addition to that, there is a political logic that shows how Cuba should take advantage of every opportunity to highlight in moral, legal, and instrumental terms how Washington's embargo policy inflicts harm on every sector of American society.

Cuba's best response to Trump's storm and fury show should be a new range of additional reforms.

These reforms should reinforce the role of law and market incentives aimed at promoting foreign and domestic investments. The long postponed dual exchange rate unification should be done at market rates. Opportunities for the creation of new firms as joint ventures of foreign investors, state companies, and Cuban private sector firms should be encouraged.

Some liberalization of Cuba's economic structure and trade regime would have positive political effects on Cuba's relations with American allies in Europe and Canada, because it will defuse objections by many in the international community against Cuban stateowned monopolies. It will provide also a pluralistic economic framework difficult to attack with sanctions that claim to punish only the government but not the Cuban people.

Limiting U.S. travel and business in Cuba is merely the first in a series of efforts Cuban-American hardliners will take to continue squeezing Cuba. With so much renewed American interest in Cuban business and travel, as well as a greater awareness of the ways U.S. policy inconsistently applies isolationist strategies in the name of international human rights and democracy, it's hard to imagine they'll have much success today in reversing all Obama's reforms. But Trump's rhetorical identification with Senator Rubio and Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart are a warning sign that spoilers are well positioned to take advantage if a major crisis happens.

As new electoral cycles approach, pro-Cuba engagement lobbyists in the business, humanitarian, and diplomacy sectors will need to work together to encourage a logical, moral strategy beyond the appeal to business interests that truly supports greater prosperity and national security on both sides of the Strait of Florida.

Until then, the Trump Cuba policy will be seen as it is — a detour,

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10 things you should know before giving up sugar

By Caroline Hire

It seems like everyone is trying to cut down on the sweet stuff but is it really as simple as it seems? Chocolate fiend and Good Food guinea pig Caroline Hire quit sugar for eight weeks and learnt a few lessons along the way..

10 things worth knowing before a sugar detox

A friend showed up at my house this summer looking nothing short of fabulous. She's always been healthy, a runner and health-food nut, but somehow something had taken her to a whole new level of loveliness. I quizzed her to discover she'd done Sarah Wilson's 8-week 'I Quit Sugar' programme. This was something I had to try.

However, it soon became clear it was not for the faint-hearted. Quitting sugar, Sarah-style, involved giving up all fruit, all sweeteners (natural and artificial) and most alcohols.

Still, I thought I knew what I was getting into. Apparently I didn't. Here are ten things I wish I'd known before giving up the

1. Cravings can be conquered

Evervone has a weakness. Mine is chocolate. I absolutely adore it but the addiction has always been a source of irritation. I've lost count of the number of times I've tried to give it up (and failed). I knew this craving wasn't going down without a fight. My olfactory system (sense of smell) went into overdrive and I could sniff out chocolate from a superhuman distance. Within a week (a week!), the mental battle had dissipated

2. Deprivation tastes better with friends

If you're going to give up sugar, it's definitely worth bringing in reinforcements. Knowing that I'd have to fess up to a friend if I'd fallen off the wagon was a great motivator. It was helpful to be able to share sugar-swap discoveries, gloat over righteous food choices and commiserate together through the detox

3. Strange side effects

Not everyone experiences the same reaction to quitting sugar. The most worrying one for me came in the second week when I developed a flickering in my peripheral vision which went on for around 15 minutes. The NHS website reassured me it was most likely low blood sugar but still something to address quickly. That night I had two dinners, a little fruit and the next morning, two breakfasts. No more vision problems for me (but I was a bit full). Other symptoms around the same time included a fuzzy head, memory loss, and sleep problems. Oh, and some irritability crept in. That was a good week in my house.

4. I gave up sugar (and sleep too)

It would appear from my extremely scientific sample group of four people that sleeplessness doesn't affect everyone. Unfortunately, it did affect me. From week two onwards, I pretty much woke up between 5am and 6am every morning. For someone who does experience sleep problems from time to time, what started as a side effect soon became a very annoy-

5. Want chocolate? Have a banana

More of a veg fan, fruit had never held that much of a draw but this changed when I gave up sugar. I re-introduced a little fruit each day after the blurred vision episode and found the humble banana became a highly desirable treat

6. Sugar is everywhere

Wrestling with a desire to consume chocolate, ice cream or a cheeky cake with a coffee passed pretty quickly. What I hadn't accounted for were all the seemingly innocuous foods that were now off the menu - Worcestershire sauce, chutney, ketchup, brown sauce, shop-bought mayonnaise, mustard. Giv-



As weeks went on into my diet, my energy returned and the blood sugar highs and lows, which used to drive me to eat prior to the programme, seemed to diminish.

ing up the tasty little additions to my savoury meals was the hardest to stomach.

In the first few weeks my energy was often flat so I compensated by eating much more frequently than usual. Without all the sweet treats, food became a bit of a bore – a necessity rather than something craved and satisfied. As the weeks went on, my energy returned and the blood sugar highs and lows, which used to drive me to eat prior to the programme, seemed to diminish. Managing between meals without snacking became easier than it had done in years.

8. Weight loss, the 'easy' way

Ok, it's not 'easy' giving up sugar but doing so cuts out a lot of calories. All labels had to be checked, most convenience supermarket foods and condiments were a no-go. Desserts, sugary drinks and most types of alcohol were to be avoided and if I could find an alternative it tended to be significantly less calorific. While focusing on avoiding sugar rather than calories, weight loss just happened.

9. Complacency can sneak up on you

In Week 6, Sarah suggests reintroducing a little sweetness. I made some not-that-naughty chocolates and stuffed down three in quick succession. The next day when faced with leftovers, the internal debate began, 'Shall I? Shan't I?' It made me realise how refreshing it had been not to think like this. Being strict was starting to prove the easier option. At least it was black

■ 10. Other people's reactions

I received mixed views about giving up sugar. It was easy to recruit others to take part. They started by asking a few questions, next thing I knew they were shunning sugar right alongside me. The flipside were 'the haters'. Some people seemed genuinely offended by my lack of sugar consumption. Whereas before I'd been a partner-in-crime, the 'girl most likely to order pudding' at any restaurant table, now I sat there supping peppermint tea with my newly polished halo glaring everyone in the face. Some found it hard to swallow. The best strategy was to say nothing and not draw attention to myself.

So, what happened when the 8 weeks were over?

After the programme, I had no physical urge to eat sugar and was fearful that a piece of chocolate here or there would very quickly lead to a twice-a-day, impossible-to-resist habit. My gut felt healthier, I'd lost some very persistent pounds and despite eating what I thought was a generous amount, was having no trouble keeping weight off. Psychologically, being released from the craving cycle and the chocolate addiction was also

However, a few weeks on and I already notice the quiet whisper of cravings. It's harder when things aren't black and white. I can have a bit but when does that become too much? Satisfying cravings with sugar just seems to generate more cravings. It's empowering to be able to say 'no'. I plan to keep

(Source: bbcgoodfood.com)

Neck, back and lower back pain is rapidly becoming more widespread...

These types of pain inflict everyone from 7 to 70. Some of us have neck pain, some back pain, some lower back iain and some nave knee and even wrist pain. Anesthesia and Reanimation Specialist Dr. Halil Algan from the Acibadem Kad?koy Hospital Pain Treatment Center, explained that rather than just calling something an ache and waving it away, the cause for the pain should definitely be investigated and that most of the pain we feel is caused my wrong movements in our daily lives. Dr. Algan, who pointed out that tens of thousands of patients in our country experiencing pain could actually have a happy and pain-free life with the application of some very simple methods, added that we should also avoid certain actions that could be harmful to our spines. Dr. Algan explained the 7 actions that can be harmful for our spine and provided important warnings and recom-

Lower back and neck pain are among the top reasons for complaints in our present day. In fact, due to bad posture, a sedentary lifestyle and excessive weight gain, pain can come knocking at our door at a very young age and make it difficult for us to accomplish the simplest of tasks. Neck, back and lower back pain take first place in types of discomfort that affect the quality of life for people. The list goes on with hand, knee, wrist and elbow pain. Pointing out that pain which lasts more than three months is considered 'chronic pain', Acibadem Kad?koy Hospital Pain Treatment Center, Anesthesia and Reanimation Specialist Dr. Halil Algan , said that these types of chronic pain, which are also quite widespread in our country, cause millions of dollars in work force to be lost every year in the U.S. While 'non-surgical' treatment has become more predominant in order to reduce these costs, Dr. Algan adds, "The Government's policy is to reduce the loss in work force caused by chronic pain to a minimum, because many patients are currently being operated on just to get rid of the pain even though surgery is not absolutely necessary. Patients are forced to stay away from work and their social lives for a time because of these surgeries leading to increased health expenditures. This is why Pain Treatment Departments hold a very important place in the treatment of lower back and neck hernias in the U.S.

Lower back, back and neck pain is at the top

neck pain are the most frequent cause of complaints, said that it is critical to determine the patient's pain history and the movements that are difficult for them because of the pain in order to make the right diagnosis and added "For example, can they make their bed? Can they put their shoes on? Can they go shopping? Can they put their clothes on easily? It is not right to just say 'you have a herniated disc, have the surgery and your pain will be gone' without doing a comprehensive examination and testing. In fact MR results, on their own, can be misleading. If the patient has been diagnosed with a herniated disc and they do not feel pain in their leg and do not have weakness, MR results are not enough to decide that surgery is needed". Dr. Algan emphasized that tens of thousands of patients in our country experiencing pain could actually have a happy and pain-free life with

High heeled shoes which are attractive with their different models and color are actually very harmful for the spine when worn constantly.

the application of some very simple methods.

Movement is a must, be careful when bend-

It is important for patients to lose weight if they have extra weight, go for walks and be careful not to move their lower back and spine incorrectly in the daily life. So what movements in our daily lives can harm our spine and increase lower back, back and neck pain?

A sedentary lifestyle: Due to the advancements in technology sedentary lifestyles are becoming more widespread among everyone from 7 to 70. Inactivity has a direct impact on the spine! Dr. Halil Algan provides the example of his 90 year old patient to emphasize the importance of daily walks: "My 90 year patient who has been taking regular fast tempo walks all his life has radiological images of his spine that show he is in better shape than people half his age."

• Excessive weight: While excessive weight increases Dr. Algan, who pointed out the lower back, back and the pressure and load on the discs in the spine it also makes treatment more difficult. Getting rid of exc weight and going for regular walks decreases the load on the spine almost completely.

Soft bed: Sometimes we recline on a soft couch in front of the TV and remain in the same position for hours. But this is wrong. A soft bed is very harmful for spinal health both in terms of sitting and lying down. One of the best forms of treatment is to choose the right bed. Placing pillows between and under the knees also reduces the pressure and provides relief to the individual.

- Standing for long periods of time: When you stand at a fixed spot the pressure on the vertebra discs is intensified by 4-5 times the normal. The discs wear down must faster in people who have jobs that require standing in the same position for extended periods of time. Lower back and neck pain occur more frequently. Even when we are ironing we have to shift our weight back and forth between our legs.
- Leaning down without bending our knees: One of the biggest mistakes we make is leaning down without bending our knees. When we do this we increase the load on our vertebra discs by 6-7 times. It is very important for us to bend our knees when leaning over to pick
- Sitting in the same position for a long time: Since the human body is structured to be active all the time the most intense pressure on the discs is seen in people who sit constantly, like office workers. This is why people working in offices need to get up from their desk every 20-30 minutes and walk around. Long term (chronic pain) originating from the spine is seen most frequently in people who work at a desk.
- High heeled shoes: High heeled shoes which are attractive with their different models and color are actually very harmful for the spine when worn constantly. Feet need to be in a comfortable position and not pressed forward. When sitting the whole sole of the foot should be resting on the floor. Otherwise deformities and chronic pain can flare up in the lower back, hips and

(Source: acibademinternational.com)

Mother warns about dangers of exposing newborn to human contact

By Andrea Diaz

Iowa newlyweds are clinging to hope as their nearly 3-week-old daughter fights for her life after contracting a deadly virus believed to be from a simple kiss.

Nicole and Shane Sifrit welcomed baby Mariana on July 1. A week later -- two hours after the couple's wedding -- they say they noticed that the girl was not eating and would not wake up when they tried to get her to respond.

