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# Imam Reza (AS) Intl. Festival opens in Qom



Top clerics attend the opening ceremony of the 15th Imam Reza (AS) International Festival at the holy shrine of Hazrat Masumeh (SA) in Qom on July 25, 2017.

## Neighbors should prioritize unifying topics: Turkish envoy

**EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW**  
By Mehdi Sepahvand, Negar Asadi

**TEHRAN** — "It is high time regional countries focused on things that unite us rather than divide us," the Turkish ambassador to Iran told The Tehran Times on Tuesday.

"Only then would we be able to delve into more difficult topics," Riza Hakan Tekin said during an exclusive interview in his office at the Turkish embassy. "If you ignore Saudi Arabia, Turkey, or Iran, you will not reach a meaningful atmosphere of trust and cooperation."

The ambassador likened neighbors to members of a family who may have

differences but they should work together to iron out differences.

"No two countries in the world have identical policies or interests. We may always have differences with countries which we have close relations with, as is the case with the members of a family... But in the bigger picture, we have cooperative relationships based on trust."

In response to a question on how political and economic issues influence Ankara's approach toward the region, Mr. Hakan Tekin said, "The basic thing for any country is pursuing their national interests. Interests cannot be seen only in the economic sector. You should have stability, peace, and a reliable environment." **->2**

## Larijani: Iran can 'limit' IAEA monitoring if U.S. thinks otherwise

**POLITICS** **TEHRAN** — Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani said Tuesday Iran can "limit" the International Atomic Energy Agency's monitoring activities of its nuclear program if Washington thinks they are not enough.

Deploing Washington for undermining the July 2015 nuclear deal, Larijani said Iran has the capability to take appropriate measures in response to such moves.

A week ago, the Trump administration announced new anti-Iran sanctions despite having grudgingly recertified Iran's compliance with the deal.

The parliament speaker said the recent sanctions are "nothing new" as they showed once again that Washington is not honoring the nuclear agreement.

Iran will respond to the move accordingly, he noted.

"Americans suppose that countering the nuclear agreement would benefit them, while they themselves will suffer the greatest harm," Larijani added.

The nuclear agreement is being supervised by the International Atomic Energy Agency of the United Nations, which has repeatedly found Iran to be in compliance with the deal. **->2**

## There is recovery in euro area, but reforms are needed: IMF

Euro area recovery has strengthened over the last year, bringing with it more jobs and opportunities. All euro area members are sharing in the recovery now, with the differences in growth rates across countries at their lowest level since the launch of the euro in 1999.

But even as the euro area economy gathers momentum, it still faces the hurdles of high public debt in some states, a lack of convergence in income levels among countries, and the need to reduce imbalances that built up before the crisis. Overcoming these requires further reforms, says the latest economic health check of the euro area.

Despite the recovery, a number of euro area countries—not least, Greece, Italy, and Portugal—are still saddled with high public debt. These countries have limited buffers to cushion against economic shocks, and could face higher borrowing costs when the current monetary stimulus is gradually reduced, through lower bond purchases by the European Central Bank, for example. These countries need to rebuild buffers now and put their public debt-to-GDP ratios solidly on a downward path.

The euro area also suffers from a deeper-rooted challenge: a lack of convergence between countries in income levels per person. In the 12 original euro area members, the catch-up in income levels across countries has stalled since the adoption of the euro.

(Source: imf.org)

## China-India dispute would not flare up: expert

By Javad Heirannia

**TEHRAN** — Gautam Adhikari, a senior fellow at the Center for American Progress (CAP), says it is "highly unlikely" that a dispute between India and China over a strip of land high in the Himalayas would go out of control.

"It is highly unlikely... that matters will go out of hand and spill over into a full scale conflict between the two Asian giants," Adhikari tells the Tehran Times.

India and China have each deployed about 3000 troops in the region known as Doklam in India and Donglang in China. The two countries fought over the Himalayan region in 1962.

Adhikari says any clash would not be in the interests of the two Asian giants.

Following is the text of the interview:

**■ What was the significance of the Indian prime minister's visit to the United States and what message did the trip send to Islamabad?**

A: Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi is keen on maintaining the trajectory of closer relations with the U.S. that has been a key element of Indian foreign policy under his administration as well as under the previous one. U.S. administrations led by George W Bush and Barack Obama oversaw a qualitative improvement in U.S.-India ties. Modi also enjoys strong support from a section of the Indian American community that lobbies inside the U.S. for close ties. And business, technological and economic interests have intensified significantly in recent years; business leaders on both sides have a stake in maintaining the momentum of improving

relations.

However, when President Donald Trump took office doubts arose in India about the level of interest in the new U.S. administration of continuing the process of improving relations with India. Would the relationship remain on track? Was the new administration sufficiently interested in South Asia beyond Afghanistan and Pakistan? The visit by Modi to Washington was thus a bit of a scouting mission. By most accounts, by the end of the visit the relationship appeared to be on track even though it remains unclear whether the Trump administration sees India as a key power player in Asia. The joint statement at the end of the visit had portions that were satisfying to New Delhi on the subject of China's Belt Road Initiative (BRI) and on terrorism emanating out of Pakistan. **->13**

## U.S. Navy ship fires warning shots at Iranian vessel: official

**POLITICS** **TEHRAN** — A U.S. Navy ship on Tuesday fired warning shots toward an Iranian vessel in the Persian Gulf, Fox News reported.

A U.S. official, speaking on the condition of anonymity, claimed the incident occurred after the Iranian vessel came within 150 yards (137 meters) of the USS Thunderbolt.

Tehran has not reacted to the report. Accompanied by several U.S. Coast Guard vessels, the Thunderbolt fired the warning shots after the Iranian vessel ignored radio

calls and the ship's whistle, the official said. The Iranian vessel appeared to be from Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), the official added.

Tension between Tehran and Washington escalated after Donald Trump became president of the United States.

In recent months, Trump has repeatedly lashed out at Iran over a variety of issues, including Tehran's missile program and the historic nuclear deal reached by Iran and six world powers.

During his presidential campaign last year,

Trump vowed that any Iranian vessels that harasses the U.S. Navy in the Gulf would be "shot out of the water." Similar incidents between the two countries are not uncommon.

Back in March, the U.S. navy claimed that its aircraft carrier George H.W. Bush was "harassed" and "threatened" by Iranian vessels while passing through the Strait of Hormuz on March 21.

Iran denied the claims, saying, "Reports released by American sources about unprofessional behavior of Iranian vessels are devoid of any truth." **->2**



## 2 dams inaugurated in west of Iran

Zamkan Dam and Jamishan Dam in Iran's western Kermanshah Province were inaugurated on Tuesday in the presence of First Vice-President Es'haq Jahangiri and Energy Minister Hamid Chitichian.

Zamkan Dam in Dalahoo County has been built at the cost of 1.25 trillion rials (about \$33 million), and 1.114 trillion rials (about \$29 million) has been expended for the construction of Jamishan Dam in Sonqor County.

## Iraq seeks 'substantial' Russian military, political presence: Maliki

Iraqi Vice President Nouri al-Maliki has called for "substantial" Russian military and political presence in the terror-ravaged country, saying this would bring "balance" to the entire region.

"It's well known that Russia has historically strong relations with Iraq, therefore we would like Russia to have a substantial presence in our country, both politically and militarily," said the senior Iraqi official during a meeting with speaker of Russia's upper house of parliament, Valentina Matviyenko, in Moscow, RT reported.

"This way, a balance would be established that would benefit the region, its peoples and its countries" added Maliki, saying his country believes "in Russia's role in solving most of the key international issues as well as improving stability and balance in our region and worldwide."

Matviyenko, in turn, welcomed Baghdad's desire to boost ties with Moscow and said, "Russia is also determined to expand its interaction with Iraq both politically and economically as well as in the military-technical sphere, and, of course, on the parliamentary level."

Maliki had earlier in the day held talks with Russia's Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, and is due to meet Russian President Vladimir Putin in St. Petersburg on Tuesday. **->13**



**INVITATION TO INTERNATIONAL TENDER**

**No.: 371974**

**KHOUZESTAN STEEL COMPANY INTENDS TO PURCHASE 20,000 MT METALLURGICAL COKE**

**See page 12**

**China's EXIM Bank and BMI Ink Financing Contracts for Electrification of Tehran-Mashhad Railway Project**

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**MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS**



**Accomplices to Tehran terror attacks arrested in two days: minister**

**POLITICS TEHRAN** — The intelligence minister **d e s k** said on Tuesday that all accomplices to the June 7 twin terrorist attacks in Tehran were identified and arrested only in two days.

"All direct and indirect affiliates (to the terrorist attacks) were arrested in a matter of two days," said Mahmoud Alavi.

Over the past few years, upwards of 120 terrorist plots have been foiled, Alavi added.

At least 17 were killed and 56 injured on June 7 as ISIS-linked assailants attacked Iran's Parliament building and the tomb of its revolutionary founder.



**Iran-Russia trade could hit \$10b: envoy**

**POLITICS TEHRAN** — Tehran's ambassador **d e s k** to Moscow has said trade volume between Iran and Russia could reach up to \$10 billion in the medium term from the \$2-billion high in 2016.

"We believe with the planning set trade volume between Iran and Russia can hit \$10 billion," Mehdi Sanaei told the Persian language Iran newspaper published on Tuesday.

The current \$2-billion trade volume does not match the great potentialities the two sides, he added.

During a March visit to Moscow, presidents of Russian and Iran signed 14 documents to expand cooperation in various fields.



**Economic figures write letter to Rouhani, shortlist challenges**

**POLITICS TEHRAN** — In a letter to President **d e s k** Hassan Rouhani, 72 economists and university figures have included a shortlist of economic challenges, urging him to pursue coordinated, expertly economic policies during his second term.

Among the enlisted ills, the economists have referred to government debts, inefficient administrative infrastructures, weak and unfair distribution of water resources, unproductive subsidy plans, multiple exchange rates, corruption, unemployment, etc.

They also urged Rouhani, who will be inaugurated for second term on August 5, to introduce capable economic authorities to address the challenges.



**Iran navy opens logistics base in northern city**

**POLITICS TEHRAN** — Iran's navy opened a **d e s k** logistics base on Tuesday in the northern city of Manjil to back up its fleet in the Caspian Sea.

"Providing backup to northern combat and training fleets is of critical importance," Navy commander Admiral Habibollah Sayyari said on the site.

Over the past years, Iran has taken practical steps to renovate its naval organization via constructing new naval bases and equipping its warships with mainly homegrown combat and defense capabilities.

In addition to the Caspian Sea, the navy keeps an active presence in the Persian Gulf.



**Iran, Turkey conclude first multipurpose joint taskforce**

**POLITICS TEHRAN** — Iranian and Turkish **d e s k** authorities concluded the first session of a joint taskforce to address a specter of mutual concerns in Tehran on Tuesday.

The taskforce is commissioned to deal with concerns arising from and expand cooperation on areas such as fight against terrorism, extraterritorial organized crimes, drug smuggling, border security, and illegal immigration among others.

The session was concluded after two days of negotiations in the capital Tehran.

The next round of negotiations is scheduled to come up with a mechanism for cooperation to reach goals set out for the taskforce.



**Tehran condemns Pakistan terrorist attack**

**POLITICS TEHRAN** — Iran condemned on **d e s k** Tuesday a deadly terrorist attack in Pakistan's Lahore, offering condolences to the Pakistani nation and government.

"Resorting to violence and terror is the offspring of a degenerate ideology that has nothing to express but mindless violence and bullying," Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Qassemi said in a statement.

A suicide bomber struck near a police team in the eastern city of Lahore Monday killing at least 26 and wounding another 54, many of them police officers. An outlawed Taliban faction claimed responsibility.

# Neighbors should prioritize unifying topics: Turkish envoy

**1 ->** "When you look at it from the economic angle, Turkey is one of the most developed countries in the region. It is the 16th biggest economy in the world - that is a fact - our GDP, our trade volume, and industrial base. We are poor in natural resources, oil and gas, but we did it through liberalizing our economy. When your economy is not that strong, when you don't have much trade relations or investment relations, then you may not mind instability much because you don't have much to lose. But that is not the case with us. We prosper from stability, because the more stability there is, the more economic transactions and investments there will be."