"It's horrific," Nicole Sifrit told CNN affiliate WQAD. "She had quit breathing, and all her organs just started to fail.

According to WQAD, the couple left their wedding early to take Mariana to Blank Children's Hospital in Des Moines, where they learned that she had contracted meningitis HSV-1, caused by the herpes virus -- the same virus that causes cold sores.

Herpes meningitis can be caused by bacteria, fungi or other types of germs, and it can be spread through sexual contact or from a woman to her baby during childbirth, according to Johns Hopkins

Mariana's parents both tested negative for the virus, they said, suggesting that it could have come from others who visited the

The first two months after a child is born are very critical, as a virus can rapidly spread and cause serious illness in newborns.

"They touched her, and then she touched her mouth with her hand," Sifrit explained. "It's hard to pinpoint exactly how she caught the virus, but it's important people are cautious when they let anyone handle their babies."

Dr. Tanya Altmann, a pediatrician at Calabasas Pediatrics in California, said that "viral meningitis is transmitted

through close casual contact. However, she caught the virus and then developed meningitis. ... It is very common to catch the virus, but very rarely does it develop into meningitis.

The first two months after a child is born are very critical, as a virus can rapidly spread and cause serious illness in newborns," she said. This is why parents are advised to be particularly careful during those first months.

Sifrit told CNN that Mariana was airlifted to the University of Iowa Children's Hospital in Iowa City on July 10 when her condition deteriorated. As of Sunday, "they are trying to keep the baby stable," and doctors are "fluctuating her dialysis to drain fluid off her body."

The mother is praying that her daughter's "liver starts repairing on its own and that the vessels around her heart start sealing and not leak oxygen so her body can heal."

Doctors have warned that because of the damage the virus has caused, if Mariana survives, she will have long-term problems with her brain, liver and kidneys, according to Sifrit.

Mariana is expected to remain in the hospital for the next three

(Source: CNN)

Forget a cup of coffee toothbrush could provide caffeine fix instead

By Liz Klimas

Among the first things many people do in the morning is brush their teeth and then grab a cup of coffee, or vice versa. But a popular dental hygiene brand could someday change all that while also eliminating coffee stains.

Colgate filed a patent, recently made public, for an "oral implement" that would release a chemical into the mouth while a toothbrush is in use. There are actually several uses for the concept, which according to designs appears as a patch on the back of the head of the toothbrush, but delivering a hit of caffeine is one of them. Colgate mentions it fol use in pain relief for teething children, but there could clearly be benefits for adults when it comes to caffeine later down

An "oral implement" that would release a chemical into the mouth while a toothbrush is in use, delivers a hit of caffeine in a toothpaste for use in pain relief for teething would deliver a certain children, but also there could clearly be benefits for adults when it comes to caffeine communicate the benefilater down the line.

Another type of chemical that could be released from such a patch, according to the application, is an "appetite suppressant for

weight loss treatment."
"Thus, a wide variety of other chemicals which provide a medicinal or sensory response can be used with the oral care implement," the patent

To clarify which patch type of chemical, Colgate envisions them each being represented by a different symbol.

"In each case, associated visuals may be present cial effect, such as the representation of a throbbing tooth for benzocaine, a human figure with a slim-

ming waist line for the zo-caine types of medicine or an 'Rx' symbol for pain relief medication."

Although the patent doesn't mean that the concept will ever reach consumer's bathroom shelves, Motherboard called it a "startling innovation" because the method for cleaning one's teeth has gone relatively unchanged for cen-

Motherboard also speculated that regulatory issues would need to be addressed at some point regarding embedding caffeine or other medications into an oral implement.

(Source: theblaze.com)

10 hot titles of IT world

By Alireza Khorasani

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

It took nine months for Google's streaming video chat app Duo to reach its first 50 million downloads. It took only two months for the next 50 million downloads to take place, and right now Duo has been installed over 100

AI assistant Alexa is available to those in the U.S. sporting the HTC U11. Many of the things that Alexa does on the handset will match what it capable of doing on the Amazon Echo smart speaker, such as pass along the weather, sports scores, a news digest and more. On the U11, Alexa can also order from Amazon, set alarms and timers, and turn on and off smart appliances.

Deal: iPad Pro 9.7 32GB is less than \$500 on eBay, Verizon model costs \$480 with contract. Apple's products rarely benefit from massive discounts after just one year of being available on the market.

Samsung and PayPal announce PayPal integration for Samsung Pay in the USA.

Following Samsung and PayPal's agreement, customers will be able to access and use their PayPal wallet and balance anywhere Samsung Pay is accepted. The payment system works on almost every terminal where a card can be tapped or swiped

Huawei announced two new fitness trackers, the Huawei Band 2 and Band 2 Pro. At a glance, both are standard fare FitBit competitors with the abilities to measure heartbeat, pace, distance, speed, and direction.

Microsoft has apparently decided to enter the niche with an app called Path Guide that helps you navigate inside closed spaces, and doesn't even need Wi-Fi or GPS to work. The app allows people to trace their routes inside of buildings, creating a map of the whole place, which can then be made available to other users. Once made public, users are able to search for the map and access it through the app on their own devices.

According to DJ Koh, cumulative sales of the Galaxy S8 and S8+ are 15% higher than their predecessors' compared to the same period last year. He went on to say that his company expects sales of the Galaxy S8 devices to continue to rise in the next two quarters of 2017.

Comcast tells the FCC that net neutrality should be

But claims it will respect net neutrality regardless of the FCC's

Poll suggests most Americans don't like how Trump

ABC News and the Washington Post have conducted a national poll suggesting that 67 of Americans disapprove of Trump's use of Twitter.

About 78 percent of women call his tweets inappropriate versus 58 percent of men, while 65 percent of non-white people see them as dangerous versus 46 percent for whites.

10 Google wants to sell quantum computing in the cloud.

It's taking steps to offer quantum tech beyond the lab.

Ataribox will come in two suitably retro editions

Just over a month since its announcement at E3, Atari is offering a proper look at its first console in over 20 years. In an email to fans, the company reveals the Ataribox will come in two editions, both of which pair a recognizably retro aesthetic with contemporary design flourishes.



As revealed in the teaser vid, one version of the Ataribox draws its design cues from the brown wood found on the original Atari 2600. The other edition comes in red and black with a glass front panel. Both will include ribbed lines that flow around the console's body and a raised back. A front-facing logo and four indicator lights complete the design. On the back are included a HDMI port, four USB ports, and SD card support.

Although the company is keeping tight-lipped about the console's specs, it sounds like it will be more than just a NES Classic for the Atari set. The latest info has it that the Ataribox will boast a mix of classic and contemporary titles. Then again, it could do a lot worse than aping Nintendo's money-raking nostalgia cash-ins.

There's still no word on pricing, release dates or games -things that might help drum up hype for the new hardware.

(Source: Reddit)

IBM's new mainframe keeps everything encrypted

Data breaches are bad enough by themselves, but they're made worse when companies don't bother to (or can't) encrypt all their info. It's tantamount to giving hackers the keys to the kingdom. But what to do? IBM thinks it has a simple solution: encrypt absolutely everything.

Its latest Z mainframe system now has enough power to automatically encrypt all the data associated with an app or service, whether it's in transit or sitting idle in a database. According to IBM, conventional systems based on x86 processors only encrypt "limited slices" of information, while the new Z has enough power (18 times more, in fact) to lock everything down

The new platform can also "self-destruct" encryption keys the moment there's any tampering, and quickly encrypts the programming interfaces that tie apps and services together. And the Z is faster overall, regardless of the task at hand: there's three times the memory (a hefty 32TB), three times faster input/output and much lower lag when talking to a storage area network. The hardware should juggle many more transactions (like purchases at an online store) even as it boosts their overall security.

Naturally, there are catches to this utopian vision of internet security. While IBM plays an important role in online commerce (its transaction engine handles 87 percent of credit card payments), many companies would likely have to upgrade before you'd see the benefit. Any mass migration would probably take years, if it happens at all. And of course, IBM's solution doesn't stop hackers from taking data -- it just prevents them from reading that data. There's a chance, however slim,



that the most determined perpetrators will find a way to decrypt content once they have it.

Nonetheless, this technology could be a big step forward if it lives up to IBM's hype. If you can assume that your sensitive data is always encrypted, you won't have to worry quite so much that thieves might go on a shopping spree with your credit card. This might also deter crooks if they know that they're unlikely to hit the jackpot when they crack a company's security.

(Source: IBM)

iPhone 8 may be delayed, pushing an upgrade super cycle to 2018

We've been on this rollercoaster before - analysts and supply chain sources predicting that upcoming iPhones will face production delays due to the scarcity of this or that part, or due to the complex nature of putting it all together. Such predictions usually bomb by Thanksgiving, when, whatever production bottlenecks Apple might have had, get ironed out. This year, however, Apple may be attempting something it's never done before - a brand new and complex design of a third iPhone 8 that is said to be announced together with the iPhone 7s and 7s Plus.

Thus, there might be indeed many pressing production problems, so Morgan Stanley's Katy Huberty is the next in a long line of analysts who have by now predicted delays in launching the iPhone 8 at full speed. Last we heard, the problems with manufacturing yields for the new screen, camera, or Touch ID solution, weren't supposed to be fully resolved before November.

Morgan Stanley's analyst, however, is a bit more optimistic, not because she doesn't envision any delays, but because according to her those will just

push Apple's expected upgrade supercycle into the first half of 2018. Even if the iPhone 8 lands on the shelves later than the iPhone 7s or 7s Plus, she mentions, consumers will be hard pressed to resist an upgrade: "IN light of the most meaningful feature and technology upgrades in iPhone's history - including OLED displays, wireless charging, and 3D sensors for AR - we believe it's reasonable to assume the new, higher-priced OLED iPhone ships

in October rather than September." (Source: Businessinsider)

Police body cams will soon use Al to find missing people

Motorola Solutions -- not to be confused with Lenovo's Motorola, that makes smartphones -- is adding machine learning to its surveillance equipment used by law enforcement personnel. Cops in Chicago's Waukegan police department are already suiting up with the company's Si500 body cams. But those same cameras could soon pack AI that could help officers identify missing people and objects. A prototype device is in the works with Neurala, a deep learning startup that recently integrated its software with drones to track poach-

In the near future, the camera will be able to recognize images and communicate that data with other Si500s. For example, if a cop was seeking a missing child, the body cam could learn the infant's likeness from an image. That info would then be automatically distributed to other officers wearing the device, allowing them to take part in the search. Neurala claims that its AI will even be able to pick out a person of interest in crowded public spaces.

Of course, using AI-integrated sur-



veillance systems does pose concerns over public privacy and the potential misuse of the tech. That didn't stop police in the UK from arresting a man using automatic facial-recognition software last month. Meanwhile, researchers in the US are working on an AI system that allows robots to work with each other on tracking objects. At this rate, cybernetics could deliver a robocop sooner than we think. Let's just hope it's not judge, jury, and executioner all rolled into one.

(Source: motorolasolutions)

Google Fiber's CEO steps down after five months

Five months after Google announced it was shaking up Fiber and putting broadband veteran George McCray in charge of the division overseeing it. McCray has steppe down. The company is seeking a replacement but hasn't named anyone.

Back in February McCray started as CEO of the Access division, which supervises Fiber. He replaced its former chief Craig Barratt, who left last October after his proposed large-scale expansion plan was trimmed. Shortly after McCray arrived, Google made several announcements regarding the department's new direction, including introducing a set-top box for Fiber-equipped



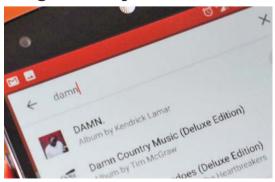
homes and naming the first city to host the tech giant's wireless gigabit Webpass project.

Google has not indicated whether the department's trajectory will change while it seeks a new chief officer, but Alphabet CEO Larry Page reaffirmed the tech company's investment in Fiber in a statement provided to Bloomberg.

"We are committed to the success of Google Fiber. The team is bringing gigabit connections to more and more happy customers," said Page in a statement. "Fiber has a great team and I'm confident we will find an amazing person to lead this important business."