"Unfortunately what our region has been going through in the last decade or so has brought challenges to our economy. But we managed to allay all those potential damages. We continued our prosperity and economic growth. When looking at a situation like Syria's, we don't look at it from an economic angle, like reasoning: 'If we pursue Policy A we will make 10 million, and if we pursue Policy B we will gain 2 million, then let's do Policy A.' No, that's not us."

On Ankara's approach toward the Trump administration, the ambassador said although the U.S. is an old ally and important country to Ankara, Turkey thinks the power transition in Washington is not still finished. "There are a lot of question marks, both in terms of policy and in terms of staffing - there are still very important posts in the U.S. administration left vacant. We have to wait and see. We don't want to pre-judge. We hope for the best."

**■ 'Need to avoid politicization of issues'**

Ambassador Hakan Tekin also said environmental problems facing the region should not alienate Iran and Turkey. Instead, he said, they should act as a "bridge" between the two neighbors.

**"We should work together and not politicize the issue. It should be done in an objective, factual way.... It is not true that our dams on the Tigris and the Euphrates increase the chances of dust storms. However, regarding recent claims to that effect from Iran, we are ready to receive any argumentation that Iran has to justify their claims. We are always for dialogue."**

The diplomat also said his country was surprised by a sudden blockade of Qatar by Saudi Arabia and the UAE. Nevertheless, he said Turkey pushes for dialogue to settle the conflict.

"We were surprised like anybody else in the region about this crisis. Since we have close relations with Qatar and the other Arab countries, we wanted to do what we could to reach a quick resolution



© Tehran Times/Shahab Ghajoumi

**When your economy is not that strong, when you don't have much trade relations or investment relations, then you may not mind instability much because you don't have much to lose.**

on the issue. A resolution which will satisfy everyone involved in this problem. Our president started the phone diplomacy in this respect and the last effort was the visit paid by the Turkish president to the region. When we look at how the crisis started and where we are now, we see changes in the situation in a positive way and we hope that we can dwell on that and we will continue our efforts, so that we can resolve this crisis."

**"We are already dealing with a lot of tension in the region and we do not need an additional one. We think it will not be in the interests of anybody, neither the countries which are directly involved in the crisis nor the other countries in the region including Turkey and Iran."**

He added, "The Turkish president holds the presidency of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation which makes it an additional responsibility to make more efforts to bridge the differences between these countries."

He also said though Turkey has a military base in Turkey it is not in animosity with each side of the conflict.

"There has been no secret relationship on that. Turkey and Qatar decided as independent (countries) to improve their

military cooperation... and so made the agreement in 2014. Of course the base became more topical after the Qatari crisis, speculations rising that Turkey may use military power to support Qatar. But we are not adversaries with the other countries. We can have the same sort of relationship with others. It is not true that we are trying to create a sphere of influence in the region."

Asked what he thinks of Tehran-Ankara cooperation on the Qatari crisis, he said, "Just a few days after start of the crisis Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif was in Turkey and we started consultations. Iran is a country that we keep a constant dialogue with. But after all it is the involved countries in the Qatari crisis which have to make the decision to solve this problem and we can only facilitate the process."

Elsewhere, he answered a question about developing ties between Tehran and Ankara in the wake of last year's failed coup in Ankara, saying, "We are of course very happy that Iran was one of the first countries that supported our legitimate government after the coup attempt. This reflects the close relationship between the two countries which has

**There are a lot of question marks, both in terms of policy and in terms of staffing - there are still very important posts in the U.S. administration left vacant. We have to wait and see.**

## Larijani to U.S.: Iran can 'limit' IAEA monitoring if Washington thinks otherwise

**1 ->** Under the agreement Iran has been tasked to limit its nuclear work in exchange for a termination of financial and economic sanctions.

Tehran has been criticizing the U.S. for violating the nuclear deal. In an interview with CNN's Fareed Zakaria earlier this month, Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said "the United States has failed to implement its part of the bargain," citing the fact that Trump "used his presence in

Hamburg during the G20 meeting in order to dissuade leaders from other countries to engage in business with Iran."

Zarif's comments came after White House spokesperson Sarah Huckabee Sanders said that Trump encouraged dozens of powerful foreign leaders to stop doing business with Iran. The move has been described by experts as a blatant breach of U.S. obligations under the agreement.

## U.S. Navy ship fires warning shots at Iranian vessel: official

**1 ->** "The U.S. must more than ever monitor and control the conduct of its warships in the Persian Gulf," said Deputy Chief of Staff of Iran's Armed Forces Brigadier General Massoud Jazayeri.

The incident comes nearly two weeks after the U.S. House of Representatives voted for a measure which requires the Pentagon to

consider options for negotiating an Incidents at Sea Agreement with Iran and other countries operating in the Persian Gulf.

The communication hotline is expected to soothe concerns over the escalation of sea incidents in the Persian Gulf into direct military engagement between Iranian and U.S. naval forces.

## Health minister: Rival factions have denied country of 'balanced vision'

**POLITICS TEHRAN** — In a post on his website **d e s k** on Tuesday Health Minister Hassan Ghazizadeh Hashemi, an eye surgeon, has said he had wished Iranian politicians would not have been divided into "rightists" and "leftists" and that all had worked cooperatively for the best interests of the country.

The post by the health minister followed after he did surgeries on the eyes of two senior politicians: "rightist" politician Gholam-Ali Hadad Adel and "leftist" politician Mohammadreza Aref.

The minister did operations on Aref's "right eye" and Hadad Adel's "left eye."

Aref, a former first vice president, is now the leader of the pro-reform Hope faction in the parliament. Hadad Adel is also a principlist who was the speaker of the parliament from 2004 to 2008.

"I jokingly told these two respected figures that the major problem of the country has shown itself in your eyes! And I explained that political currents have actually denied themselves and the country of the gift of 'Balanced Vision'."

Ghazizadeh Hashemi, who is one of the most loved ministers for his much-praised health reform plan, added it has been his deep wish that "all Iranians to be with each other and work together", a policy which he said has been practiced by the ministry under his leadership.



Aref

Hadad Adel

He said factionalism has sometimes led to some stinging remarks by figures from each faction.

The minister also said experiences of the past 38 years - since the 1979 Islamic revolution - show that the country needs the "capacities" of all people for progress.

"Left and right and moderate must join hands to resolve the problems and this is felt more than any other time in view of today's condition in the world and the region," he noted.

The minister said now that the sights of Mr. Aref's right eye and Mr. Hadad Adel's left eye have been restored it is a hope that "leftists and rightists pay more attention to the country's prospects... see beauties more, and instead of thinking about short-term factional interests to think about the long-term interests and ideals."

In part of his writing, the minister said, "A few days ago a reporter asked me: Are you a reformist, or principlist or a supporter of moderation? In answer I said: none of them. I like to remain the same youth of the early years of the revolution when there were no such factionalism like left and right, and all worked wholeheartedly for our dear country Iran and worked sincerely for the realization of the wishes of the martyrs," the health minister said in post on his telegram.

Ghazizadeh Hashemi was referring to his interview with the Sharq newspaper published on Sunday, in which he said he is neither principlist (rightist), nor reformist (leftist) or moderate, a new faction led by incumbent president Hassan Rouhani.

At the end he has also thanked Aref and Hadad Adel who had given him the permission to publish their photo for his website.



# Unrest bubbles among Trump's key foreign policy aides: sources

Frustration is mounting among leading foreign policy officials in President Donald Trump's administration as they chafe at some policy and bureaucratic defeats and complain they lack independence to do their jobs, officials say.

The clash between internationalists urging the traditional United States leadership role in the world and advocates of an "America First" approach has worn down foreign policy and intelligence professionals inside the government, according to the officials.

Secretary of State Rex Tillerson has told friends he will be lucky to last a year in his job, according to a friend, while two officials said national security adviser H.R. McMaster was frustrated by what he sees as disorganization and indiscipline on key policy issues inside the White House.

A source familiar with the situation told Reuters that Tillerson was "very upset at not having autonomy, independence and control over his own department and the ability to do the job the way the job ... is traditionally done."

The source said he had heard nothing about any possible departure, but added: "The situation doesn't seem to be getting any better, and in some respects appears to be getting worse."

R.C. Hammond, Tillerson's spokesman, denied Tillerson was considering leaving or that his frustrations were boiling over, saying he had "plenty of reasons to stay on the job, and all of them are important to America."

"There's a desperate need for American leadership in the world and that's where the secretary's focusing his attention," he said.

Tillerson scored a policy win last week when the administration certified, albeit reluctantly, that Iran was complying with the 2015 nuclear deal under which Tehran agreed to restrain its atomic program in exchange for sanctions relief.

He was upset, however, by fierce internal criticism from Trump, as well as his chief strategist, Steve Bannon, and White



House aide Sebastian Gorka, over the decision, said another U.S. official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

"The secretary does not feel that White House staff members should be in a position to conduct hostile cross-(examinations) of Cabinet officials," the official said.

Hammond disputed the account of harsh discord between Trump and Tillerson regarding recertifying the Iran nuclear deal, saying: "I don't buy this whole thing that there are tensions. Developing public policy is about vetting out ideas," he said.

Following last month's move by the House of Saud regime, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Bahrain and Egypt to boycott Qatar, which they accuse of financing extremist groups and supporting terrorism, Tillerson publicly asked the nations to ease their blockade, and put the onus on both sides to end the crisis.

Less than 90 minutes later, Trump accused Qatar of being a "high level" spon-

sor of terrorism and suggested he had helped plan the Qatar action with Arab leaders.

"As a government we offered some confusing signals, but we've since been able to clear up and clarify that," Hammond said.

Politico reported last month that Tillerson was furious with Johnny DeStefano, the head of the presidential personnel office, for torpedoing proposed nominees to key State Department posts.

## Disruptive Figure

Senior national security officials said McMaster was dismayed that his recommendations, backed by his senior director for Russia, Fiona Hill, about taking a tough stance with Russian President Vladimir Putin, had been ignored.

Trump has questioned the U.S. intelligence community's conclusion that Russia interfered in the 2016 U.S. presidential election to try to help him defeat Democrat Hillary Clinton.

McMaster, a three-star Army general

who once praised Trump as a "disruptive" figure, is also troubled by a protracted debate about sending more U.S. forces to help Afghanistan reverse gains by the Taliban, officials familiar with the matter told Reuters.

Asked to respond to the characterizations of the views of McMaster and other officials, a White House official said: "Assertions not of fact but of state of mind in internal thought have no place in a story like this."

While circumspect, Tillerson talked about the challenges of his new job earlier this month, telling reporters that it differed from his former role as chief executive of Exxon Mobil Corp, where "I was the ultimate decision-maker. That always makes life easier."

"I knew what to expect and we had very long-standing disciplined processes and decision-making," he said. "Those are not the characteristics of the United States government."

(Source: Reuters)

## Top UN delegation visits crisis-stricken Yemen

A high-ranking United Nations delegation has made a rare visit to Yemen, as the impoverished country is grappling with war, a cholera epidemic and looming famine.

The executive directors of the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Food Program arrived in Yemen on Monday, visiting the war-wrecked southern province of Aden and the country's capital Sana'a.

The UN representatives declined to elaborate on the visit, however, Yemen's official Saba news agency said the officials had met self-styled prime minister Ahmed bin Dagher for talks on international humanitarian aid, adding that the visit aimed to contain "the cholera epidemic which has spread to all provinces."

The visit came a day after the UN warned that two thirds of Yemen's population was in dire need of humanitarian assistance and the country teetered on the edge of famine.

The WHO and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) also raised alarm that cholera outbreak had independently claimed 1,800 lives and infected more than 370,000 others in the war-torn country, with more than 600,000 Yemenis expected to contract cholera by December this year.

The World Food Program had previously described the situation in Yemen as "the largest humanitarian crisis happening in the world at the moment."