(Source: Bloomberg)

Google Play Music for Android tests letting you play songs directly from search



A few months ago, Google Play Music introduced the ability for you to play songs directly in its search interface - but only on the web. This has so far been sorely missing from the service's mobile apps. That is about to change, however.

Google is now testing the addition of the same function inside Play Music for Android. The new feature is not tied to a specific version of the app, as it has been spotted on both 7.9 and 7.10, so it means it arrives via a server-side switch if you are lucky enough.

(Source: 9to5google)

Essential will launch in UK, Japan and **Continental Europe**



The Essential PH-1 missed its shipping deadline in the US, but the company behind it ensured us that it's still planning big and will launch outside of

Currently a Sprint exclusive in the States and a soon to be TELUS exclusive in Canada the Essential wasn't confirmed to reach any other markets. But Essential representatives have been in talks with EE and others in the UK, working on a release date for the Essential there.

(Source: phonearena)

Qualcomm CEO expects that Apple will likely end up settling in latest lawsuit



Qualcomm and Apple are currently in a heated back and forth of legalities. Not long ago, Qualcomm sued Apple over unpaid patent loyalties that Apple allegedly refuses to pay for. The lawsuit in question even called for a temporary ban of all Apple products that use Qualcomm's patents, mostly related to performance and battery efficiency in software and hardware.

In an interview with Fortune Qualcomm CEO Steve Mollenkopf outlines that the whole dispute boils down to a contract with terms that the other party refuses to meet, in this case, the terms are monetary

(Source: Fortune)

A mud volcano has been erupting for ten years, scientists say

The world's most destructive mud volcano was born near the town of Sidoarjo, on the island of Java, Indonesia, just over 11 years ago - and to this day it has not stopped erupting. The mud volcano known as Lusi started on May 29, 2006, and at its peak disgorged a staggering 180,000 cubic meters of mud every day, burying villages in mud up to 40 meters thick

The worst event of its kind in recorded history, the eruption took 13 lives and destroyed the homes of 60,000 people. But although the mud is still flowing more than a decade later, scientists are not yet agreed on its cause.

The debate is whether the eruption of Lusi was due to an earthquake several days previously, or down to a catastrophic failure of the Banjar Panji 1 gas exploration well that was being drilled nearby

Mud volcanoes

Given the huge impact of the volcano on the communities nearby and the fields that were their livelihoods, why are we still unsure of the cause?

Mud volcanoes are extremely common on Earth, with thousands of examples known worldwide.

They come in many shapes and sizes and behave a little like their moltenrock counterparts, going through long



periods of inactivity with periodic violent eruptions. Mud volcanoes, however, spew out not molten hot lava from the Earth's mantle, but usually a cold mixture of gas, water and solids.

Some of the most spectacular exam-

ples of mud volcanoes are in Azerbaijan where they can range from a few meters across to the size of a small mountain. They are commonly found at tectonic plate boundaries, and also underwater at river deltas where sediment is buried

Given the huge impact of the volcano on the communities nearby and the fields that were their livelihoods, why are we still unsure of the cause?

rapidly, causing unusually high pressures to build up underground. The muddy mix is also pushed to the surface by the buoyant gas it contains. Usually mud volcanoes grow slowly, through layer upon

Amazing phenomenon

The journal Marine and Petroleum Geology is publishing a special issue that examines the ways this amazing phenomena is developing.

A review of facts, coincidences, and past and future studies") that exhumes the debate of what caused the eruption, offering strong support for the earthquake as the trigger and dismissing the idea the borehole was responsible.

The explanation implicating the drilling is that water from surrounding bedrock entered the 2,834 meter-deep Banjar Panji 1 well, which for its lowest 1,743 meters was unprotected by steel and cement casing. The pressure the water exerted was enough to fracture surrounding rock or pre-existing faults. Mixing with underground mud from the Kalibeng Formation, which makes up part of Java's geology, this pressurized water and mud rushed to the surface through a fault, forming the Lusi mud volcano just 200 meters from the drilling site.

(Source: The Conversation)

Invasive plant species can enhance coastal ecosystems

Invasive plant species can be a source of valuable eco-tuaries throughout coastlines of the North Atlantic. Resystem functions where native coastal habitats such as salt marshes and oyster reefs have severely declined, a new study by scientists at Duke University and the University of North Carolina-Wilmington finds.

"With the progressive decline of coastal habitats worldwide, our findings suggest it's better to have a non-native habitat than no habitat at all," said Aaron Ramus, a Ph.D. student at UNC Wilmington and former Bookhout Research Scholar at the Duke University

Marine Laboratory, who led the research.

"There's a good chance that many invaders don't have the negative effects that we often think they do," Ramus said.

Barren mudflats

On otherwise barren mudflats, habitat-forming invasive species such as nonnative seaweed can offset the loss of foundation species and provide vital ecosystem services, such as storm protection and food production, on which nearly half the human population depends.

The study focused on Gracilaria vermiculophylla, a nonnative Japanese seaweed affecting lagoons and escent research suggests that it came to NC with the export of an oyster species (Crassostrea gigas) from Japan.

Gracilaria seaweed's invasion of North Carolina mudflats provided the researchers with a unique system to conduct their study in an area where native species are absent or have severely declined.

The research was conducted over ten months in 48 large plots with different densities of Gracilaria. The team measured monthly changes in seven functions for which coastal ecosystems are highly valued. These functions include soil stabilization and erosion control; storm surge and flood protection; biodiversity; food production; and the provision of nursery habitat for economically important seafood species, including shrimp, crab and fish.

They found the invasive plants can help on many of these measures.

Invasive species

"Conservation practitioners are investing millions of dollars to eradicate invasive species, but what if some of those invasive species are actually benefiting native spe-



cies and ecosystem services?" said Brian Silliman, Rachel Carson Associate Professor of Marine Conservation Biology at Duke's Nicholas School of the Environment, who co-authored the study. "Our experimental study shows for the first time that this can be the case."

(Source: EurekAlert)

There's growing evidence that Pluto's largest moon had a massive ocean

Pluto's moon Charon is the best sidekick a dwarf planet could hope for: unwavering in its loyalty, content to be a minor character in somebody else's narrative. But two years after the New Horizons flyby, the largest of Pluto's five moons is finally getting some well-deserved time in the spotlight. New research suggests that Charon's storied history includes tectonic activity, cryovolcanism, and perhaps, a globe-spanning ocean.

While Pluto is alive and active geologically, its large satellite Charon, which

probably formed during a massive collision billions of years ago, is a crater-covered wasteland whose surface has been aging for eons. Charon today is dead – but enormous chasms spotted by the New Horizons spacecraft suggests the

moon hasn't always been this way. An ongoing research effort, including a geologic survey published recently in the journal Icarus, affirms that billions of years ago, Charon went through at least one period of tectonic activity, when its entire surface expanded outwards.

Pluto-facing hemisphere

As described in the study led by NASA planetary scientist Ross Beyer, the Pluto-facing hemisphere of Charon, which New Horizons' Long Range Reconnaissance Imager saw during its flyby, features two distinct geologic provinces. To the south, the smooth plains of Vulcan Planum, coated in ice that Beyer and his colleagues interpret to be a cryvolcanic "lava flow." To the north, a vast and diverse area known informally as Oz Terra, whose surface is riddled with grooves,

scarps, and deep, elongated, chasms that put Earth's Grand Canyon to shame.

"All of the observed tectonics is extensional, meaning the crust of Charon is being stretched and pulled apart," James Tuttle Keane, a planetary scientist at Caltech who was not involved with the new study, told Gizmodo. "You could imagine blowing up a balloon, painting it, letting the paint dry, and then inflating it some more. Here, Charon is the balloon, and the paint is its water-ice crust, breaking apart."

(Source: Gizmodo)

CBI Issues License for AYANDEH Bank's Capital Increase

Central Bank of Iran (CBI) issued license for the capital increase of AYANDEH Bank, the Public Relations Dept. of the bank reported.

In line with materializing its main objectives, AYAN-DEH Bank initiated the capital increase process to attain 30,000 billion rials approx. two years ago for increasing welfare in society, improving production, bringing about sustainability in economic development of country, promoting health of performance and strengthening financial affordability of the bank, etc.

In this regard, after the approval of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) and Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO), the executive stages for increasing capital of the company started from 8,000 billion rials to 16,000 billion rials, the report added.

Given the above issue, stock subscription bidding of the bank was published at widely circulated papers and notified to the public on Feb. 24, 2016.

Finally, after verifying all the legal procedures taken by CBI and SEO, objectives of the first procedure of the capital increase of the bank were realized on Jan. 31, 2017. However, the first procedure of the capital increase of the bank was registered at Tehran Nontrade Institutions and Companies Department General within the framework of stipulated rules and

In lien with enforcing the second procedure, CBI issued the license of capital increase for AYANDEH Bank from 16,000 billion rials to 30,000 billion rials out of cash investment of shareholders according to the envi-

sioned rules and regulations. The Board of Directors of the bank expressed its hope that capital increase of the bank, worth 14,000 billion rials, will lead to the enhanced capability of the bank in equipping and allocating financial resources as well as creating a suitable combination of favorable incomes and efficiency as expected by stockholders of the bank, the Public Relations Dept. of the bank ended.

BMI Wins Bronze Statue of Performance-Based "Budgeting Maturity" Award

Bank Melli Iran (BMI) received the bronze statue of "Performance-Based Budgeting Maturity" Award in 8th Intl. Performance-Based Budgeting Conference, the Public Relations Dept. of the under the auspices of unsparing efforts. Iran is the first bank which managed to

The bronze statue was awarded to Bank Melli Iran as assessed by the jury members at the Steering Committee

of managers and advisors of this leading bank in designing and establishing "Performance-Based Budgeting System".

It should be noted that Bank Melli

receive the bronze trophy. As headed by Dr. Adel Azar Head of State Audit Court, the 8th Intl. Performance-Based Budgeting Conference was held in the current Iranian month of Tir.

Creating Realist Images with SAMSUNG's HDR10+

to make the final image more realistic. To achieve this goal, SAMSUNG Electronics Company recently introduced a new standard named "HDR10+" for High Dynamic Range (HDR) videos that make the final TV images closer to the real images than ever.

But what does "HDR10+" mean exactly?

In response to this question, it should be said

Almost, every progress in TV technologies is aimed that HDR10+ is a process that adds more dynamic range (ratio of light and dark) to the incoming image to mimic what the human eye can see. From the viewer's perspective, this results in an image that is brighter and has a wider range of color and deeper tones than conventional HDR process. Whereas the current HDR10 standard uses static metadata, HRD10+ uses dynamic metadata to

create even greater contrast and colors that are closer to reality, providing an enhanced viewing experience. By using this dynamic metadata that is encoded in the HDR10+ signal, HDR10+ can adjust resulting brightness levels of a tone mapped HDR signal based on a scene-by-scene, creating an image that is much closer to the filmmaker's

'Peculiar' radio signals emerge from nearby star

Some very "peculiar signals" have been noticed coming from a star just 11 light-years away, scientists in Puerto Rico say.

The mystery has gripped the internet as speculation mounts about the potential for a discovery of alien life on the red dwarf star known as Ross 128 — despite the best attempts of astronomers to put such rumors to rest.

"In case you are wondering, the recurrent aliens' hy-

pothesis is at the bottom of many other better explanations," said a blog post by Abel Mendez, director of the Planetary Habitability Laboratory at the University of Puerto Rico at Arecibo. Something unusual first came to light in April and May,

when the team was studying a series of small and relatively cool red dwarf stars, some of which are known to have plan-Ross 128 is not known to have planets, but "we realized

that there were some very peculiar signals in the 10-minute dynamic spectrum that we obtained from Ross 128." The signals were observed May 13 at 0053 GMT, and

"consisted of broadband quasi-periodic non-polarized pulses" with very strong dispersion-like features," he wrote.

"We believe that the signals are not local radio frequency interferences (RFI) since they are unique to Ross 128 and observations of other stars immediately before and after did not show anything similar."

Since the signals are likely too dim to be picked up by other radio telescopes in the world, Mendez said that scientists at the Arecibo Observatory joined with astronomers from SETI (Search for ExtraTerrestrial Life) would use the Alien Telescope Array and the Green Bank Telescope to observe the star for a second time late Sunday.

(Source: phys.org)

The yucky way sea spiders get oxygen to their legs

Imagine if instead of blood vessels, intestines snaked through your limbs. And then picture that through these intestines coursed not only this morning's breakfast in a slosh of digestive juices but another unlikely component: oxygen



This appears to be the case for sea spiders, according to a new study. The creatures pass oxygen to their extremities via their gut fluids, rather than the substance they have in lieu of blood called hemolymph.

While it's strange that sea spiders — whose bodies are dominated by long, spindly legs punctuated by a tiny head and trunk — take oxygen into their bodies through pores in their outer layer, "their guts are just bizarre," said the study's lead author Art Woods, a professor of ecology and evolutionary biology at the University of Montana.

Woods first noticed something was unusual about sea spider guts when observing them thorough a microscope, trying to trace the path of gut fluids and hemolymph. The key was in observing the creatures' peristalsis, the waves of motion that push gut fluids through the gut tubes similar to how food makes its way down our esophagus and through our intestines.

"It gradually dawned on me that the peristalsis that the gut tubes were doing could not possibly be just for digestion. It had to be for something else because it was so organized and so vigorous," Woods told Live Science.

To find out the true purpose of the waving gut motion, he and his team observed the heartbeat and gut peristalsis of 12 sea spider species from temperate and Antarctic regions.

(Source: Live Science)

World's northernmost coral reef in Japan bleached

Bleaching has damaged the world's northernmost coral reef in Japan, a researcher said Tuesday, the latest example of a global phenomenon scientists have attributed to high ocean temperatures.

Healthy coral reefs protect shores from storms and offer habitats for fish and other marine life, including ecologically and economically important species.

After coral dies, reefs quickly degrade and the structures that coral build erode. While coral can recover from mild bleaching, severe or long-term episodes are often lethal, experts say

About 30 percent of the coral reef off the coast of Tsushima island in Japan, which lies in the temperate zone some 1,000 kilometers (620 miles) southwest of Tokyo, suffered bleaching when Hiroya Yamano's research team observed the area last December.

There was large-scale coral bleaching in Japan's subtropical Okinawan chain of islands last summer, said Yamano, director of the Center for Environmental Biology and Ecosystem Studies at Japan's National Institute for Environmental Studies.

"Recently coral in Okinawa were taking refuge in waters with lower temperatures, expanding their habitat range to (waters off) Kyushu, Shikoku and Honshu," he said, referring to three of Japan's four main islands.

"But now coral in refuges are threatened ... the situation is serious," he told AFP.

(Source: AFP)

Iran, Kyrgyzstan agree to boost health ties

SOCIETY TEHRAN — Iran's Health Minister Hassan e s k Qazizadeh-Hashemi and his Kyrgyz counterpart Talantbek Batyraliev discussed boosting cooperation during a meeting in Bishkek on Monday.

Working groups were established to follow up on three



Iran's Health Minister Hassan Qazizadeh-Hashemi (L) and his Kyrgyz counterpart Talantbek Batyraliev sign agreements in the field of health.

agreements signed in the field of health, Qazizadeh-Hashemi said in an interview with the Kyrgyz National TV, IRNA reported.

Treatment and hospital service fields, laboratory equipment and laboratory supplies, medical education and research, healthcare, preventing infectious and non-contagious diseases and development of healthcare networks were included in the agreements.

Iranian and Kyrgyz private sectors should do their best to take advantage of opportunities, he said.

The two countries have several communalities in cul-

ture and history and by signing these agreements we pave the way for more cooperation between Iran and Kyrgyzstan, he added.

The Iranian minister also visited some health centers in Bishkek and held talks with officials on further cooperation.

Pope tacks sign on his apartment door: 'No Whining'

If anyone had any doubts how Pope Francis feels about people who always complain, the answer is now tacked to the door of his frugal suite in a Vatican residence: "No Whining".

Under the explicit warning, the red-and-white Italian language sign goes on to say that "violators are subject to a syndrome of always feeling like a victim and the consequent reduction of your sense of humor and capacity to solve problems".

A picture of the sign was posted on the Vatican Insider website and its presence on the pope's door confirmed to Reuters by its editor-in-chief Andrea Tornielli, an author who is close to Francis and has interviewed him several times.

The sign is adorned with the international symbol for 'no' - a backslash in a circle.

It adds: "The penalty is doubled if the violation take place in the presence of children. To get the best out of yourself, concentrate on your potential and not on your limitations."

Then the closing zinger: "Stop complaining and take steps to improve your life".

The sign was given to the pope recently by Italian psychologist and self-help author Salvo Noe. Francis promised Noe he would put it up in his office for a laugh.

Francis has had no shortage of complainers in the Vatican and in the Church since his election in 2013. He has tried to steer the 1.2 billion-member Church on a more inclusive and merciful path, angering conservatives who say he his sowing doctrinal confusion.

One recent episode involved German Cardinal Gerhard Mueller, a German whom the pope removed last month from his post as Vatican doctrinal chief at the end of a five-year term.

Mueller, who disagrees with the pope on a number of issues, apparently expected his mandate to be renewed automatically. Mueller later told a German newspaper that the way he

was treated was "unacceptable".

(Source: Reuters)

LEARN ENGLISH

Global View - Booking a **Hotel Room**

A: Madison Suites, how may I help you?

B: Yes, I'm calling from Mexico. I will be in town next week and would like to know if you have availability.

B: OK ma'am, can you tell me the date you expect to **check in**? A: Yes, July ninth. I will be there for seven nights.

B: We have a junior single **suite** or a **superior** double suite

available for those dates. A: What's the difference?

B: The junior suite is smaller and has one twin bed, while the superior suite has a double bed and mini-bar.

A: OK, I would like to reserve the superior suite. Is breakfast

B: Yes, a **buffet** breakfast is served every morning. I will need your name and your credit card details in order to complete the **reservation**.

A: Sure, my credit card number is...

Key Vocabulary

availability: the quality of being at hand when needed check in: confirm details at front desk

suite: a connected series of rooms to be used together

superior: A better than others **buffet:** a meal laid out on a table or sideboard so that guests

may serve themselves reservation: an arrangement to secure accommodations at a

restaurant or hotel

Supplementary Vocabulary

room service: Food and beverages served to a guest in his

concierge: someone who handles luggage and mail, makes

reservations, and arranges tours maid: A woman servant employed in cleaning.

chauffeur: to serve as a driver for another person

(Source: irlanguage.com)

Sanguine temperament: Specifications and lifestyle



TEHRAN — Different diseases are nowadays spreading at an increasing rate throughout the world. So, traditional medicine is advised by the World Health Organization as a complementary method or an alternative to classic

Dissatisfaction of treatment outcomes obtained by most therapeutic methods within modern medicine has been a main reason for this advice.

Iranian-Islamic traditional medicine is an ancient medical school in an integrating of both Iranian traditional medicine and Islamic medicine. Iranian traditional medicine has a several-thousand history which after emersion of Islam, its concepts were mingled with Islamic doctrine originated of both Holy Quran and Ahl-ul-Bayt (successors of prophet Muhammad (PBUH)) education.

Great ancient Iranian physicians, particularly Avicenna, were also Islamic scholars, and had an important role in this benedict integration.

According to Iranian-Islamic traditional medicine, every person has a unique temper (Mizaj) by which his or her health status is defined independently to other people.

Moreover, an identical disease shows variable presentations in different people, according to their

Therefore, the excess or lack of warmness and humidity define four essential temperaments of "Warm and Wet (sanguine or Damawiy)", "Warm and Dry (choleric or Safrawiy)", "Cold and Dry (melancholic or Saudawiy)" and "Cold and Wet (phlegmatic or Balghamiy)" respectively. The terms in the parentheses refer to four groups of material in the body (called "humors" or 'Akhlat') including blood which is hot and moist, phleam which is cold and moist, bilious or yellow bile which is hot and dry and atrabilious or black bile which is cold and dry. Words written in italic show original Persian terms in the ancient literature.

In a nutshell people with sanguine temperament are gregarious, cheerful, adaptable, and patient. They have soft ruddy skin, warm squishy bodies, and thick black hair. They are sturdy, and have bigger veins and stronger pulse. Waste matter (urine, sweat, and feces) discharged from their bodies have usually strong

Lifestyle tips for people with sanguine temperament are listed below.













Lifestyle

Similar to people with choleric temperament, those with sanguine temperament had better not consume large amounts of food with warming characteristics (warm Mizaj) especially in warm seasons and warm climate

Consuming high calorie and heavy food items, such as red meat, camel meat, turkey, large amounts of bread and rice and liver especially during spring and summer (warm days) is not recommended to this group.

In general, diet high in starchy foods such as pasta, potato, and egg is not very much to the benefit of

People with warm and wet Mizaj should consume butter, cream, sweats, salty and spicy foods the least.

Different kinds of ash (a thick soup or stew, which is usually served hot) such as rice ash, verjuice ash, sumac ash, pomegranate ash, Sekanjabin (one of the oldest Iranian drinks; a syrup made of boiled water, sugar and vinegar) ash, soups, broths and stews, light vegetarian cooked or steamed food, and Abdoogh Khiar (a cold cucumber and yogurt soup) are best for them.

Heavy ash such as ash-e Reshteh (a thick soup with thin noodles, vegetables and beans, cheakpea, lentil, etc.) or ash-e Shole Ghalamkar (another thick soup with beans, peas, lentils, leafy vegetables, rice, etc.) and Haleem (a stew which includes wheat or barley and meat as main ingredients) are not of much benefit for these people. Only light ash with small amounts of beans, fresh vegetables and slight sour taste are recommended to people with warm and wet Mizaj.

Fasting and even in some cases skipping lunch (however

cautiously) would be beneficial for these people. They should wait for hunger to hit them in order to eat.

They should consciously avoid being in warm and humid conditions such as sauna, steam room, or a bathroom filled with steam.

As they have muscular body and a body composition of larger proportion of muscle tissue rather than fat they need to exercise and lack of movement would cause waste products and other toxins to build up in their bodies. Therefore, they are more prone to develop high uric acid and cholesterol levels.

Consuming low-calorie food stuff which only fills one up without gaining weight such as light stews, celery, carrot, olive, lettuce, cabbage, broccoli, spinach, and zucchini are recommended to this group of people. People with warm and wet Mizaj are advised to

donate blood and receive wet cupping therapy. As a general rule, enhancing body's natural ability to detox through main exit routes for toxins such as urine, feces, and perspiration is pretty good for this group.

Drinking liquid chicory extract (Kasni), fumitory extract (Shahtareh), sour and sour-sweat Sekanjabin, pomegranate, lemon, or barberry syrups would also benefit them.

Vegetables, salads and watermelon are also good provided they don't over eat. Consuming sour fruits and adding sour food items to

stews and ash would be of advantage to them. Seyed Mahdi Mirghazanfari, MD, holds a PhD degree in medical physiology and is an Iranian-Islamic traditional medicine researcher. He is also an assistant professor in

ISIS brides flee caliphate as noose tightens on terror group

They tell stories that their lives depend upon. All insist they were shocked and appalled when they learned what ISIS was really like. They are the former brides of ISIS fighters -- once lured into living in the so-called caliphate -- now stuck between the militants' crumbling stronghold and home countries that most likely don't want them back

A French widow of an ISIS member dreams of being on the Mediterranean. A Syrian English teacher from Homs who insists she was en route to Turkey when she got waylaid in Raqqa, and fell in love with a Moroccan militant. And three Indonesian sisters who say they were lured to Ragga, ISIS' self-proclaimed caliphate, by the promise of free healthcare and ed-

In the scorching heat of the Syrian Desert, dozens of runaway ISIS brides sit in a crowded concrete jail and wait with their children. The women are segregated from the rest of a sprawling refugee camp in Ain Issa, around 30 miles (50 km) north of ISIS' de facto capital, Raqqa.

Saida, originally from Montpellier, in southern France, is among the ISIS wives who fled as U.S.-backed forces closed in on the city. Many of the women say they paid smugglers to guide them to the outskirts of Ragga, where Kurdish forces picked them up before bringing them here.

"I love life, I love to work, I love my jeans, I love my makeup, I love my parents," says Saida, who wears a floral

"The only thing I want is to go back, to take my car and travel back." She sits near her 14-month-old son,

whose face is pockmarked with insect bites from the month they spent in the wilderness, escaping Raqqa on foot. Saida says she and her husband, a fighter named Yassine, paid smugglers \$6,000 to shepherd them out of the city. Yassine died on the journey, she says, leaving her stranded with their young son.