Cholera is an acute diarrheal infection that is spread through contaminated food or water. It can be effectively treated with the immediate replacement of lost fluids and salts, but without treatment it can be fatal.

Cholera infection first became epidemic in Yemen last October and spread until December, when it dwindled. The second outbreak began in the country in late April.

Meanwhile, nearly 3.3 million Yemeni people, including 2.1 million children, are currently suffering from acute malnutrition.

Since March 2015, Yemen has been under relentless airstrikes by Saudi regime fighter jets as part of a brutal campaign against the country in an attempt to reinstall the former president, Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi, a staunch ally of Riyadh.

The campaign has seriously damaged the country's infrastructure. Local Yemeni sources have put the death toll from the Saudi war at over 12,000, including many women and children.

The United States and Britain have been the main providers of weapons, training and intelligence to the Saudis during the course of the war.

(Source: Press TV)

## China's EXIM Bank and BMI Ink Financing Contracts for Electrification of Tehran-Mashhad Railway Project



Contracts to finance Tehran-Mashhad Railway project were exchanged between China's EXIM (import-export) Bank and Iran's Bank of Industry and Mine (BIM) in the presence of Chief Executive and Chairman of the Board of Directors of Bank of Industry and Mine (BIM) Ali Ashraf Afkhami and Sun Ping Vice Chairman of China's Exim Bank.

It should be noted that Chinese ambassador to Iran, vice chairman of China's Exim Bank, Chief Executive of CMC Company, deputy minister of Roads and Urban Development Company, managing director of Islamic Republic of Iran Railways, Deputy governor of Central Bank of Iran for Currency Affairs and director general of Organization for Investment and Technical and Economic Assistance of Iran also attended the inaugural ceremony of Tehran-Mashhad Railway Electrification Project, the Public Relations Dept. of the bank reported.

Chief Executive and Chairman of the Board of Directors of Bank of Industry and Mine (BIM) Ali Ashraf Afkhami was the first speaker who said: "Today, we observe one of the salient achievements of implementation of Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), the official title of nuclear deal."

"We are so pleased that this giant contract has been concluded with China's Exim

Bank, the issue of which will help improve and strengthen bilateral cooperation and interaction in relevant field."

Electrification of Tehran-Mashhad Railway project is of paramount importance to us, because, more than 35 million people travel to the shrine city of Mashhad every year, he said, adding: "Bank of Industry and Mine has thus far financed many other giant projects in the fields of steel, cement, pharmaceutical, textile, petrochemical and upstream industries."

In addition, the bank managed to construct and develop power plant projects with the production capacity of more than 6,000 MW electricity over the past four years, costing \$3 billion, the senior official of the bank reiterated.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the bank emphasized: "Conclusion of another contract is underway between Iran and China, costing \$1.8 billion which is related to financing the first high-speed train on Tehran-Qom-Isfahan Road."

In addition, country's aviation fleet has been financed by the Central Bank of Iran and Ministry of Roads and Urban Development, he observed.

It should be noted that Bank of Industry and Mine has financed more than \$3.8 bil-

lion in the fields of oil and gas, he said, adding: "Supporting small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) has been put atop agenda in the bank, so that the bank has thus far financed more than 3,000 SMEs in the country."

Interbank network between East Asia and Europe was developed in sanctions period, he said, adding: "Iran and Europe Business Bank is operating in German's Hamburg city which is of paramount importance to us."

There is a very amicable relationship between Iran and China, he said, adding: "It is hoped that construction operations of many projects will be put into operation at the unsparing cooperation and collaboration of the two countries of Iran and China."

He put the financing volume for the construction of Tehran-Mashhad Electrification Project at \$1.5 billion, the issue of which will be a preliminary for the subsequent cooperation."

Sun Ping Vice Chairman of China's Exim Bank was the next speaker who said: "It is a very great honor to me that the contract for financing and promoting Tehran-Mashhad Electrification Project has been launched between Iran and China, the issue of which is of paramount importance."

To date, \$500 billion has been provided within the framework of finance to Iran, he said, adding: "In addition, \$8.5 billion commercial loan has also been granted to Iran."

China's import and export bank (EXIM Bank) has launched huge investment to support electrification of Tehran-Mashhad Railway project, he maintained.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Vice chairman of the bank added: "China's EXIM Bank is interested in granting preferential and commercial loans to other countries such as Iran."

In the end, Sun Ping Vice Chairman of China's Exim Bank expressed his hope that his bank will establish very sound relationship with the Bank of Industry and Mine for completion of construction operation of other projects.

**Asghar Fakhriyeh Kasha Deputy Minister of Roads and Urban Development was the next speaker who said: "I am very pleased to attend this ceremony in a way that we conclude a contract with a Chinese**



company approx. 21 years ago." **Kamyab Deputy Governor of Central Bank of Iran (CBI) for Currency Affairs was the next speaker who said: "The current contract is the result of years of efforts taken by different organizations and institutions of the two countries of Iran and China."**

The current contract can be termed at the first long-term contract which has been concluded between Iran and China after the implementation of Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), the official title of nuclear deal, he opined.

He expressed his special thanks to the officials concerned who made their utmost efforts in materializing objectives of the deal.

On the behalf of Central Bank of Iran (CBI), this bank has expressed its readiness to cooperate and collaborate in the course of conclusion of this contract and also similar contracts, he said, adding: "CBI attaches high importance to the Chinese Exim Bank."

WANG XUSHENG Chief Executive of CMC Company was the next speaker in the inaugural ceremony of this giant project and said: "As represented by CMC Company, I seize this opportunity to express my special thanks to the functionaries in the Bank of Industry and Mine and Chinese Exim Bank."

My special thanks also goes to the Ministry of Roads and Urban Development which trusted us in implementation of this giant project, the chief executive opined.

Then, Saeed Mohammadzadeh Deputy Minister of Roads and Urban Development and Managing Director of Islamic Republic of Iran Railways expressed his special thanks to the unsparing cooperation and collaboration of China's Exim Bank, Bank of Industry and Mine, Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and also Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance (MEAF) as well as Central Bank of Iran (CBI) which took giant strides in line with materializing most economic objectives of this project.

With the implementation of such a giant project in Iran, it can be concluded that the country has paid due attention to the subject of railway, he maintained.

Launching Tehran-Isfahan High-Speed Train was the first joint project constructed and developed between Iran and China which was implemented successfully, he said, adding: "Relying upon the assistance of the Almighty God, Tehran-Mashhad Electrification Railway Project was launched between Iran and China and today, it is hoped that this giant project will be put into operation successfully."



NEWS IN BRIEF



**Projects for supplying water to 800 villages inaugurated**

**ECONOMY TEHRAN** — Iranian First Vice President **de s k** Es'haq Jahangiri inaugurated projects for supplying water to 800 villages, via video-conferencing on Tuesday, IRNA reported.

With these projects implemented, water will be supplied to a population of over 500,000 people across the country.

In line with completing water supplying projects in the country, Iran's Energy Ministry plans to supply drinking water to 1200-1600 new villages by the end of current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2018).



**European firm to invest €750m in Iran's ICT sector: minister**

**ECONOMY TEHRAN** — A European company will finalize a deal soon to invest €750 million in expanding Iran's optical fiber network, Communications and Information Technology Minister Mahmoud Vaezi said on Tuesday.

He did not elaborate on the issue but said the participation of foreign companies in the Iranian development project is a fruit of signing the nuclear deal (officially known as JCPOA or BARJAM in Persian acronym), IRNA reported.

Back in May, Vaezi said the project will provide eight metropolises of the country with optical fiber networks.

He pointed out that 300 million euros will be invested directly and 450 million euros will be secured through financing methods.

**Two BOJ newcomers vow to reach 2% inflation**

**TOKYO (Reuters)** — The two new members of the Bank of Japan's policy board said on Tuesday that the central bank should continue efforts to achieve its 2 percent price goal and it was premature to debate an exit from its massive monetary stimulus.



Bank of Japan (BOJ) new policy board members Goushi Kataoka (R) and Hitoshi Suzuki leave a news conference at BOJ headquarters in Tokyo, Japan July 25, 2017.

Goushi Kataoka, a 44-year-old former economist at Mitsubishi UFJ Research and Consulting and an advocate of massive money printing, said he wants to see the price goal achieved quickly although he cannot tell when that can be.

The other new board member, Hitoshi Suzuki, a 63-year-old former deputy president of Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ, who is well-versed with financial markets, told a joint news conference that it was "dangerous" to markets to debate an exit from the stimulus now.

Japan's Parliament in May approved the two government nominees for the nine-member BOJ board. They have replaced Takahide Kiuchi and Takehiro Sato, whose five-year terms ended on July 23.

The first policy-setting meeting for the newcomers will be on Sept. 20-21.

**Greece on right reform path, but needs to keep 'peddling'**

**ATHENS (Reuters)** — Europe's economics commissioner, Pierre Moscovici, said on Tuesday he was confident Greece was "turning a page" from economic crisis and would successfully conclude a bailout programme which expires in Aug. 2018.

But Moscovici, who was visiting Athens, said the crisis-hit country was at a crucial juncture and urged Greece to keep up economic reforms.

He also said he was confident Greece could return to bond markets at "logical yields".

"Returning to the markets is an important first step," Moscovici told reporters.

Greece concluded a bailout review last month, paving the way for the disbursement of further funds after more reforms to its pension and tax systems.

On Tuesday, after a three-year hiatus, it launched a return to bond markets, widely seen as a test run for authorities before its third financial bailout from international lenders expires next year.

"It is also a signal to markets that Greece is showing results as far as its commitments are concerned and the reforms which have been decided and is back onto a path of sustainability," Moscovici said, speaking through an interpreter.

Greece has invited holders of its 4.75 percent outstanding bonds maturing in 2019 to tender them for cash, along with a plan to offer new five-year paper.

The country last ventured onto bond markets with two issues in 2014, a year before it lurched into crisis in a standoff with lenders which culminated in a third financial bailout in mid 2015.

**China to provide \$1.5b finance for Iran railway project**

**ECONOMY TEHRAN** — China's Exim Bank (the **de s k** Export-Import Bank of China) penned a contract with Iran's Bank of Industry and Mine to finance \$1.5 billion for signaling of Tehran-Mashhad railroad, IRIB news reported.

The agreement was signed in Tehran on Tuesday by Iran's Bank of Industry and Mine Managing Director Ali Ashraf Afkhami and Vice President of Exim Bank Sun Ping during a ceremony attended by China's ambassador to Tehran, Iran's deputy transport minister, head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Railways (known as RAI), and one of the deputies from Central Bank of Iran (CBI).

As reported, the total value of the contract, which is the first one in its kind during the past one and a half year, stands at \$1.7 billion. The Chinese bank will finance \$1.5 billion of the project and \$200 million will be provided by Iran.

"The agreement has been signed after 16 months of continuous negotiations with the Chinese bank," Afkhami said addressing the signing ceremony, underlining the significance of JCOPA, commonly called the nuclear deal, implementation.

As Ping said, "China's Exim Bank has financed 26 projects in Iran in various sectors including electricity, petrochemicals, oil and gas, and non-ferrous metals till the present time."



Iran's Bank of Industry and Mine Managing Director Ali Ashraf Afkhami (L) and Vice President of Exim Bank Sun Ping shaking hands after signing the contract for signaling of Tehran-Mashhad railroad

**Iran's annual GDP growth stands at 11.1%**

**ECONOMY TEHRAN** — Iran's **de s k** Government Spokesman Mohammad Baqer Nobakht put the country's growth of gross domestic product (GDP), including oil sector, at 11.1 percent in the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20, 2017).

In a press conference on Tuesday, the official also put Iran's non-oil GDP growth at 6.4 percent in the past year, Fars news agency reported.

He said these figures were released after the Statistical Center of Iran changed the base year from Iranian calendar year 1376 (March 97-March 98) to 1390 (March 2011-March 2012), while the GDP growth, including oil sector, had been announced 8.3 percent and non-oil GDP growth was put at 6.3 percent before that change.

Meanwhile, the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) had previously put the country's GDP growth at 12.5 percent in the past



year.

The International Monetary Fund has forecasted that Iran's real GDP growth is expected to rebound to 6.6 percent in 2016-17.

According to an IMF executive board report released on February 27, Iran's economic growth rebounded over the course of 2016/17 on the back of higher oil production. Real GDP grew by 7.4 percent in the first half 2016/17, rebounding from recession in 2015/16.

**Inflation rate rises 0.2% in Iran**

**ECONOMY TEHRAN** — The **de s k** inflation rate for the 12-month period ended in the last day of the fourth Iranian calendar month of Tir (July 22) compared to the same period in the previous year hit 7.6 percent, Government Spokesman Mohammad Baqer Nobakht said on Tuesday.

He said the figure shows 0.2 percent rise from 7.4 percent in the third calendar month of Khordad, Fars news agency reported.

The official also put the point-to-point inflation rate at 8.9 percent in Tir, falling 0.5 percent from 9.4 percent in Khordad.

The Statistical Center of Iran has put the country's inflation rate at 9.8 percent in the past Iranian calendar year 1395 (ended on March 20), showing 4.5 percent drop from its preceding year.



It is while the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) has put the country's inflation rate at nine percent during the past calendar year.

Iran, accordingly, could manage to experience a single-digit inflation rate after 26 years in 1395.

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

**Iranian, S. Korean private sectors ink 10 MOUs on technology transfer**

**ECONOMY TEHRAN** — Private sectors of Iran **de s k** and South Korea signed 10 memorandums of understanding (MOUs) on Sunday for mutual cooperation and technology transfer.

As IRNA reported, Iranian Deputy Minister of Industries, Mining and Trade Ali Yazdani, South Korean ambassador in Tehran Kim Seung-ho as well as representatives of 40 Iranian and nine South Korean small and medium enterprises (SMEs) attended the signing ceremony.

The MOUs were signed between SMEs active in various areas including fisheries and marine environment, beekeeping, oil and gas, biological fertilizers,

car spare parts manufacturing, as well as die casting.

Speaking at the event, Yazdani who is also the head of Iran Small Industries and Industrial Parks Organization (ISIPO) said, "Considering Iran-South Korea close relations especially after removal of the west-imposed sanction on Iran, the two countries economic ties could grow to a much higher level than what currently is."

Kim Seung-ho for his part noted that Iran-South Korea economic relations are limited to big industries while there is a great number of SMEs in both countries, cooperation among which can lead to deeper economic ties.



**World needs \$94t spent on infrastructure by 2040**

**LONDON (Reuters)** — Nearly a fifth of the \$94 trillion in global infrastructure investment needed by 2040 risks being unfunded if current spending trends continue, the G20-backed Global Infrastructure Hub said on Tuesday.

To close the spending gap, annual infrastructure spending needs to rise to 3.5 percent from 3 percent of global gross domestic product, the GIH said in a report.

The report details how much each country needs to spend on infrastructure to 2040, which sectors need it the most and how they far they are from meeting these needs based on current spending trends.

"We believe this information will be key to governments, and indeed those organizations that fund, plan and build infrastructure projects into the future — and providing sustainable cities with social and economic benefits for all," GIH Chief Executive Chris Heathcote said.

The GIH, set up by the G20 in 2014, aims to help to increase opportunities for public and private investment in infrastructure around the world. It is funded by governments including Britain, Australia, China, Korea and Singapore.

Every year, \$3.7 trillion needs to be invested in infrastructure to meet demand — equivalent to the annual economic output of Germany, the world's fourth largest

economy.

And to meet United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, which aim to ensure universal access to drinking water and electricity by 2030, investment needs to increase to 3.7 percent of global GDP between now and 2030, it said.

The investment is needed to support global economic growth and fill gaps in infrastructure in both developed and developing countries, the GIH said.

The United States will have the largest gap in infrastructure spending, at \$3.8 trillion, while

China will have the greatest demand, at \$28 trillion, representing 30 percent of global infrastructure investment needs.

The report, which includes a deep study of 50 countries and seven industry sectors, was written by Australia-based GIH and Oxford Economics.

"(It) is a comprehensive and detailed analysis of infrastructure investment need. It gives the new country and sector spending data that governments and funding organizations have been calling for," Heathcote said.

Underpinning the need for increased spend is an expected rise in the global population by 2 billion people by 2040 and 46 percent increase in the urban population, driven by Asia, which needs \$52 trillion in investment by 2040 to meet that demand.

**South Korea sees 2017 growth at fastest in three years, pushes consumption and jobs**

South Korea raised its growth outlook for this year on Tuesday and vowed to maintain an expansionary fiscal policy that would support job creation.

The government projected economic expansion of 3 percent in 2017, the fastest since growth of 3.3 percent seen in 2014.

The finance ministry's latest outlook revised growth up from an earlier estimate of 2.6 percent, and put it above the Bank of Korea's forecast 2.8 percent.

It sees improving global demand for South Korean goods supporting growth in the second half of 2017, along with increased fiscal spending from the 11 trillion won (\$9.85 billion) supplementary budget approved on July 22.

The ministry said the extra budget would lift growth by 0.2 percentage point this year, although Nomura said the supplementary budget's 0.2 percent boost to GDP growth was already included in its estimate of 2.7 percent for 2017.

The government sees exports surging 10.2 percent this year, although private consumption is expected to grow at a slower 2.3 percent because of waning job growth and



record household debt.

"South Korea's potential growth rate is around 3 percent. As we noted earlier, posting 3 percent expansion looks achievable assuming the economy continues to undertake reforms for consumption-led growth," deputy finance minister Lee Chan-woo told an embargoed briefing.

"Going forward, our budget, tax and other policies will be reformed to better focus on creating jobs," Lee said.

Job creation has President Moon Jae-in's policies since he took office in May, as he seeks to generate growth more from household spending and less from exports.

He plans to revise regulations to reduce the dominance of South Korea's giant "chaebol" conglomerates, and subsidize smaller businesses to promote balanced growth.

South Korea's exports have soared this year thanks to a revival in global demand, but domestic consumption has lagged because of tepid wage growth.

The government will increase unemployment benefits and subsidies for maternity leave, as well as spending more on medical care for elderly people.

Deputy finance minister Lee said the government would work to ensure the pace of spending growth "stays higher than" the nation's nominal growth rate — which ignores inflation — currently estimated between 4.5 percent and 5 percent.

Government spending rose at an average rate of 4.8 percent in annualized terms over the past five years, the ministry said. (Source: cnbc)



# Oil extends gains as Saudi pledges export curbs

Oil prices extended gains on Tuesday after Saudi Arabia pledged to curb exports from next month and OPEC called on several members to boost compliance with output cuts to help rein in oversupply and tackle flagging prices.

Gains were also supported by a warning from Halliburton's executive chairman that the growth in North America's rig count was "showing signs of plateauing," a possible threat to U.S. shale oil production.

Global benchmark Brent crude for September delivery was up 28 cents at \$48.88 a barrel by 0540 GMT after settling up 1.1 percent.

U.S. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) futures were up 28 cents at \$46.62.

In a meeting in St. Petersburg on Monday, the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and non-OPEC producers discussed extending their deal to cut output by 1.8 million barrels per day (bpd) beyond March 2018 if necessary.

Saudi Energy Minister Khalid al-Falih added his country would limit its crude exports to 6.6 million bpd in August, almost 1 million bpd below levels of a year ago.

Nigeria voluntarily agreed to join the deal by capping or cutting its output from 1.8 million bpd, once it stabilizes at that level. Nigeria, which has been producing 1.7 million bpd recently, had been exempt from the output cuts.

OPEC said stocks held by industrial nations had fallen by 90 million barrels over January to June, but were still 250 million barrels above the five-year average, which is the target for OPEC and non-OPEC.

"Despite the goals for rebalancing, the market is still not sure that inventories would fall precipitously to



achieve their target," said Tomomichi Akuta, senior economist at Mitsubishi UFJ Research and Consulting in Tokyo.

Russian Energy Minister Alexander Novak said an additional 200,000 bpd of oil could be removed from the market if compliance to OPEC-led deal was 100 percent.

"In our view ... these meetings were aimed at saving face and diverting the market's attention away from Iraq's poor compliance, shale's resilience, and Libya's and Nigeria's markedly higher output," Britain's Barclays bank

said.

China's crude imports will exceed 400 million tons (8 million bpd) this year and likely grow by double digits next year, a Sinopec Group executive said.

U.S. commercial crude oil inventories likely fell by 3 million barrels last week, a preliminary Reuters poll showed ahead of a data release from the American Petroleum Institute.

(Source: Reuters)

## Oil prices will be stuck below \$60 through 2020, Credit Suisse forecasts

Analysts once believed an agreement by oil producers to pump less would send crude prices to \$60 a barrel in relatively short order. Now, Credit Suisse believes prices won't even approach that level until 2020.

The investment bank on Monday lowered its long-term price forecast for U.S. West Texas Intermediate crude by \$5 a barrel, to \$57.50 in 2020. Brent crude, the international benchmark contract, also got a \$5 cut, to \$60 a barrel in 2020.

The oil market won't reach a lasting

turning point until the third quarter of 2018, according to Credit Suisse. The bank pushed out its expectation for the long-awaited rebalancing of supply and demand until 2019.

A group of oil producers led by Saudi Arabia has cut output by 1.8 million barrels a day through March in a bid to shrink global crude stockpiles to the five-year average. Credit Suisse believes inventories will still be 120 million barrels above that level by the time the deal is scheduled to wind down.

The bank pointed to the usual suspects: Oil production from Libya and Nigeria, the two OPEC member countries exempt from the deal, rose more than expected, offsetting the output cuts. And despite throttling back production, OPEC members kept on exporting barrels at a brisk pace, which kept storage tanks full.

Meanwhile, weak growth in demand for oil in many parts of the world in the first quarter made it tougher to draw down U.S. stockpiles, according to Credit Suisse analysts.

Credit Suisse projects that OPEC, led by Saudi Arabia, will extend the production cuts for a second time, keeping them in place until U.S. stockpiles fall at least to the upper range of the five-year average.

The bank did reduce its forecast for U.S. production growth in the last quarter of this year and next. Given the lower oil prices, U.S. shale drillers will have fewer opportunities to lock in prices for future delivery with traders who expect prices to rise, Credit Suisse said.

(Source: CNBC)

## The world's first floating wind farm could be a game changer for renewable power

Wind turbines are impressive structures, towering higher than some of the world's tallest buildings. When installed offshore, the extent of the construction beneath the surface is just as impressive (and costly).

But now, the world's first floating wind farm has begun to produce power in Scotland. If the technology becomes cheaper, which developer Statoil says is only a matter of time, it will open up parts of the ocean previously considered too deep for stationary turbines.

Statoil developed some nifty software that twists the blades of the floating turbine in response to the motions of the wind, waves, and ocean currents. These dynamic blades, along with ballast at the base of the structure, keep the 175-meter tall, 10,000-metric ton turbines upright. The floating structures can operate in water as deep as 1,000 meters.

Statoil has tested the technology for the past six years, and is now ready to deploy it for the first time in a commercial project. The first floating wind turbine has been placed about 20 km (12 miles) off the coast of Peterhead in Scotland. Another four turbines will be added to the farm, which together will generate enough energy to power 20,000 households. The £190 million (\$250 million) project is being financed by the UK government's renewable-energy plan.

Scotland's windswept shores make it an ideal place to test the technology. In June, the country's existing wind farms set a new record for generation, producing enough energy to power every Scottish household (and then some).

Floating wind turbines cannot currently compete with fixed turbines, which have seen their cost plummet by more than 30% since 2012. However, Statoil believes that as floating wind farms are built at scale, they will soon be able to compete with traditional offshore wind turbines without subsidies. A 2015 report from the Carbon Trust found 30 concepts under development, with five demonstrated at scale.

(Source: Quartz Media)





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## Trump's presidency can't be saved - so what happens next?