Saida, and other foreign women like her, flocked to the "Islamic caliphate," drawn by the promise that they could start a new life with strong, devout men. They say what they found there was ers, women divorced and remarried as

many as six times.

AJA University of Medical Sciences, Tehran.

The French woman recalls arriving in Raqqa and swiftly being placed in a women's dormitory, a "madafa" she calls it, where new female arrivals waited to be selected by ISIS fighters. She says she was shocked by the dormitory's rules and its relentless rounds of speed dating -- a jihadi form of Tinder.

"When the woman arrives in this madafa, she makes a sort of CV," Saida says. "She puts down her age, her name, what her personality is like, and what she looks for in a man. And men also post their CVs. It's 'dating.'"

"So you meet, you talk for 15-20 minsomething entirely different -- fighting in utes, and then it's a yes or no. If they both all female dorms, sex obsessed ISIS fight- agree then they get married. It's very quick," she adds. → 13

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

Iran, Armenia plan to boost disaster management co-op

Iran and Armenia plan to boost cooperation in the field of disaster management as well as search and rescue operations.

Armenia's Minister of Territorial Administration and Development Davit Lokyan and Iranian Red Crescent

Society's Director Amir Mohsen Ziaee met in Yerevan on Monday, discussing ways to increase cooperation in the abovementioned areas.

As the two neighboring countries, the most important thing is to share experiences in the field of natural disasters management with each other, IRNA guoted Ziaee as saying during the meeting.

Lokyan, for his part, stressed the importance of cooperation in mitigating effects of natural disasters and enhancing relief operations jointly between Iran and Armenia.

آغاز همکاریهای هلال احمر ایران با ارمنستان

به گزارش ایسنا، در دیدار امیرحسین ضیایی رییس هلال احمر کشورمان با داویت لوکیان وزیر توسعه و مدیریت منطقهای ارمنستان، موضوع همکاری دو کشور در مباحث امداد و نجات، مقابله با بلایای طبیعی و انتقال تجربیات بین دو کشور مورد بحث و تبادل نظر قرار گرفت و طرف ارمنی از توسعه همهجانبه روابط در زمینه امداد و نجات استقبال کرد. در این جلسه مقرر شد کارشناسان مربوط میان دو کشور مبادله شده و

زمینه های عملی همکاری میان دو کشور را بررسی کنند.

ENGLISH PROVERB

When the cat's away, the mice play

- **Explanation:** People sometimes misbehave when the person in authority, is absent
- For example: When the teacher left for a few minutes, the children nearly wrecked the classroom. When the cat's away, the mice will play.

PHRASAL VERB

Wrap up

Meaning: cover in paper, dress warmly, finish For example: A short report that repeats the main points, for example of a news broadcast

ENGLISH IDIOM

Good walls make good neighbors

Explanation: Respecting one another's privacy helps create a good relationship between neighbors For example: We try not to disturb the people next door. Good walls make good neighbors.

Israeli troops attack Palestinian sit-inners in al-Quds

Israeli forces have attacked Palestinians staging a sit-in outside the al-Aqsa Mosque compound in East al-Quds (Jerusalem) in protest at Tel Aviv's recent restrictive measures around the holy Mus-

According to Quds News Network, the Israeli troops on Tuesday clashed with the sit-inners outside the Lions Gate, a main entrance to the compound in the Old City of al-Quds, for the third consecutive day after Tel Aviv implemented new measures that ban worshipers from performing their prayers freely in the mosque.

Israeli forces on Sunday reopened the compound, which includes the al-Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock, two days after they closed it following a deadly shooting in the area.

Muslims, however, refused to enter the site in protest at the newly-imposed security measures, including the installation of metal detectors and cameras. Dozens of worshipers held prayers outside the compound.

Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Rami Hamdallah on Tuesday condemned the Israeli measures, warning against their repercussions.

While Palestinians cannot enter the mosque freely, about 155 Israeli settlers, guarded by regime forces, stormed the al-Aqsa Mosque compound on Tuesday.

The occupied lands have witnessed tensions ever since Israeli forces imposed restrictions on the entry of Palestinian worshipers into al-Aqsa Mosque compound two years ago.

The Tel Aviv regime has been trying



to change the demographic makeup of both Muslims and Jews. al-Quds (Jerusalem) by constructing settlements, destroying historical sites and expelling the local population.

More than 300 Palestinians have lost their lives at the hands of Israeli forces since October 2015, when the tensions

Tel Aviv has come under fire for using violence against Palestinians and adopting a policy of shoot-to-kill.

Protest calls grow as Israel tightens grip on al-Aqsa

Meantime, President Mahmoud Abbas' Fatah party has called for a "Day of Rage" to protest against new security measures introduced by Israel at a al-

The call follows the implementation of metal detectors and turnstiles at the entrance of al-Aqsa compound after a deadly shootout there on Friday.

In that incident, two Israeli security officers died after an alleged attack by three Palestinians - who were themselves killed by Israeli police following the violence.

Tensions have soared since Friday.

The Red Cross said on Tuesday that at least 50 Palestinians were wounded in overnight clashes with Israeli police remaining near the sacred site, known as the Temple Mount to Jews and the Noble Sanctuary to Muslims.

At least four paramedics were injured, Quds (Jerusalem) site which is holy to and 15 others were hit by rubber bullets,

The Hamas and Islamic Jihad movements have also called for protests in the West Bank and Gaza Strip over the new security measures.

The "Day of Rage" is set to take place on Wednesday.

Fatah is calling for Friday prayers to be conducted in public squares in Palestinian cities to denounce what they described as "terrorist procedures" by Israel in occupied East Jerusalem.

Palestinians have already been performing prayers outside the compound in protest, since it was reopened on Sunday after a two-day closure.

Al-Quds (Jerusalem) Grand Mufti Mohammed Ahmed Hussein criticized the new measures as altering the status quo, which gives Muslims religious control over the site and permits Jews to visit but not pray there.

In a statement, Israeli police spokesman Micky Rosenfeld said that Israeli forces removed worshippers at Lions' Gate for allegedly blocking the street while performing prayers.

The Palestinians fear Israel is trying to retake control of the site by stealth. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu stressed on Friday that he did not want to alter the

The site houses the al-Agsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock shrine, Islam's third holiest site after Mecca and Medina, but also the ruins of the Biblical Jewish

Questions about control of the site frequently lead to outbursts of fighting.

(Source: agencies)

Republicans divided after second healthcare bill collapses

Republicans in the United States Congress were in chaos over healthcare legislation after a second attempt to pass a bill in the Senate collapsed late on Monday, with President Donald Trump calling for an outright repeal of Obamacare and others seeking a change in direction toward bipartisanship.

"Regretfully, it is now apparent that the effort to repeal and immediately replace the failure of Obamacare will not be successful," Senate Majority Leader Mitch Mc-Connell said in a statement.

Two of McConnell's Senate conservatives announced just hours earlier that they would not support the Republican leader's latest version of legislation to repeal portions of President Barack Obama's landmark 2010 healthcare law and replace them with new, less costly healthcare provisions.

With Republican Senators Mike Lee and Jerry Moran joining Senators Susan Collins and Rand Paul in opposition - and amid a solid wall of opposition from Democrats - McConnell no longer had enough votes to pass a Republican healthcare bill in the 100-member Senate.

It was the latest in a series of healthcare setbacks for Republicans, despite their control of both chambers of Congress and the White House.

It also came after seven straight years of promising voters that they would repeal Obamacare if they were to control Congress and the White House, only to find that

the public liked Obamacare more than their proposed substitutes, according to public opinion polls

The non-partisan Congressional Budget Office has determined that the various versions of Republican healthcare legislation would result in anywhere from 18 million to 23 million people losing their health insurance.

However, Republicans argue that Obamacare is a government over-reach and costs too much money.

Monday's developments had an immediate impact on financial markets as Asian shares stepped back from more than two-year highs on Tuesday and the dollar

In the United States, the latest setback delivered a major political blow to Trump, who has failed to win any major legislative initiative in the first six months of his presidency. In response, Trump said on Twitter Congress should

immediately repeal Obamacare and "start from a clean slate" on a new healthcare plan. He said Democrats would join such an effort, even though they have refused to have any part of an Obamacare repeal.

McConnell, apparently backing Trump's latest approach, announced that he would try to bring legislation to repeal Obamacare to the Senate floor in coming days, but with a two-year delay in implementation to assure a smooth transition.

That idea was rejected by Republicans months ago



in favor of simultaneously repealing and replacing Obamacare in order to avoid chaos in insurance markets.

Republican Senator John McCain, who is recovering from surgery in his home state of Arizona, urged a much different change of course - bipar-

"The Congress must now return to regular order, hold hearings, receive input from members of both parties" and pass a bill that "finally provides Americans with access to quality and affordable health care," McCain

(Source: Reuters)

UK Brexit minister sparks debate by leaving EU talks early

come under fire for heading back to his country only hours after beginning the second round of negotiations with the European Union (EU) in Brussels, Bel-

Labour said Davis' hasty return showed that the government of Prime Minister Theresa May was in "disarray" following last month's general election and could no longer guarantee a good Brexit deal.

"Since the election, the government has been in disarray. There is no agreed negotiating team is not prepared and the prime minister has lost her authority. Meanwhile the clock is ticking and the risks are increasing day by day," said Keir Starmer, the shadow Brexit secretary.

"We need a fresh approach and to see real progress in negotiations. That means engaging with the substance of talks. And it means resolving vital issues such as citizens' rights that have already dragged on for too long," he added.

Davis led a team of 98 British officials, who had traveled to the European Com-

Britain's Brexit minister David Davis has cabinet position on vital Brexit issues, the mission's headquarters to discuss the creased the amount of time given to terms of Brexit with Chief EU negotiator Michel Barnier.

Ironically, he left the talks soon after telling reporters that it was time "to get down to work" and "to make this a successful negotiation."

May's weakened political position following the June 8 general election has allowed Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn to seek a more active role in Brexit talks.

After returning to London, Davis voted twice with the government to against a Labour motion that would have inbackbenchers' legislation.

The move prompted speculation that Davis had left merely to take part in the vote, a point that was rejected by a spokeswoman for the minister.

Noting that it was up to the 98 officials to negotiate on behalf of Davis, the spokeswoman said he would return to Brussels on Thursday.

Unsatisfied with the explanation, however, the Liberal Democrats mocked Davis for "skulking back to the UK after just half a day." (Source: Press TV)

Myanmar: UN probe 'can only aggravate' Rakhine tension

A United Nations mission investigating allegations of rape, torture and killings of Rohingya Muslims would only "aggravate" troubles in Rakhine state, the security adviser of Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi told diplomats.

Thaung Tun's comments on Tuesday came less than a month after Myanmar declined to grant visas to three UN-appointed experts who would probe allegations of abuse against the minority by the armed forces.

"We dissociated ourselves from the decision because we found that it was less than constructive," Thaung Tun told UN officials and diplomats.

"We feel that that mission can only aggravate the situation on the ground," he said.

Aung San Suu Kyi and several high-level Myanmar officials have been painfully reluctant to address the Rohingya issue, and are often criticized for their failure to stem human rights abuses.

The north of Myanmar's Rakhine state has been under lockdown since October, when the military launched a security operation in response to what it claims was an attack by Rohingya armed men on border posts, in

which nine police officers were killed. More than 90,000 Rohingya have been forced to flee their homes since the crackdown began, according to



UN estimates

A UN report in February said the campaign against the Rohingya, who were stripped of their citizenship in 1982, "very likely" amounted to war crimes.

Following the report, the UN adopted a resolution in March to set up an independent, international mission to investigate the alleged abuses. It stopped short of calling for a Commission of Inquiry, the UN's highest level investigation.

Thaung Tun did not directly address the allegations outlined in the report, but said Myanmar had a "clear right to defend the country by lawful means" as it tackles "increasing terrorist activities" Myanmar officials say a domestic investigation, led by Vice

President Myint Swe, a former lieutenant general, is sufficient. Last week, Nikki Haley, the United States ambassador to the UN, called on Myanmar to accept the mission, arguing that the "international community cannot overlook what is happening" in the country.