By Jennifer Rubin

In light of news reports that President Donald Trump's team is scouring the record for conflicts of interest on special counsel Robert Mueller's team (the essence of chutzpah) and contemplating pardons (of aides and/or himself), it is worth considering how this may all play out.

### We offer several scenarios:

1. Trump orders Attorney General Jeff Sessions to fire Mueller. Sessions quits, as does Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein and Associate Attorney General Rachel Brand. Eventually someone agrees to fire Mueller. Republicans either will not pursue impeachment or are obliged to begin impeachment hearings but refuse to vote on articles of impeachment. In 2018, Democrats sweep to victory in the House and gain a seat or two in the Senate. Trump cannot be removed (two-thirds of the Senate is required for removal), but his presidency is in tatters. Some aides or ex-aides face criminal prosecution. LESSON: Republicans' failure to stand up to Trump early dooms his presidency and crashes the GOP.

2. Trump orders Attorney General Jeff Sessions to fire Mueller. Sessions quits, as does Deputy Attorney General Rosenstein and Associate Attorney General Brand. Eventually someone agrees to fire Mueller. Republicans, together with Democrats, pass by a veto-proof majority an independent prosecutor statute. Before impeachment proceedings can finish, Democrats sweep to victory in 2018 in the House and gain a seat or two in the Senate. Trump cannot be removed, but his presidency is in tatters. Some aides or ex-aides face criminal prosecution. LESSON: Fire Mueller, and Congress will hire him back.

3. Republicans join Democrats in warning Trump not to fire Mueller. Mueller remains and keeps digging. Mueller subpoenas damaging documents; Trump refuses to comply. A court orders him to comply. He doesn't. We have a full-blown constitutional crisis. LESSON: Congress cannot delegate all responsibility to Mueller. It must conduct a parallel investigation and, if need be, commence impeachment proceedings.

4. Republicans join Democrats in warning Trump not to fire Mueller. Mueller remains and keeps digging. Mueller subpoenas damaging documents; Trump refuses to comply. A court orders him to comply. He declares this a witch hunt, an attack on his family (or whatever). Then he resigns, claiming he has already made America great. He tells the country that Vice President Mike Pence will carry on in his place. LESSON: Congress must protect Mueller and preserve the possibility that Trump may be forced to resign.

5. Republicans join Democrats in warning Trump not to fire Mueller. Mueller subpoenas damaging documents. Trump complies. The evidence of collusion and/or obstruction is overwhelming. Mueller recommends prosecution or impeachment. The GOP turns on Trump, who is impeached and removed (with the GOP by that time possibly in the minority in one or both houses). LESSON: Congress must protect Mueller and pay the price for failure to oppose Trump's nomination and election.

Is there a sixth scenario in which Mueller exonerates Trump? That's the least likely outcome after Trump has fired former FBI director James Comey and threatened the special counsel. Why would he do those things unless there was something really, really bad to find? And if there is something bad, Mueller will find it. You can understand then why Trump sounds frantic. In no scenario does Trump's presidency recover.

(Source: Independent)

## A terrorism trial in the federal courts

Republicans raged over what they called the White House's weak and dangerous decision last week to prosecute in federal court a man suspected of belonging to Al Qaeda, rather than shipping him off to the military prison at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba.

Sorry, wrong year. That happened back in 2009, when President Barack Obama and his attorney general, Eric Holder Jr., tried to put Khalid Shaikh Mohammed, the 9/11 mastermind, on trial in New York City.

Senior Republicans claimed to be aghast. John Boehner, then the House minority leader, said Obama was "treating terrorism as a law enforcement issue and hoping for the best." Jeff Sessions, then a senator from Alabama, said the attempt to move Mohammed to federal court showed "fighting global terrorism is not the priority it once was."

Republicans complained about more than Mohammed, whose civil trial was called off in early 2010; throughout Obama's presidency, they fumed often at the prospect that terrorism suspects would enjoy the constitutional protections of civilian trials.

The extradition effort began under Obama and continued under President Trump, who promised during the campaign to keep Guantánamo open and to send more "bad dudes" there. But before anyone starts thinking that Trump and his allies have come to see the value of federal trials for terrorism suspects, there is a simpler explanation: The administration most likely had no choice. Spain, like many other countries, sees Guantánamo as the moral catastrophe and legal black hole that it is, and would have refused to hand Damache over without a guarantee that he would not be sent there to face a military commission.

Whatever factors combined to bring Damache to the federal court system, it was the right move. Forget the overheated rhetoric and look at the record: Federal prosecutors have won about 200 fighters related terrorism and national security cases since Sept. 11, as a federal judge noted in 2015. Meanwhile, not a single Sept. 11 defendant has been convicted under the Guantánamo military commissions. That system, plagued from the start with delays and legal challenges, has led to just eight convictions over all, three of which have been overturned — a record the commissions' former chief prosecutor called a "litany of failure."

Little of this has sunk in with Trump. Perhaps Damache's trial will show him that the federal court system is far better equipped to handle such prosecutions than military commissions at Guantánamo Bay will ever be.

(Source: The NYT)

# Turkey flexing military muscle in Qatar

By Metin Gurcan

One of the key agenda items during Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's July 23-24 visits to Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Qatar is Turkey's continued military presence in Qatar. A Saudi-led coalition of Arab countries that cut ties with Qatar in early June is demanding, among a dozen other things, that Turkey close its base there.

Doha and Ankara firmly rejected the demand as "infringement of sovereign rights." Qatari Emir Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, in his July 21 address to the nation, praised Turkey's stand in the [Persian] Gulf crisis, saying, "We express our gratitude to Turkey for rapidly implementing our cooperation agreement and meeting our basic needs."

Qatar is suffering under sanctions by Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Bahrain and Egypt, which have restricted Qatar by air, land and sea, charging that the country supports terrorists, which Qatar denies.

In my June 12 Al-Monitor article, "Turkish military will protect Qatari regime if necessary," I emphasized that for Erdogan, the survival of the Qatari regime and the personal fate of Al Thani — who had given Erdogan the strongest support against a failed military uprising a year ago — are vital matters. This is one reason why Ankara is determined to expand its military-strategic partnership with Qatar.

The number of Turkish soldiers at what is called the "joint tactical division headquarters" in Doha has reached 300. There is a company from the 2nd Commando Brigade, one mechanized infantry company from the 5th Corps and two 155 mm howitzers. It is now a battalion-level task force.

According to security sources speaking to Al-Monitor in Ankara, the Turkish presence in Qatar is expected in 2018 to become a brigade-level task force of about 3,000 strong. The Turkish base will have its own naval port and a runway initially for its drones and then for military flights. It is likely that by the end of 2018, there will be Turkish naval elements patrolling the [Persian] Gulf and Turkish drones and airborne early warning and control system planes flying reconnaissance over Qatari airspace and the [Persian] Gulf.

According to military analyst Can Kasapoglu, the deployment of 3,000 Turkish troops will equal nearly one-third of the entire active Qatari military. Thus,



## The confines of bilateral agreements between Ankara and Doha, the base could play a major role in Qatar's defense planning, as well as in the emir's regional affairs agenda.

within the confines of bilateral agreements between Ankara and Doha, the base could play a major role in Qatar's defense planning, as well as in the emir's regional affairs agenda.

"Forward deployments in Qatar are likely to bring more competition and strain to the Turkish-UAE relations. Nevertheless, as long as Ankara can compartmentalize its relations with the [P] GCC ([Persian] Gulf Cooperation Council), first and foremost with Saudi Arabia, a political dispute with the UAE would be manageable," Kasapoglu said in a July analysis for the Center for Economics and Foreign Policy Studies.

### ■ Military presence

According to the analysis, currently, Turkey has a military presence in:

\* Somalia, for partner capacity-building, foreign internal defense missions and humanitarian assistance. Turkey is building a base there that, when completed, will be its biggest base abroad.

\* Qatar, for assisting with security, building alliances and power projection.

\* Northern Iraq, for counterterrorism operations, special reconnaissance, and training and equipping missions.

\* Northern Syria's Jarablus/al-Bab/al-Rai triangle, for counterterrorism, special reconnaissance, and training and equipping missions.

\* Kabul, Afghanistan, for a peacekeeping mission.

\* Northern Cyprus, with a corps-size military force for collective defense, international obligations and power projection.

\* Azerbaijan, with military bases for alliance-building and foreign internal defense missions.

\* Lebanon, where a naval element serves the UN Interim Force.

It's no secret that Turkey has been discussing potential military bases in Pakistan, Indonesia, Malaysia and Saudi Arabia. Sources in Ankara have acknowledged that discussions with Saudi Arabia about setting up a base there in the Shiite-populated south and another as a naval sea port have been interrupted because of the Qatar crisis. Many wonder if these two projects in Saudi Arabia will come up during Erdogan's visit there.

Within three years, Turkey plans to complete the Turkish Coast Guard Anadolu amphibious assault ship and light aircraft carrier. The ship is slated to carry up to 10 F-35B jets that the Turkish navy is planning to deploy in 2021, and new additions to the Turkish Armed Forces' inventory of CH-47 multipurpose and T-29 ATAK assault helicopters — along with a fully equipped marine battalion to secure beachheads. The project will be a major force multiplier for Turkey in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea. Many people have also noted Erdogan's statement that Turkey is among 10 countries that can

build warships, and that it is now determined to build its own aircraft carrier.

With all these foreign policy moves and plans, Turkey has been gradually militarizing its foreign policy from soft power to hard power.

### ■ Geo-strategic location

Between 2006 and 2011, with a foreign policy shaped by then-Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu and his team, Turkey acknowledged that its value in world politics was predicated on its geo-strategic location, historical depth and soft power.

In 2016, after Davutoglu gave up his premiership, and security risks grew primarily in Iraq and Syria, a new foreign policy gained prominence: respond effectively, proactively and assertively to security risks and challenges through hard power.

Fuat Keyman, the director of the Istanbul Policy Center think tank and a professor of international relations at Sabanci University, defined this new paradigm as "moral realism."

Moral realism "combines hard power-based military assertiveness and humanitarian norms, in addition to new capacity- and strategy-based parameters," he said.

Turkey's military is pleased to project regional hard power as a replacement to civilian diplomacy and alliance building. Among the military branches, the naval command has overtaken the army and air force in roles and missions in this new paradigm. That may explain the increasing visibility, especially of naval officers, when Turkish officials visit foreign decision-makers.

A more "muscular" foreign policy also has the domestic benefits of repairing the civilian-military relations that were seriously damaged with the July 15 coup attempt and encouraging the two sectors to work together. Other segments that are benefiting considerably are the defense industry and military technology.

The somber, rocky relations between the military and civilian sectors in Ankara — over the military education system, promotions and appointments, and power relations between the Turkish General Staff and the Ministry of Defense and among the service commands — have spilled over to shaping and implementing foreign policy, the defense industry and military technologies. Smoothing the relations between two prime sectors of the country by resorting to hard policy in foreign relations is welcome news to a polarized public.

(Source: Al Monitor)

## The Time for negotiations with North Korea is now

By Norman Pearlstine

North Korea is "The longest running failure in the history of American espionage."

That's the assessment of Donald P. Gregg, arguably, the man who knows more about North Korea than any living American.

Gregg, 89, is a retired State Department and CIA veteran, a North Asia specialist, and a recipient of the National Intelligence Distinguished Service Medal. He says the absence of direct dialogue between the U.S. and North Korea has to change. "We can't deal with them if we don't understand them, and we won't understand them if we aren't talking to each other," he says.

Although Gregg's thinking may be out of sync with much of what's coming out of the Trump White House and the Congress — both are pushing for more sanctions in response to North Korea's recent ICBM launch and its continued efforts to expand its nuclear arsenal — he has found an ally in South Korea's new President, Moon Jae-in, who called for new talks with North Korea last week.

The two sides haven't spoken since 2015 and the U.S. has shown little interest in negotiating with North Korea since President George W. Bush branded North Korea, along with Iraq and Iran, the "Axis of Evil" in his 2002 State of the Union speech.

Gregg, who has been to North Korea six times, rejects the prevailing view in Washington that meeting with North Korea rewards bad behavior. Instead, he says talks are necessary to "keep a dangerous situation from becoming worse." He also opposes sanctions, saying they haven't worked and they only serve to make North Korea more intransigent.

In an interview at his Armonk, New York, home, Gregg is quick to acknowledge that dealing with North Korea can be difficult and frustrating. He dismisses the country's bombastic threats to annihilate the U.S., South Korea and other perceived adversaries. "The North Koreans aren't suicidal. They don't want a war," he says. Despite the rhetoric and the propaganda, he says that North Korea's leaders are "thoughtful, well-educated pragmatists."

I first met Don Gregg 43 years ago in Seoul, where he was the Central Intelligence Agency station chief while I was the North Asia bureau chief of the Wall Street Journal. The American Embassy was full of savvy Korea hands, including career diplomats Ambassador Phil Habib and political counselor Paul Cleveland. North Korea was a source of tension and so too was South Korea under its authoritarian leader, Park Chung Hee. Gregg, who had come to Korea after nearly a decade with CIA in Japan, was a lousy source, remote and taciturn. But when



## Gregg laments that "it is very hard to find anyone in Washington with experience, knowledge, and an open mind when it comes to dealing with North Korea."

he spoke, it was clear he had an encyclopedic knowledge of North Asian geopolitics.

Gregg returned to Washington in 1975 where he continued to work for the CIA, until, after 31 years with the agency, he resigned in 1982 to become Vice President George H.W. Bush's National Security Advisor. When Bush became President, he named Gregg Ambassador to South Korea, a position he held for four years.

Gregg then became Chairman of the Korea Society, a New York-based nonprofit known for its thoughtful essays about the Korean Peninsula, until 2009. During his years as the Society's head, he went to North Korea five times. He last visited North Korea in 2014 and he remains in touch with North Korean diplomats at the United Nations and elsewhere.

Gregg supports Moon's overture to North Korea, saying it is reminiscent of former South Korean President Kim Dae Jung's "Sunshine Policy" which led to a softening of relations between the two Koreas. Kim, who was South Korea's President from 1998 through 2003 and who had close ties to Gregg, advocated greater contact with North Korea, coupled with substantial economic investment. He went to Pyongyang, North Korea's capital, in 2000 for a summit meeting with Kim Jong Il, then North Korea's leader (and the father of Kim Jong Un, the country's current leader). The Sunshine policy remained in effect until 2008 when one of his successors took a harder line against North Korea.

### ■ A bigger problem

Gregg says that Kim Jong Un, North Korea's current

leader, is "smart, tough, and a risk taker" who sees his nuclear arsenal as protection against a U.S. attack. Although he doesn't see North Korea abandoning its nuclear weapons and its missiles, Gregg says that nuclear proliferation is a bigger problem than just North Korea, and that he is personally more worried about Pakistan's nuclear weapons and war engulfing the Middle East than he is about North Korea.

Gregg also says the U.S. is naive in thinking China will try to curb North Korea's militaristic ambitions. "China's bigger concern is a reunited Korea," he says, and it has been consistent in opposing the continued presence of U.S. troops nearby in South Korea. "The Chinese aren't going to carry water for us," he says.

After each of his trips, Gregg says that he wrote or met with White House and State Department officials, urging talks. He says his efforts have been consistently rejected or ignored.

He has also urged negotiation of a peace treaty to replace the Korean Armistice Agreement that ended the Korean War. That agreement was signed by the U.S., China, and North Korea in 1953.

Gregg laments that "it is very hard to find anyone in Washington with experience, knowledge, and an open mind when it comes to dealing with North Korea. Everyone knows malnutrition is a problem, but people are shocked when I tell them Pyongyang is an attractive, functioning city," he says.

There is no guarantee that talks will make a difference. As B.R. Myers has written in a thoughtful book, *The Cleanest Race: How North Koreans See Themselves — And Why It Matters*, the north's leaders use "race-based nationalism" to control their people. Myers writes that Pyongyang would appear weak to its own people if it renounced its nuclear ambitions. Myers also writes that South Korea's Sunshine Policy "failed to generate even a modicum of good will from the North."

Those arguments notwithstanding, it is hard to argue against increasing our diplomatic efforts with North Korea. While U.S. Defense Secretary James Mattis may be right in saying we would win a war with North Korea, he is also right in saying that any war would be "catastrophic" — to our allies and most probably to ourselves.

President Trump has made contradictory statements about North Korea. Along with his increasingly belligerent threats, Trump, while campaigning for the Presidency and in an interview with Bloomberg News in May, said that he would be willing to meet with North Korea's Kim Jong Un, "under the right circumstances." Those circumstances weren't defined.

Don Gregg is right in thinking talks should begin without preconditions. Now is the time to do so.

(Source: Time)



# Making America great, again? Racism, poverty, violence...

By Kim Petersen

"Make America Great Again" was Donald Trump's campaign slogan. It appeals to the people whose hearts beat with patriotic fervor. But what does such a slogan explicitly point out?

Syntactically, Trump is telling Americans that the United States of America is not great. A country can only become something again when it is currently not that something it seeks to recapture — in this case, that something is greatness. So currently the US is not great according to the mantra of Trump.

Two questions are raised by this?

1. When was America great?
2. How will Trump make America great again?

When was America great?

Obviously, to be become great again, America must have at one time been great. When was that?

Was America great at its inception? In an era when it was killing Indigenous peoples, violating treaties, and stealing their land? Can you be great when the early colonists, many professedly Christians, broke sacred commandments like "Thou shalt not kill" and "Thou shalt not steal"?

Was going to war with Mexico from 1846 to 1848 to aggrandize the US landmass great?

Was it great when the US allowed slave labor for the profit of slave owners? The Emancipation Proclamation was not issued until 1863, so unless a person believes that a country in which slavery can be practiced is great, then greatness must not have been possible until the later half of the 19th century. There are, however, some niggling complications to be discussed below.

In 1893, US corporate interests engineered an overthrow of the Hawaiian monarchy and annexed the islands. Was this great? Yes, the US Congress apologized, but how great of an apology is that? If someone steals your car and says sorry, but that person does not return your car and instead continues driving it around town, would you be content with the apology? Can such an apology even be construed as sincere?

Near the close of the 19th century, the US went to war with Spain. While docked in Havana Harbor, an onboard explosion occurred sinking the USS Maine with huge loss of life. The cause of the sinking remains mysterious; some point to a spontaneous combustion fire. Nevertheless, despite unclear etiology, the US government, urged on by the yellow journalism of newspaper magnates, blamed Spain and went to war.

Spanish colonies fought with the US against Spain. At the war's end, the US subsumed administration of the former Spanish colonies. Aspirations for self-determination by Cuba, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippines were crushed. After bloody wars against the US, the Philippines finally gained independence in 1946. Cuba liberated itself in 1959 (although Guantanamo Bay remains occupied by the US). Guam and Puerto Rico remain de facto colonies of the US.

The 20th century also does not look great on the moral front for the US. The US entered WWI and WWII in the later stages of each war, and it helped to defeat imperialist warmongers in Eu-

rope and East Asia. It came up with the Marshall Plan to help Europe back on its feet again and provide markets for US capitalism. Then in 1969, the US accomplished a spectacular feat by placing the first men on the moon. However, at the same time back on planet Earth, the US was waging war against an already war-ravaged Viet Nam that wound up killing millions of Vietnamese, and this came on the heels of waging war against North Korea also killing millions of Koreans. Neither of these countries posed a military threat to the US, and both wars imposed military defeats on the US. As soon as China entered the war in Korea, it pushed the US back from the Yalu River all the way to the 38th parallel. The US war on Viet Nam was a resounding defeat for the US, one that witnessed US troops scampering, at war's end, from a Saigon rooftop to be transported to safety by helicopters.

Elsewhere, in the middle of the Indian Ocean, lies the Chagos archipelago, the site of more questionable American greatness. There the British government conspired with the US to remove all Chagossians from the British colony (which Britain had severed from Mauritius) to serve as an unfettered American military installation. It remains an ethnically cleansed strategic platform for American imperialism and militarism, as well as a site for extraordinary renditions.

Slavery was long ago outlawed, but racism and discrimination were still rife in 20th century America. It wasn't until the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and the Fair Housing Act of 1968 that the legal sanctions of racist Jim Crow laws were repealed.

Aside from the violence against Blacks on the homefront, the US was involved in several violent incidents in the 20th century such as the dissolution

## Was the lethal US raid on Yemen and its ongoing involvement in a siege creating a cholera epidemic that is killing thousands of children a sign of America becoming great?

of Yugoslavia, the invasion of Grenada, Panama, Chile, etc. Is greatness conferred by waging violence? Especially violence against smaller, less militarily armed countries?

Has America ever been a noble beacon on the hill? Has it been an exemplar for democracy, freedom, human rights, and equal opportunity — values that would indicate greatness?

Has the 21st century seen a move toward American greatness? In 2003, the Persian Gulf Slaughter, led by the US, saw a genocide committed against Iraq based on a contrived casus belli.

In 2004, the US, abetted by Canada and France, orchestrated a military coup against the elected president of Haiti that forced Jean-Bertrand Aristide into exile overseas.

Then there is the ongoing war against Afghanistan; the war against Libya; the warring against Syria; a US-backed coup in Honduras; US-backed coup plots against the government in Venezuela; and unabated, continued support for the occupation and oppression of Indigenous Palestinians by the Jewish state. The litany of moral depredations that America wreaks upon peoples or that it



## In 2004, the US, abetted by Canada and France, orchestrated a military coup against the elected president of Haiti that forced Jean-Bertrand Aristide into exile overseas.

is fully complicit with demand legal redress.

Given the above, this writer regards with extreme skepticism the notion of America ever having been great in any meaningful sense. Granted, great deeds have been accomplished in America, including developing a leading university system; technological breakthroughs in astronomy, aviation, transportation, communication, armaments; entertainment; sports; etc. However, the deeds do not add up to a great nation.

### How will Trump make America great again?

Or, more correctly posed: how will Trump make America great?

Because it seems that America was never truly great. As per the foregoing arguments, I will dismiss the "again" part of Trump's slogan. Sans the "again," the slogan is not quite appealing. After all,

a reformulated slogan like "Let's finally make America great" probably wouldn't be great for attracting votes. Better to appeal to the capricious American dream. But Trump's slogan alone will not reify American greatness. So how is Trump going to make America great?

By building a wall to keep Mexicans out?

Trump is also pushing for a ban on travel from, originally seven now, six predominantly Muslim countries. Is this selective isolationism — identifying certain, purportedly undesirable nationalities and keeping them out — a nascent sign of greatness?

Is eliminating health insurance for millions of people while cutting taxes for the wealthy a great idea?

Is Trump chumming with Saudi clan fat cats — the kleptocratic, misogynistic moneybags for ISIS — a great choice of allies?

Is shooting down a Syrian plane in Syrian airspace, unilaterally setting up US military bases in sovereign Syria, and bombing the country legal, ethical, or a sign of greatness?

Was the lethal US raid on Yemen and its ongoing involvement in a siege creating a cholera epidemic that is killing thousands of children a sign of America becoming great?

Is it great that Donald Trump is repeating the folly of the inarticulate former US president George W Bush who back-tracked on a deal to keep North Korea nuclear free? The result is that North Korea became a nuclear-armed nation. Despite having certified that Iran is compliant with the terms of a 2015 nuclear deal, Trump is determined to undermine the deal by violating the terms. Did Trump learn nothing from the US breaking its deal with North Korea?

Is championing fossil fuels, disregarding the precautionary principle, and jettisoning participation in the Paris climate accord a sign of greatness?

One wonders, just how is it that Trump will make America great, regardless of whether it is again or for the first time?

### The Chinese way to Greatness

Greatness is not conferred by having the most billionaires and neither by having the biggest corporations. When at the same time there are millions of working poor and unemployed what is

indicated? When there are millions who are homeless and nourished by dumpster diving what does this tell one about the greatness of a country? Clearly, there is a wide chasm between the haves and have-nots. This is not greatness. The number of skyscrapers, the number of overseas military bases, the number of nuclear weapons, Silicon Valley, and the glitz of Hollywood do not mask the stench of a having a huge underclass that refutes any claim to greatness.