Human Rights Watch warned that Myanmar's government risked getting bracketed with "pariah states" like North Korea and Syria if it did not allow the UN to investigate alleged crimes.

The UN investigators must provide a verbal update in September and a full report next year on its findings. This week, Myanmar's Ministry of Information escorted

more than a dozen journalists to parts of Rakhine state.

Villagers told reporters about alleged abuses by troops in the area. Rohingya women said their husbands and sons were arbitrarily detained and described killings and arson by security forces.

On Friday, Thura San Lwin, commander of Myanmar's Border Guard Police, said some villagers had made what he said were erroneous claims and were subsequently charged and jailed for lying to authorities.

(Source: agencies)

Turkey arrests six human rights activists

Six people, including the director of Amnesty International in Turkey, were arrested by a court order on Tuesday for "helping an armed terrorist organization", according to the staterun Anadolu Agency news outlet.

They were among the 10 who were detained in Istanbul earlier in July during a workshop on Buyukada, an island near

The group comprised eight Turkish human rights activists, one Swedish trainer and one German trainer. The Istanbul court ordered the other four be released on

the condition of judicial control. Those arrested include Amnesty International Director Idil

Eser, Gunal KurSun, Ozlem Dalk?ran, Veli Acu, Ali Garavi ile and Peter Steudtner Those released pending trial included Nalan Erkem, Sey-

hmus Ozbekli, Nejat Tastan and Ilknur Ustunto. The activists had been questioned by the prosecutor since they were taken into custody on July 5.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has accused them of harboring similar intentions to the perpetrators of a failed coup attempt last year.

That claim was rebuffed by Amnesty International, the rights group that has seen two of its top Turkey officials detained in a month.

(Source: Anadolu)

Russia, after U.S. meeting on diplomatic row, says ready to retaliate

Russia's Foreign Ministry said on Tuesday Moscow reserved the right to take retaliatory measures against the United States after a meeting in Washington ended without a deal on returning seized Russian diplomatic property.

Barack Obama, then U.S. president, ordered the seizure of two Russian diplomatic compounds and the expulsion of 35 Russian diplomats in December over what he said was their involvement in hacking the 2016 U.S. presidential election campaign, something Russia flatly denies.

Moscow has said a lot would depend on the outcome of a meeting in Washington on Monday between Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov and U.S. Undersecretary of State Thomas Shannon who discussed the diplomatic row.

But the Foreign Ministry said in a statement on Tuesday a resolution to the problem had not yet been found.

"The Russian side stressed (in the meeting) that if Washington does not remove this and other irritants, including continued obstacles to the work of our diplomatic institutions, we reserve the right to take retaliatory measures based on the principle of reciprocity," the statement said.

(Source: Reuters)

Egypt ends visa-free entry for Qatari citizens

Egypt's foreign ministry has announced the end of visa-free travel for Qataris - the latest measure taken against Doha in the Persian Gulf Crisis.

Qatari nationals will now have to apply for a visa to enter Egypt, the ministry said on Monday. It does not make sense to keep making exceptions for

Qatar and giving it privileges in light of its current positions," said Ahmed Abu Zeid, Egypt's foreign ministry spokesman. The restriction will not affect spouses and children of

Egyptian nationals, as well as Qatari nationals who are studying at Egyptian public universities, Abu Zeid said. Media reports quoted sources at Cairo International Air-

port as saying that the decision would be implemented as of Wednesday or Thursday. Egypt's state-run Ahram Online publication said earlier on Monday that the move would affect not only the holders of ordinary passports

but also those with a diplomatic or special travel documents. The development comes six weeks after Egypt, along with the House of Saud regime, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Bahrain, cut ties with Qatar on June 5 and imposed an

air, sea and land blockade on the country. (Source: agencies)

China's Xi pledges 'unremitting' efforts for Middle East peace

1 Diplomats say that China is trying to play the role of "honest broker" in the Middle East, as it lacks the historical baggage of the Americans or the Europeans. Xi told visiting Israeli Prime

Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in March that peaceful coexistence between Israel and the Palestinians would be good for both parties and the region, and that it was favored by the international commu-

Netanyahu's trip came just days after China hosted Saudi Árabia's King Salman and signed deals worth as much as \$65 billion with Riyadh.

China also has close ties with Iran, whose nuclear program has seriously alarmed Israel and Saudi Arabia.

More broadly, China hopes a peaceful Middle East will lessen the flow of ethnic Uighurs, a Muslim people from the far western Chinese region of Xinjiang, to Syria and Iraq to join up with militant groups there.

(Source: Reuters)

Mourinho: Referee sent off Valencia after I refused to substitute him

Jose Mourinho revealed Antonio Valencia was sent off in the friendly win against Real Salt Lake after he refused a request from the referee to substitute the Manchester United full-back.

Romelu Lukaku scored his first United goal as substitute Valencia saw red in Monday's 2-1 pre-season victory at Rio Tinto Stadium.

Leading 2-1 at half-time, Valencia was introduced but he lasted only 15 minutes after a late tackle from behind on RSL's Sebastian Saucedo, who was involved in a heavy challenge on Juan



Mata only moments earlier. Referee Allen Chapman initially awarded a free-kick but the MLS official then suddenly brandished a red card after speaking with Mourinho on he sidelines.

"I think the delay was because the referee asked me to change the player and didn't," Mourinho told re-

"Because I don't agree with the card. Because Saucedo, I think is the name of the boy,

he was really aggressive during all of the second-half, with what happened to Mata and some other actions where it was a bit dangerous, which I understand.

Young people, enthusiasm playing against Manchester United, but you come with the mentality of a friendly match and in the end you find yourself in a different mentality.

"But it's pre-season, no problem and also a good experience for us to play with one player less

It was a memorable outing for Lukaku, who opened his account for United after debuting in the 5-2 rout of LA Galaxy last week.

(Source: FourFourTwo)

Barcelona 'relaxed' over **Neymar reports**

Barcelona claim that they are "very calm" over claims Paris Saint-Germain could make an approach for their Brazilian for-

Earlier this week, a story broke in the Italian media claiming that PSG's Qatari owners were willing to activate Neymar's £195m release clause.

The story went on to claim Neymar would be offered a wage in the region of £25m-per-year to play in the French capital.

But Barcelona have claimed that they are confident the 25-year-old has no desire to quit the Spanish club.

"Selling Neymar is not something the club would think about," spokesman Josep Vives said at a press conference. "We

"He is one of the most important players we have, we will not

consider any offers we receive for him."

Vives also firmly denied that Neymar had grown unhappy at the club, despite rumours that he has grown unhappy at always playing second-fiddle to Lionel Messi.

(Source: Independent)

Roma legend Totti to become club director

AS Roma legend Francesco Totti has announced that he is to take up a new role as a director for the Serie A club.

The 40-year-old former Italy forward got an emotional

sendoff at the Stadio Olimpico in May in his last game for the club, the only one he played for as a professional and the one he supported as a boy.

But he had appeared to hint that he was toying with the idea of continuing his playing career abroad. "The first part (of my career) is over, that of a player, and now begins another important assignment as a director, where hopefully I can have a similar impact as I did on the pitch," Totti, Serie A's second highest scorer of all time, told Roma's in-house TV channel

(Source: ANSA)

Federer qualifies for ATP Finals for record 15th time

Roger Federer has secured his place in the ATP Finals for a record 15th time after the Swiss world number three won a record eighth Wimbledon title on Sunday, the Association of Tennis Pro-

fessionals confirmed.



"I look forward to returning to London in November," Federer said. "I was sad not to be able to compete last year as I love playing there and had not missed the event since 2002."

The 19-times grand slam winner has won five tournaments this year, including the Australian Open, and is on target to return to the top of the world rankings for the first time since 2012

if he maintains the form that has earned him a 31-2 record. Federer and Nadal will be joined at the Nov. 12-19 event by the remainder of the top eight players in the Race to London standings following the Paris Masters.

(Source: Reuters)

Messi, Neymar, Suarez intimidate rivals, says Barcelona coach Valverde



New Barcelona coach Ernesto Valverde laughed off the idea of bringing in new players on Monday saying the best signings were the players already in the

"I'm more than happy with the way things stand," said Valverde when pressed on the potential signing of Paris Saint-Germain midfielder Marco Verratti.

"Happy with the players, happy with their work and their attitude," he said as his players prepare for their trip to the United States on Wednesday.

FC Barcelona's Lionel Messi is congratulated after scoring by his teammate Neymar. AP

"I really don't care about any player anywhere else,"

he said, knowing fans will be keen to win back the Spanish League title and indeed the Champions League, both won by their arch-rivals Real Madrid.

"Even if you might argue we need back up in certain areas," he said, adding Barcelona had no offers on the table for any of their players either. "For me, the best signings are the players I already

have in my team."

He said Lionel Messi, Luis Suarez and Neymar, Barcelona's attacking trident were "a huge factor in the intimidation of our rivals."

"Messi is a unique player and wherever I play him he will flourish. He will continue in the role he has always had,

he'll continue to do that very well," he said.

Over the last two seasons Valverde's predecessor Luis Enrique had sometimes strained relations with Messi, who he pulled deeper and then pushed out to the right.

"We need him both as a creator of chances and a finisher of chances, where he really makes the difference," insisted the former Athletic Bilbao coach.

"As for Neymar — he's doing very well in his current role, although we know he too could play in other roles," said Valverde of the 25-year-old Brazil captain.

Barcelona play Juventus, Manchester United and Real Madrid in a lightening tour of the United States next week.

Dortmund say they will not be selling in demand striker Aubameyang



Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang will not be sold and will remain at Borussia Dortmund this summer, according to reports in Germany.

Aubameyang has been linked with several clubs in Europe during this transfer window, as well as a possible move to the Chinese Super League.

However it now appears as if the Ga in the yellow and black of Dortmund in the 2017/18 season.

According to German newspaper Kicker, Dortmund had internally set a time limit in which to sell Aubameyang, in order to give themselves time to find a replacement for their challenges in the Bundesliga and Champions League this season.

Dortmund CEO Hans-Joachim Watzke said on Sunday that they had given the striker, who has been at the club since 2013, <a few days' to make his mind up. This has now passed without any deal being agreed.

The 28-year-old, who has a contract at

Dortmund until 2020, was linked to clubs as wide ranging as AC Milan, Chelsea and Atletico Madrid in recent months.

Now, however, Dortmund would only consider a sale if a massive offer was made, in the region of £100million, say the German reports.

Aubameyang appeared for Dortmund bon international will continue to turn out in a friendly against Milan in Guangzhou on Tuesday, and scored twice in a 3-1 victory. He also scored 31 league goals in 32 games last season.

Before Tuesday's friendly, Dortmund manager Peter Bosz said: As long as the transfer window is open there will be rumours, and that will be the situation until the end of August.'

The news will come as another blow to Chelsea, who had been considering Aubameyand as a possible replacement for Diego Costa, having missed out on Romelu Lukaku to Manchester United.

(Source: Daily Mail)

Former Italy forward Antonio Cassano: 'I'm not retiring'



Antonio Cassano called a Press conference to announce his retirement - then decided he'd keep playing for Verona.

It was reported this morning that the striker was homesick, and had decided to call time on his playing career just eight days after signing for the Butei.

16.00 Italian time, but when FantAntonio turned up he declared he had changed

"I wanted to communicate to you my non-choice," Cassano began by saying.

"It was a tough time this morning, I was tired and I had a meeting with the director [Filippo Fusco, also present at the conference] and said İ wanted to take a break.

"My choice is to keep playing, I had a moment of weakness. I often think with my gut, this time I decided with my head, thanks to my wife, the director and [Coach Fabio] Pecchia.

"I want to win this bet, this morning my gut was wrong as it has been at other times. I want to continue this challenge, and I'm sure I'll win.

"I want to say thank you the President [Maurizio Setti], the director and Fabio who has helped me since yesterday and has tried to bring my family here.

"The decision I made with my gut was a crazy thing, I want to have a great season

"The fans? I wasn't going to leave for another team, I apologise if they felt betrayed. They're the 13th man on the pitch, not the 12th.

"I spent a year-and-a-half at home, and readjusting to a pre-season training camp without my family made me want to go back to them.

"The management performed a miracle by bringing my family to the ritiro, I want to get back on the pitch.