Greatness is a transcendent quality that sets itself above all else. Greatness is anathema to moral turpitude. The destruction of Indigenous peoples, the subjugation of others to slavery, the constant resort to lethal violence to impose one's will, and the deteriorating quality of life for millions of people on the domestic front point toward a quality that rebuts any claim to greatness.

Instead of his bellicose rhetoric against China, Trump would be better advised to consider how the Chinese are pursuing a peaceful path to greatness. Unlike the US, China has pledged no first use of nukes. Although China has strengthened itself militarily (and who can blame it given that China is ringed by US military bases, and given the way an unfriendly US conducts itself in the South China Sea and elsewhere in the world), Chinese Communist Party chairman Xi Jinping affirms that peace is the way to settle disputes. China has an extraordinary goal: it is on target to eliminate poverty by the year 2020. Imagine that! No manned moon landing can compare since the elimination of poverty is not based on a vicarious pride; rather, it is a social development that affects every citizen directly. Moreover, the rising dragon is also poised to place humans on lunar soil. Instead of imposing the scourge of war on small countries, China is a country that aspires to greatness through peaceful dialogue and by ridding itself of the scourges of hunger, homelessness, and other attributes of poverty. China partners with other nations develop their economies; as such it funds and engages in multilateral economic development with a host of nations. Africa is not just a source for resource exploitation; China invests heavily in African infrastructure development. Across Asia and into Europe China invests in the mega Belt and Road Initiative that is spurring economic activity across Eurasia.

Is China great? In terms of the nation state, some kind of agreed upon definition is required. Assuredly, any meaningful definition of greatness would preclude wreaking violence on others. And how great are you if you cannot properly care for and provide the basic necessities for your own citizens? I am not ready to pronounce China to be great, but the policy directives and the steps China has embarked on appear promising.

In the case of America, to become genuinely great a first step is demanded. Since America exists as a nation state through its denationalization of Indigenous nations, it must first address and atone for this longstanding injustice. Second, America must sincerely address the historical wrongs committed against African-Americans. And should that day arrive — and hopefully soon — when America has ridden itself of racism, poverty as well as resolutely disavowing violence, then it may be considered to have genuinely attained greatness.

(Source: Global Research)

## Yemen: US military industrial complex benefits from suffering of a brave nation

By Vanessa Beeley

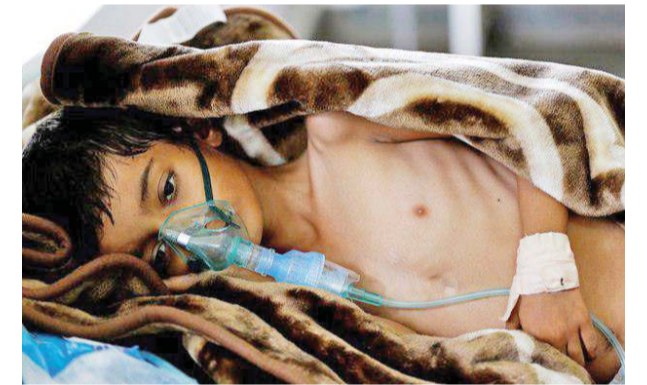
"This barbaric nation [Saudi Arabia] should not be getting our weapons, I am embarrassed that people are out here making money and making a buck, while 17 million are living on a starvation diet." ~ Senator Rand Paul

"The United States has no business supporting a war that has only served to embolden our terrorist enemies, exacerbate a humanitarian crisis, and incite fear and anger among the Yemeni people toward the United States," ~ Senator Chris Murphy

Yemen is a catastrophe we should all be taking personally. For two years and four months, the Saudi coalition, supported and armed by the UK, US and EU has been pounding 27 million Yemenis with all manner of heavyweight military hardware, including cluster bombs that have been illegally deployed against predominantly civilian targets.

Added to the daily rain of fire and death, are the UN sanctions. Under resolution 2216, 5 named individuals were placed under embargo. Resolution 2216 is based upon an illegitimate pretext that, twice resigned, ex-president, Mansour Hadi, is the rightful claimant to power in Yemen. Resolution 2216 is being used by the UN and one of its primary sponsors, Saudi Arabia, to starve and deprive the people of Yemen as a collective punishment for their recalcitrance and refusal to accept Saudi proxy colonialism. The UN has then ratcheted up the misery of the Yemeni people with its "verification and inspection mechanism", which further ensures the supplementary, trickle genocide in Yemen through disease, famine and drought.

The suffering of the Yemeni people is a crime against all Humanity. That such a blatant ethnic cleansing program can be conducted under the NATO-aligned, media radar, with the full complicity of all our governments is one of the most egregious violations of Human Rights we will ever bear witness to in our lifetime. The people of Yemen are dying in their droves, with barely a whimper from the majority of the same, state sponsored human rights groups that propagate unsubstantiated accusations against the Syrian government on a daily basis.



A recent sea change may have emerged in the US House of Representatives over the last few days, we can only hope it can carry some weight against the might of the all consuming, Military Industrial Complex that is the primary beneficiary of the genocidal war of aggression being waged by the Saudi Coalition against the impoverished, yet unbowed, sovereign nation of Yemen.

The following is a report from Robert Naiman, policy director at Truth Out:

Today, the US House of Representatives overwhelmingly approved two amendments to the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) that would prohibit US participation in the catastrophic Saudi-United Arab Emirates (UAE) war against the Houthi-Saleh alliance in Yemen.

The Davidson amendment prohibits US military action in Yemen not authorized by the 2001 Authorization for the Use of Military Force (AUMF). US participation in the Saudi-UAE war in Yemen is not targeting al-Qaeda or ISIS and is not authorized by the 2001 AUMF. Davidson's amendment would block the US refueling of Saudi and UAE warplanes bombing Yemen.

The Nolan amendment prohibits the deployment of US troops to participation in Yemen's civil war. Nolan's amendment would block the US refueling of Saudi and UAE warplanes bombing Yemen.

The Saudi-UAE war in Yemen, in which US participation was never authorized by Congress, has pushed Yemen to the brink of famine, with the worst cholera outbreak in the world, with the UN suspending its vaccination plan against cholera in Yemen because of the war.

The Saudi-UAE war in Yemen has also strengthened al-Qaeda and ISIS. Indeed, al-Qaeda's Yemen branch is allied with the Saudis and the UAE against the Houthi-Saleh forces.

Democratic Sen. Chris Murphy of Connecticut has said, "The Saudis simply could not operate this bombing campaign without us. Their planes can't fly without US refueling capacity." Yet the US has doubled the amount of fuel it provided to Saudi and UAE bombers since October. Most of the bombers refueled by the US are UAE bombers, according to the Pentagon. The Pentagon apparently has little oversight or concern about who or what it is helping to bomb:

"We provide refueling totals for the Saudi-led Coalition on an on-demand basis," said CENTCOM spokesperson Maj. Josh Jacques. "They request refueling and we provide it. I will refer you to the Saudi-led coalition as to the reasons why they requested the amounts of fuel."

Congressional action to end US participation in the catastrophic Saudi-UAE war in Yemen, which has never been authorized by Congress, is long overdue. President Trump should head the House votes and end US refueling of Saudi and UAE planes bombing Yemen immediately.

(Source: 21st Century Wire)



## Instead of his bellicose rhetoric against China, Trump would be better advised to consider how the Chinese are pursuing a peaceful path to greatness.



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# Medicare glossary: a guide to terminology

By Lisa Zamosky

There's a lot to know about Medicare, including many terms associated with the insurance program that you'll need to understand when signing up for and using your Medicare benefits. Here, a glossary of some of Medicare's most common terms.

## Medicare

Medicare is the federal health insurance program for people ages 65 and older. It also covers people younger than 65 who have disabilities, plus those with end-stage renal disease.

## Original Medicare

Original Medicare is the insurance program managed by the federal government. This type of coverage generally includes Medicare Part A and Part B. Under Original Medicare, the government pays hospitals and doctors directly.

## Medicare Part A

Medicare Part A is essentially hospital insurance. It covers different types of inpatient care, including inpatient hospital stays, care received in skilled nursing facilities, hospice care and some home health care.

## Medicare Part B (medical insurance)

Medicare Part B covers services that are delivered on an outpatient basis, including doctors' visits, laboratory and imaging tests, medical supplies and preventive services.

## Medicare advantage plan (Part C)

Medicare Advantage plans, also called Medicare Part C, include coverage for both Medicare Parts A and B through a private health insurer that's been approved by Medicare. These plans cover hospitalization, outpatient care and often, prescription-drug coverage under one policy.

## Medicare prescription drug plan (Part D)

Part D plans are private insurance policies that add prescription drug coverage to Original Medicare, some Medicare Cost Plans, Medicare Private-Fee-for-Service Plans and Medicare Medical Savings Account Plans.

## Medigap policy

Medigap is supplemental insurance sold by private insurance companies to fill "gaps" in Original Medicare coverage. These policies help pay for copayments, deductibles and health care when traveling outside the U.S. that Original Medicare does not.

## Medigap open enrollment period

The open enrollment period for Medigap plans is a six-month window that starts the first month you become age 65 (or are older) and are covered by Medicare Part B. Coverage is guaranteed during this period. In addition, you cannot be charged more for coverage because of current or past health problems.

## Additional terms to know

### Advance Coverage Decision

A notice you get from a Medicare Advantage Plan letting you know in advance whether it will cover a particular service.

### Annual Enrollment Period (AEP)

Each year between Oct. 15 and Dec. 7, you can change your Medicare Advantage or Part D prescription drug plans for the following year. You can also switch from Original Medicare to Medicare Advantage or from Medicare Advantage back to Original Medicare.

### Annual Notice of Change

A notice your Medicare plan sends each fall to alert you to any changes in coverage, costs or service area your plan is making that will take effect in January.



## Benefit period

A benefit period is the way Original Medicare measures your use of hospital and skilled nursing facility, or SNF, services. A benefit period starts the day you're admitted as an inpatient in a hospital or SNF. It ends after 60 consecutive days without receiving care. Medicare's inpatient hospital deductible is paid at the start of each benefit period. A new benefit period begins when you are admitted to a hospital or SNF after one benefit period has ended. There is no limit to the number of benefit periods.

## Coinsurance

The portion of covered medical services you are responsible for after meeting deductibles, paid as a percentage of the total cost.

## Coordination of benefits

A way to determine which health plan pays a medical claim first when you're covered by more than one insurance policy.

## Copayment

A set dollar amount you're required to pay for medical services or supplies, such as \$10 for a prescription or doctor's visit.

## Coverage gap

Most Medicare Prescription Drug Plans have a gap in coverage, which is also called the "donut hole." It's a temporary limit on what your drug plan will cover that begins after you and your plan have spent a certain amount on covered drugs. Once you reach the coverage gap, you qualify for savings on both brand-name and generic drugs.

## Creditable prescription drug coverage

A health plan with prescription drug coverage that is likely to pay at least as much as Medicare's standard prescription drug coverage is considered creditable. To avoid paying a penalty for signing up late for a Part D drug plan, you must have alternate insurance that is considered creditable when you turn 65.

## Deductible

The amount you must pay for health care services before your Medicare plan begins to pay and help cover your costs.

## Extra help

A Medicare program to help people with limited income and resources pay for the premiums, deductibles and coinsurance associated with their Medicare drug plan.

## Formulary

A list of prescription medications covered by your Part D drug plan or another insurance policy with drug benefits, like Medicare Advantage.

## General Enrollment Period (GEP)

People who don't sign up for Medicare Part A and/or Part B when they are first eligible can do so during the General Enrollment Period. GEP runs each year between Jan. 1 and March 31.

## Medicare Savings Program

A program that helps people with limited income and assets pay some or all of their Medicare premiums, deductibles and coinsurance.