(Source: Football Italia)





Was great meeting thibautcourtois @marincilic_official yesterday, unlucky with his ooo injury but fought till the end! #wimbledon



m10_official Good afternoon Europe, good evening Shanghai . Out for dinner with @granitxhaka, @seadk6



brfootball Manchester United are reportedly considering a final £60M bid for Tottenham's Eric Dier.

Iran will face uphill task at World Junior Water Polo Championships: Ciric

S P O R T S Iran water polo coach Aleksande s k dar Ciric says that they have been drawn in a tough group in the 19th FINA World Men's Junior Water Polo Championships.

Iran have been drawn in Group A along with the U.S., Russia, Greece and Puerto Rico.

Group B consists of the Netherlands, Montenegro, Spain, Japan and Croatia.

Hosts Serbia, the defending champions, will play in group C against New Zealand, Australia, China, and Argentina.

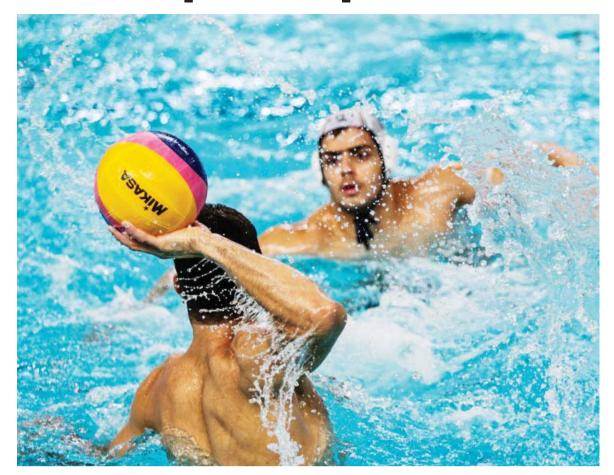
Silver and bronze medalists at the previous World championships – Italy and Hungary – are in group D, and will cross swords Egypt, Canada and South Africa.

"We are in a tough group since three powerhouse teams are in the group. The U.S. coach has said they are well-prepared for the competition. Russia and Greece are favorites as well," Ciric said.

"Iran will have difficult matches in the group but we can qualify for the next stage. We will hold a training camp in Belgrade a week ahead of the competition to get well-prepared for the event," Ciric added.

"We became runners-up in the Islamic Solidarity Games in Baku and I believe that Iran water polo team are getting better every day," the Serbian coach added.

There will be four groups of five teams, which form groups A, B, C and D. The four highest ranked teams in each group will qualify for the Quarter Final Round. The second and third ranked teams will meet in the second round, while the fourth and fifth in each group will be eliminated from the race for medals, but will play for positions 13th to 20th.



Sanaye Gitipasand eye second title at AFC Futsal Club Championship



Over the years, Islamic Republic of Iran has established itself as a dominant force, not only in the Continent but also in world futsal. As far as club competition goes, few can claim to have a better record than Sanaye Giti Pasand

Despite appearing in only their third edition of the championship, Giti Pasand are the only Iranian team to have appeared in two successive finals, winning the coveted crown in 2012 before losing their title defense agonizingly on penalties to Chonburi Blue Wave in 2013.

Giti Pasand boast an impressive four players – Ahmad Esmaeilpour, Mohammad Keshavarz, Ali Hassan-

zadeh and Mehran Alighadr – from Iran's historic third place finish at the FIFA Futsal World Cup Colombia 2016.

All eyes will be on Iranian legend Ahmad Esmaeil-pour, who amazed spectators with his spectacular performances that won him the Bronze Ball award in Colombia. The 28-year-old has also won the continental club championship not once, but twice, clinching the top-scorer award with nine goals en route to Giti Pasand's solitary triumph in 2012.

The AFC Futsal Club Championship 2017 will be held between 20–30 July 2017 in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. (Source: AFC)

Wenger plays down Alexis Sanchez's Champions League talk



Arsene Wenger has downplayed Alexis Sanchez's comments that he wants Champions League football, and said that "a decision has been made" not to sell the Chile international.

Sanchez told media back home in Chile this week that he wants to play in the Champions League, which many interpreted as a desire to leave Arsenal after they missed out on the competition for the first time since 1997

But Wenger -- who has repeatedly said he will not sell the star forward even if he does not sign a new contract -- was quick to dismiss the latest development in the transfer saga.

"I do not give too much importance to things that are

translated. What I got, he didn't really mean that," Wenger said at a news conference in Shanghai, where Arsenal take on Bayern Munich in a preseason friendly on Wednesday.

"For us the main focus is the Premier League, and the Premier League for me these days is more important than the Champions League. We have rested sometimes players in the group stage of the Champions League for the Premier League so it has become most important for us.

"For the rest, we played 20 years in the Champions League, 17 years before Sanchez arrived and three years with him. So he can get us back in there."

(Source: ESPN)

Ferry Weertman edges Jordan Wilimovsky for 10K open water world title



After swimming for almost two hours in open water, Olympic champion Ferry Weertman nipped defending champ Jordan Wilimovsky by one-tenth of a second for the 10-kilometer title at the world championships on Tuesday.

Weertman earned the Netherlands' first medal of the championships, on Lake Balaton, about 130 kilometers (80 miles) southwest of Budapest.

Marc-Antoine Olivier of France, who won the 5K on Saturday, was 0.70 seconds behind for bronze. He became the first Frenchman to own more than one medal in open water swimming at the worlds.

In Budapest, Russia won its sixth straight women's team technical synchronized swimming title for its fourth gold medal of the championships.

The team of Maria Shurochkina, Veronika Kalinina, Daria Bayandina, Anastasia Bayandina, Maryna Goliadkina, Darina Valitova, Polina Komar, Vlada Chigireva performed last and maintained the team's unbeaten record in the event with 96.0109 points.

Chinese swimmers Wang Qianyi, Wang Liuyi, Guo Li, Xiao Yanning, Tang Mengni, Feng Yu, Liang Xinping and Yin Chengxin claimed silver with 94.2165, followed by Japan on 93.1690 for its first medal of the championships.

Chigireva and Shurochkina equaled Daria Korobova's three gold medals in this event. Only Russian compatriots Aleksandra Patskevich, Alla Shishkina and Angelika Timanina have more with four.

(Source

Spain FA boss Villar and son arrested in corruption investigation

Spanish FA president Angel Maria Villar and his son, former CONMEBOL executive Gorka Villar, and three other men have been arrested as part of a corruption investigation.

A spokesman for Spain's Guardia Civil told The Associated Press that police agents raided the offices of the Real Federacion Espanola de Futbol (RFEF) early Tuesday as part of an investigation into its finances.

The office of the state prosecutor in charge of anti-corruption said they suspect Villar, who is FIFA's senior vice president and a UEFA vice president, of having arranged matches for Spain's national team that led to business deals that benefited his son.

The other three men arrested were Juan Padron, the federation's vice president of economic affairs, along with the president and the secretary of the regional federation for Tenerife.

Police said the five men were arrested on charges of improper management, misappropriation of funds, corruption and falsifying documents as part of a probe into the finances of the federations. The raids were carried out by the Guardia Civil's anti-corruption unit as part of an operation called "SOULE."

Inigo Mendez de Vigo, Spain's minister of education,



culture and sport, told national television moments after the raids that "in Spain the laws are enforced, the laws are the same for all, and nobody, nobody is above the law."

the same for all, and nobody, nobody is above the law."

UEFA said in a statement it is "aware of the reports regarding Mr. Villar Llona. We have no comment to make at this time."

Spanish newspaper El Pais reports that the investigation is being overseen by Audiencia Nacional judge Santiago Pedraz and is looking into alleged use of RFEF money to secure support from Spain's regional federations for Villar's recent re-election for an eighth consec-

utive term as federation president.

Former Athletic Bilbao player Villar founded Spain's players union (AFE) in 1978 before becoming RFEF chief in 1988. A strong ally of Sepp Blatter and Michel Platini for many years, the Basque became a vice president of FIFA in 2002, and was last year made acting chairman of the Organising Committee for the World Cup 2018 after corruption charges had cleared away many of the previous office holders in world football's governing body.

Villar's seven terms as RFEF president have brought regular allegations of a lack of transparency within the Spanish FA's finances and decision-making processes. A number of court cases have been brought over the years, but no charges ever stuck.

Gorka Villar stepped down as CONMEBOL director general in July 2016 after his time with the South American federation had also brought many allegations of wrongdoing. He has also been a member of FIFA's Reform Panel.

The raid comes two days before an RFEF assembly is scheduled to decide the dates for Spanish football's 2017-18 calendar.

(Source: Soccernet)

Iraqi forward Marwan Hussein joins Iran's Sepahan

Iranian top flight football club Sepahan have completed the signing of Iraqi international striker Marwan Hussein Al-Aieeli

Hussein has joined the Isfahan based club on a two-year contract for an undisclosed fee.

Marwan Hussein Al-Ajeeli is a member of Iraq's Al-Shorta at the moment and will join Sepahan after the end of Iraqi Premier League.

The 25-year-old striker has played 11 times for Iraq national football team.

His nickname is Cavani of Iraq.

Sepahan have already signed a contract with Brazilian defender Jairo Rodrigues Peixoto Filho, commonly known as Jairo

(Source: Tasnim)

Javelin thrower Motaghian seizes silver at World Para Athletics Championships

Iranian javelin thrower Hashemiyeh Motaghian snatched a silver medal at the World Para Athletics Championships.

On Monday night, Motaghian claimed the silver with a throw of 20.66m in F56. She bettered Asia's record by 14 centimeters as well.

The gold medal went to Latvia's Diana Dadzite who threw 27.07m in F55. Martina Willing from Germany also won the bronze medal, throwing 20.57m.

The World Para Athletics Championships will run through to 23 July. More than 1,150 athletes from 90 countries are competing in 202 medal events.

(Source: Paralympic.ir)

Iran to send seven weightlifters to Youth Asian Championship

Iran will participate at the 19th Youth Asian Weightlifting Championship with seven representatives.

The competition will be held in Kathmandu, Nepal from July 21 to 29.

The team, headed by Mohammad Hossein Barkhah were expected to take part in the competition with four weightlifters.

The Iranian team consists of Ruhollah Beiralvand (69kg), Afshin Taheri (77kg), Amir Reza Asgari and Mehdi Papi (85kg), Hamid Reza Zare (94kg), Mohammad Shahabandaz and Hossein Saki (+94kg).

(Source: Tasnim)

Iran B basketball team down India at William Jones Cup

Iran B basketball team routed India 88-44 in the 39th edition of the William Jones Cup on Tuesday.

The Iranian team have lost to Atlétas All-Star Lithuania and South Korea and defeated Chinese Taipei White and India so far. The Iranian team will play Team Canada 150 next on Wednesday in the Day 5 of the competition.

The R. William Jones Cup, also known as the Jones Cup, is an international basketball tournament held annually since 1977 in Taipei, Taiwan.

It was named in honor of basketball promoter Renato William Jones, who was one of the founders of the International Basketball Federation (FIBA). Like the Olympics and the FIBA Basketball World Cup, it has both men's and women's versions.

Iran have won the William Jones Cup five times.

(Source: Tasnim)

Iranian Paralympian powerlifter establishes new world record

Iranian Paralympian powerlifting star Majid Farzin has set a new world record of 238 kilograms in his 88-kilogram weight class, securing a gold medal at the 24th edition of Iran's National Par Powerlifting Competitions.

Hany Abdelhady from Egypt had set the previous record of 233 kilograms in Dubai, the United Arab Emirates, on February 18, 2016.

Seyyed Hamed Solhipour also lifted 230 kilograms at the Iran's National Par Powerlifting Competitions on Monday and won silver. Omid Hobab collected the bronze with a lift of 185 kilograms

The 24th edition of Iran's National Par Powerlifting Competitions started in the capital city of Tehran on July 16, and will conclude on July 18, 2017.

The tournament has attracted more than 100 Iranian Paralympian powerlifters from various corners of Iran.

Farzin clinched the gold medal at the men's 80-kilogram powerlifting event of the 2016 Summer Paralympics in Riocentro, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on September 12.

Farzin had a total weight score of 240 kilograms. He raised 230 kilograms first, and then elevated 235 and 240 kilograms in the second and third attempts.

China's Gu Xiaofei took silver in the men's 80-kilogram

China's Gu Xiaofei took silver in the men's 80-kilogram weightlifting class, having a combined total of 228 kilograms, while Uzbek powerlifter Akhror Bozorov bagged bronze with a total of 207 kilograms.

(Source: Press TV)

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NEWS IN BRIEF



Iranian, Polish musicians to do duet in Tehran

TEHRAN — Iranian pianist Sorush Zali d e s k and Polish violinist Katarzyna Feiner are scheduled to perform a duet at Tehran's Niavaran Cultural Center on July 25.

"Three Violin Sonatas Op. 137" by Austrian composer Franz Schubert and "Violin Sonata in No. 3 Op. 108" by German composer Johannes Brahms have been selected for the performance.

Zali and Feiner performed a duet in Gdansk, Poland in March 2016. They also gave performances in Tehran in 2007 and 2015.



Homayun Shajarian to give concert in London

R T TEHRAN — The celebrated Iranian d e s k vocalist Homayun Shajarian will give a concert at Barbican Center in London on October 12.

Entitled "Hava-ye Geryeh", the performance is a part of the Contemporary Music program that is organized by the

Shajarian is scheduled to perform a repertoire of pieces from his acclaimed albums "Nasim-e Vasi" and "Ba Setareh



"The 5th **Dimension, Before** the Past" published in German

TEHRAN — The German version of d e s k Iranian writer Farhad Nuri's novel "The 5th Dimension, Before the Past" has recently been published by Idea Publications in Munich, Germany.

Nuri wrote the book in both German and Persian simultaneously.

The Persian version was published by Roshangaran Publications in Tehran in 2016.

"The 5th Dimension, Before the Past" is about a Luxembourgian teacher, Franck Richter, who enters a parallel world whose passage of time is at a different rate from that on the earth.



"Stories for Nighttime" to be to reviewed at Tehran

TEHRAN — A Persian translation of d e s k American writer Ben Loory's "Stories for Nighttime and Some for the Day" will be reviewed during a session at Chera Café in Tehran on Thursday.

The author's debut short-story collection features 40 satirical and humorous, dark and perilous contemporary

fables. Translated by Asadollah Amrai, the book has been

published by Ofoq Publications in Tehran. The translator is scheduled to deliver a speech at the

Jury: railroad to pay \$3.9m for train death of film worker

SAVANNAH, Ga. (AP) — A railroad owner must pay \$3.9 million to the family of a movie worker killed on a Georgia railroad trestle in 2014, a jury decided Monday in civil verdict that found the company shared in the blame for the deadly freight train

collision even though the film crew was trespassing. The parents of Sarah Jones sued CSX Transportation in Chatham County State Court, saying the railroad shared blame for their daughters death. The 27-year-old camera assistant died in the crash Feb. 20, 2014, during the first day of shooting «Midnight Rider,» an ill-fated movie about Gregg Allman of the Allman Brothers Band.

«This trial disclosed a number of exceptionally poor judgments and ignored opportunities by CSX Transportation to prevent this tragedy,» Jones parents, Richard and Elizabeth Jones of Columbia, South Carolina, said in a written statement.

CSX plans to appeal the jury>s decision, said Rob Doolittle, a spokesman for the Jacksonville, Florida-based company.

'Iran's largest private premiere' set for "5 P.M."

TEHRAN — Tehran hosted on Monday d e s k night the star-studded premiere of "5 P.M.", the directorial debut of Mehran Modiri who called it the largest private premiere that an Iranian movie has ever received.

"Tonight, the largest private premiere in Iran's film history occurred; there is no artist who is not among us," said Modiri at the Kurosh Complex that has major movie theaters in the capital.

"This event is amazing and it is a great honor to have you here," he added.

A total of 630 guests from all fields of art attended the premiere of the comedy drama. Among the guests were veteran filmmaker Bahman Farmanara, maestro Hossein Alizadeh, vocalists Homayun Shajarian and Salar Aqili, and Government Spokesman Mohammad-Bager Nobakht.

Modiri also paid tribute to some recently-deceased celebrities including producer Ali Moallem, poet Afshin Yadollahi and actor Aref Lorestan.

"I eagerly wish they were here tonight and I'm sure they are somewhere here," he said.

"5 P.M." depicts a man who has to carry out a number of tasks on the last day of his life.

It was rumored that the film might fail to receive official permission to be screened due to several allegedly political innuendos within it.

Consequently, Modiri issued a statement last week and said "5 P.M." is not a political film. "It has been perceived as political," he noted.

Modiri who is mostly famous for TV comedy series such as such as "Good Time", "Pavarchin" and "Barareh Nights" made his directorial debut in TV in the early 1990s

His popular series introduced actors such as Reza Attaran and Reza Shafijam, who later became the pillars



Director Mehran Modiri attends the premiere of his debut feature-film "5 P.M." at Tehran's Kurosh Complex on July 17, 2017. (Fars/Soheil Sahranvard)

of numerous comedy productions.

In July 2016, the comedy king who also starred in most of his works announced his plan to quit working for TV during an interview on Haft (Seven), a TV program that reviews Iranian cinema and TV productions.

He also spoke about his intention of making a debut in not allow these words to be spread," he noted.

the motion picture industry with "5 P.M.".

"In my path to filmmaking, I intend to speak louder and in a more biting manner in the fields of politics and culture," said on the TV program.

"TV has no place for these words and its limitations do

"Shh! We Have a Plan" at Iranian bookstores

A R T TEHRAN — d e s k Irish writer and illustrator Chris Haughton's awardwinning book "Shh! We Have a Plan" has been published in Persian.

Nora Happarast is the translator of the book, which has been published by the Institute for Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults, the institute announced on

In "Shh! We Have a Plan", which was originally published in 2014, four friends, three big and one little, are out for a walk. Suddenly, they spot it - a beautiful bird perched high in a tree! They simply must have it and -

shh! - they have a plan. So they tiptoe, tip-toe very slowly, nets poised - "Ready one... ready two... ready three... GO!" But, at the turn of the page, we find a ridiculous bunch of very tangled characters and a blissfully oblivious bird, flying away. Published in over ten other

The front cover of the Persian version "of "Shh! We Have a Plan

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languages, the book brought Haughton many awards, including the Ezra Jack Keats Award and the Irish Book Award.

"Living Your Unlived Life" Persian audiobook appears at Tehran stores

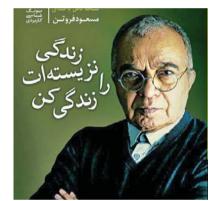
A R T TEHRAN — The d e s k Persian audiobook "Living Your Unlived Life" authored by the renowned therapist Robert Johnson and fellow Jungian psychologist Jerry M. Ruhl has recently been released in Tehran.

The audiobook was unveiled during a ceremony at the Book City Institute on Monday, the Persian service of ISNA reported on Tuesday.

Rendered into Persian by Simin Movahhed, the audiobook was narrated by film director Masud Forutan. They also were in attendance at the ceremony. In addition, a preface to the book has been narrated by filmmaker Ebrahim Hatamikia.

The book counsels on how to cope with feelings of failure or regret in the latter half of life and how to open to a more meaningful existence, even if outer circumstances cannot be

"By reading this book, I learned how much energy exists in the world that we



A poster for the Persian audiobook "Living Your Unlived Life"

can summon to experience a different life," Forutan said at the ceremony.

Forutan and Movahhed signed copies of the audiobook for the audience at the end of the ceremony.

The audiobook was published by the Culture of Life Foundation (not be confused with the one active in the

Oscar-winning actor Martin Landau dead at 89

NEW YORK (Reuters) — Martin Landau, a talented and prolific character actor who achieved TV stardom in "Mission: Impossible" and won an Oscar for his portrayal of a wasned-up Beia Lugosi in the sweetly bizarre 1994 film "Ed Wood", has died at age 89.

Landau died at UCLA Medical Center in Los Angeles on Saturday from unexpected complications during a short hospitalization for an undisclosed illness, publicist Dick Guttman said in a statement on Sunday.

His long career had remarkable ups and downs. He delivered acclaimed performances in movies by top directors including Francis Ford Coppola, Woody Allen and Tim Burton, was nominated three times for Oscars, and co-starred in the spy series "Mission: Impossible" in the 1960s alongside then-

But during career doldrums, the New York-born Landau languished in third-rate projects such as the laughable 1981 TV movie "The Harlem Globetrotters on Gilligan's Island" and the dispensable 1983 mutant monster movie "The Being."

"You know, I've always felt, pound for pound, I'm one of the best guys around; but you get stuck in people's eyes in a certain way, and it takes an imaginative director who will look at you and realize you can play different kinds of parts because you are an actor," Landau told the New York Times in 1988. "I don't like to sound immodest but I believe in what

Landau was named best supporting actor for his portrayal in "Ed Wood" of the fading, morphine-addicted Hungarian horrormeister Lugosi, star of "Dracula". The quirky



Actor Martin Landau smiles as he arrives at the 2012 Vanity Fair Oscar party in West Hollywood, California (Reuters/Danny Moloshok) February 26, 2012.

cast in Burton's homage to fabled bad-movie director Wood included Johnny Depp, Bill Murray, Sarah Jessica Parker and wrestler George "The Animal" Steele

"It's impossible to overestimate the job that Landau does here as this sepulchral Hungarian," Washington Post critic Hal Hinson wrote in his review of the 1994 film. "Both vocally and physically, he's simply astounding."

After winning the Oscar in March 1995, Landau gushed: "My God! What a night. What a life. What a moment. What everythina!

The tall, lanky Landau also was nominated for Oscars as

best supporting actor for his role as a visionary carmaker's partner in Coppola's 1988 "Tucker: The Man and His Dream" - the role that revived his career - and as a man who kills his mistress in Allen's 1989 "Crimes and Misdemeanors

Landau also is remembered for a role he did not get.

He was "Star Trek" creator Gene Roddenberry's first pick to portray pointy-eared Vulcan Mr. Spock, an iconic role that eventually went to Leonard Nimoy.

Nimoy then replaced Landau on "Mission: Impossible" when he left in a salary dispute.

Landau was friends in the 1950s with screen legends James Dean and Steve McQueen and studied under famed "method acting" proponent Lee Strasberg. His career included diverse roles in films, television and stage and was still going strong in the 2010s.

Early in his career, he made an impression with a villainous turn in director Alfred Hitchcock's classic 1959 thriller "North by Northwest." His character, a henchman who menaces star Cary Grant, meets his demise beneath the Mount Rushmore busts of U.S. presidents.

It was the role of master of disguise Rollin Hand on "Mission: Impossible" that propelled Landau to stardom. He was married to co-star Bain from 1957 until their divorce in 1993. In 1968, Landau took the Golden Globe award as best male television star.

He also co-starred with Bain in the 1970s sci-fi series "Space: 1999" and appeared in Rod Serling's acclaimed series The Twilight Zone". In 2011, he lent his voice to an episode of the venerable animated series "The Simpsons."

Charlize Theron on a mission to defy gender norms in "Atomic Blonde"

BERLIN (Reuters) — Oscar-winning actress Charlize Theron said she hoped to even the playing field in the male-dominated spy film genre with her latest role as a deadly agent in action-thriller movie "Atomic

Theron, 41, told Reuters at the Berlin premiere of "Atomic Blonde" on Monday.

"I saw potential in this character,"

with the same set of rules that men get to play in," added the actress, who won an Academy Award for her role as a serial killer in the 2003 film "Atomic Blonde," based on Antony

Johnston's graphic novel series "The Coldest City" and out in theaters on July 28, follows MI6's lethal assassin Lorraine Broughton (Theron) in Berlin "I wanted to explore a woman in in 1989. Broughton is on a mission to

this world and have her kind of play recover a list of double agents, in a city simmering with revolution and double-crossing hives of traitors.

Spy movies have been dominated by male leads, such as the "James Bond," "Mission Impossible" and "Bourne" franchise.

Theron, who shows off her physical fighting prowess in the role, said "the skill of this was definitely a challenge. I wanted people to believe that she was that good."



Cast member Charlize Theron poses on the red carpet as she arrives for the world premiere and screening of the movie 'Atomic Blonde' in Berlin, Germany, July 17, 2017. (Reuters/Fabrizio Bensch)