## Medicare Summary Notice (MSN)

MSNs are notices you receive after your doctor or medical supply vendor submits a claim to Medicare for services you received. The Medicare Summary Notice explains what your health care provider or supplier billed Medicare, the Medicare-approved amount, how much Medicare paid and what you must pay.

## Network Pharmacies

Medicare drug plans contract with pharmacies that agree to provide members with services and supplies at a discounted price. Some Medicare plans will not cover your medicines unless you get them filled at a participating network pharmacy.

## Preferred pharmacy

Preferred pharmacies are part of a Medicare drug plan's network. Your out-of-pocket costs for prescription drugs may be lower if you get them filled at a preferred pharmacy.

## Mail-order programs

Some Part D and Medicare Advantage plans offer mail-order programs that allow you to fill a 90-day supply of your covered medications and have them delivered to your home.

## Penalty

An amount added to your monthly premium for Part B or Medicare drug plan (Part D) if you don't join when you're first eligible. With few exceptions, you pay this higher amount as long as you have Medicare.

## Prior authorization

Medicare drug plans require that you get prior authorization before filling prescriptions for certain drugs in order for them to be covered. (Source: usnews.com)

## Early signs of arthritis in fingers

By Aubrey Bailey

Arthritis will affect approximately 67 million people in the United States by the year 2030, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Two main types of arthritis affect the fingers. Osteoarthritis is a condition caused by the progressive breakdown of cartilage that provides padding between bones in the joints. Rheumatoid arthritis is an autoimmune disorder that causes the body to mistakenly attack joint tissues. Early signs of arthritis in the fingers include pain, warmth, swelling, stiffness and weakness.

### Pain and warmth

Joint pain is usually the earliest sign of arthritis in your fingers. Pain typically worsens with activity, particularly if you haven't been using your hands much for a period of time. Early on, this pain may be mild or short-lasting. However, it typically becomes more severe as arthritis progresses. Osteoarthritis may cause pain in one or more finger joints, frequently affecting the joints at the ends of your fingers and base of the thumb. Rheumatoid arthritis pain affects multiple joints and typically occurs in the same fingers on both hands. Inflamed finger joints may be warm to the touch with rheumatoid arthritis.

### Swelling

In some cases, swelling may be the first symptom of finger arthritis -- even before you develop pain. You may notice that your fingers feel puffy, particularly first thing in the morning. Your knuckles may look like they have disappeared. This may make it difficult for you to grip objects such as a hairbrush or pencil. Swelling may improve throughout the day. Muscle contractions as you move your hands help pump excess fluid out of the fingers. Compression gloves worn while you sleep help prevent swelling.

### Stiffness

Joint stiffness may occur as an early sign of finger arthritis. You may find it difficult to bend your fingers first thing in the morning, particularly if your fingers are also swollen. Showering, brushing your teeth and getting dressed can be difficult when your fingers are stiff. If you have osteoarthritis, this stiffness may improve within a few minutes as blood flow increases to your fingers when they are exposed to warm water or as you begin to move. Stiffness may also occur in the evening after a period of rest if you have used your hands a lot during the day. Stiffness caused by rheumatoid arthritis may last for hours.

### Weakness

Weakness can signal early finger arthritis. You may notice that you are dropping things or have difficulty turning doorknobs. Because osteoarthritis frequently affects the thumb, you may have difficulty turning a key or holding a book. Lifting a milk jug and opening a jar are often difficult with either type of arthritis. Weakness may be more evident in the evening when you are tired. This sign may be more obvious as the disease progresses and tissues in your joints break down.

### When to seek medical attention

See your doctor for an accurate diagnosis if you suspect you have arthritis in your fingers. Medications are available to treat arthritis symptoms and may even slow the progression of the disease.

(Source: livestrong.com)

## Money can buy you happiness, claim researchers

'People who hire a cleaner or pay the kid next door to mow the lawn might feel like they're being lazy, but our results suggest that buying time has similar benefits for happiness as having more money.'

Money can buy you happiness, it would appear.

Or, at least, money can buy you extra free time and that may make you happier, according to a new study.

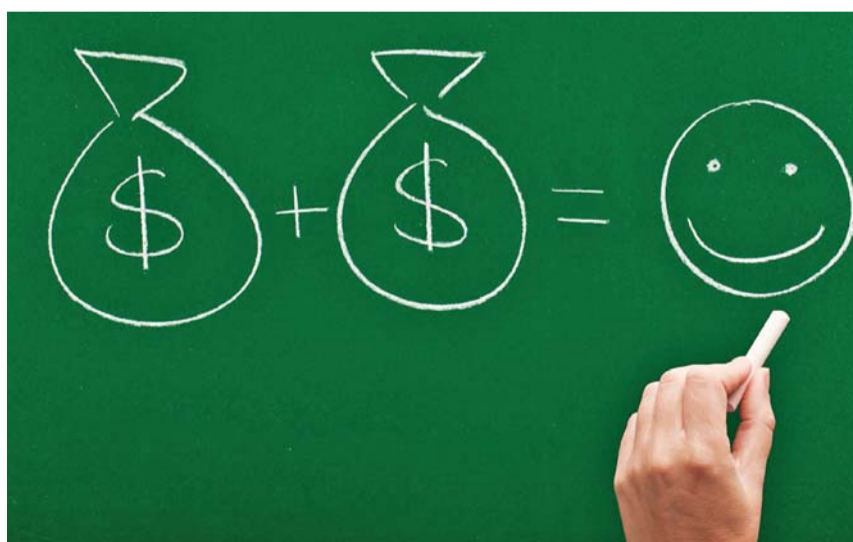
The research suggests that, instead of engaging in "retail therapy" in an attempt to feel better, people with enough money should spend it on paying someone else to do chores, such as cleaning, cooking, mowing the lawn, household maintenance or even shopping.

One of the researchers, Professor Elizabeth Dunn, said: "Although buying time can serve as a buffer against the time pressures of daily life, few people are doing it even when they can afford it."

"Lots of research has shown that people benefit from buying their way into pleasant experiences, but our research suggests people should also consider buying their way out of unpleasant experiences."

And she added that the benefits of that extra time "aren't just for wealthy people."

"We thought the effects might only hold up for people with quite a bit of disposable income, but to our surprise, we found the same effects across the income spectrum," said Professor Dunn, of British Columbia University in Canada. The researchers surveyed more



than 6,200 people in the US, Canada, Denmark and The Netherlands, asking about how they felt and how much they spent on time-saving services.

"Across samples, there was a significant interaction between time-saving purchases and time stress," they wrote in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

"Deconstructing this interaction, time stress was associated with lower life satisfaction among respondents who did not spend money on time-saving purchases.

"For respondents who spent money on time-saving purchases, the negative effect of time pressure on life satisfaction was not significant."

As part of the study, the researchers also gave \$40 (£25) to 60 people in Vancouver to spend on a material purchase on one weekend and a time-saving service on another weekend. They found people were happier in the latter case.

However the survey found that many people did not seem to want to buy time-saving services even when they

could easily afford them.

Of some 818 Dutch millionaires included in the survey nearly half said they "spent no money outsourcing disliked tasks".

"People who hire a house cleaner or pay the kid next door to mow the lawn might feel like they're being lazy," said another of the researchers, Professor Ashley Whillans, of Harvard Business School.

"But our results suggest that buying time has similar benefits for happiness as having more money."

However, simply having more money will not necessarily make you any happier -- in fact it could do the opposite.

"In recent decades, incomes have risen in many countries, potentially exacerbating a new form of poverty: from Germany to Korea to the United States, people with higher incomes report greater time scarcity," the paper said.

"Feelings of time stress are in turn linked to lower well-being, including reduced happiness, increased anxiety, and insomnia."

"Time stress is also a critical factor underlying rising rates of obesity: lacking time is a primary reason that people report failing to eat healthy foods or exercise regularly."

"In theory, rising incomes could offer a way out of the 'time famine' of modern life, because wealth offers the opportunity to have more free time, such as by paying more to live closer to work."

(Source: The Independent)

**In theory, rising incomes could offer a way out of the 'time famine' of modern life, because wealth offers the opportunity to have more free time, such as by paying more to live closer to work.**

## Dog bites

They may be our best friends, but dogs are still animals and they can bite. In fact, dogs bite about 4.7 million Americans every year, half of them children between ages 5 and 9. One out of every five of those bites causes an injury that requires medical attention, according to the Centers for Disease Control. Children are also more likely than adults to be injured by a dog bite.

Although strays or other strange dogs can bite, most of the time people are actually bitten by a dog they know, which could be a friend's dog or even the family pet.

### To prevent dog bites:

- When choosing a dog for a family pet, pick one with a good temperament.
- Stay away from any dogs you don't know.
- Never leave young children alone with a dog -- especially an unfamiliar one.
- Don't try to play with any dog that is eating or feeding her puppies.
- Whenever you approach a dog, do so slowly, and give the dog the chance to approach you.
- If a dog becomes aggressive, do not run away or scream. Stay calm, move slowly, and don't make eye contact with the dog.

### Dog bite treatments

Although you can provide first aid for a dog bite at home, it's very important to see a doctor, especially if an unfamiliar dog bit you, the bite is deep, you can't stop the bleeding, or there are any signs of infection (redness, swelling, warmth, pus). Dog bites can cause infections that need to be treated with antibiotics.

### To care for a dog bite injury at home:

- Place a clean towel over the injury to stop any bleeding.
- Try to keep the injured area elevated.
- Wash the bite carefully with soap and water.
- Apply a sterile bandage to the wound.
- Apply antibiotic ointment to the injury every day to prevent infection.

When you visit the doctor, be prepared to answer a few questions, including:

- Do you know the owner of the dog?
- If so, is the dog up to date on all vaccinations, including rabies?
- Did the bite occur because the dog was provoked, or was the dog unprovoked?
- What health conditions do you have? People with diabetes, liver disease, illnesses that suppress the immune system, and other health conditions may be at greater risk for a more severe infection.

(Source: pets.webmd.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:

- European Union authorities have increased pressure on Facebook, Google and Twitter to amend their user terms to bring them in line with EU law after proposals submitted by the tech giants were considered insufficient.
- Alphabet leverages mobile, video, cloud, and AI to keep revenue growing by 20%. Alphabet said its revenue rose 21 percent to \$26 billion in the second quarter (that number was 22 percent in the first quarter).
- Music streaming company Spotify is close to agreeing a new licensing pact with Warner Music Inc, the last big music royalty deal it needs before pushing ahead with a U.S. stock market listing, four sources familiar with the situation said.
- Roomba vacuum maker iRobot could sell spatial mapping data to smart home companies. The Roomba robotic vacuum has been whizzing across floors for years, but its future may lie more in collecting data than dirt.
- Japanese ecommerce giant Rakuten is striving to elevate its name globally through a series of sponsorships and rebrands involving its subsidiary businesses. The latest effort involves Wuaki.tv, the Spanish video-on-demand (VoD) company Rakuten acquired back in 2012, and which now counts five million users across 12 European markets, including Spain, the U.K., France, Germany, and Italy.
- Philippine president Rodrigo Duterte has admitted he paid an army of social media trolls to defend him while he was on the campaign trail last year. The outspoken and at times controversial politician was defending himself after a University of Oxford study was published, finding that Duterte uses both automated and human trolls on social media.
- Elon Musk says Mark Zuckerberg has 'limited understanding' of AI. Mark Zuckerberg just commented on artificial intelligence, saying people who warn of "doomsday scenarios" regarding AI are "pretty irresponsible."
- Nokia has reportedly started sending out invites for an August 16 event on which it will make the Nokia 8 official. This will be the first Nokia flagship in 3 years, and the first Android-powered premium handset with the Nokia brand.
- OnePlus owners are getting "spammed" with notifications to join a survey to win a OnePlus 5. OnePlus may just be pushing these notifications with the sole intent of getting honest feedback from its customers, but it may be in for a lot of negativity just because of how it's decided to approach users.
- Gmail disseminated a tweet revealing that Smart Reply is now available in Spanish from the Android and iOS versions of Gmail, Inbox and Allo. According to Google, even though these responses sometimes sound as fake as canned laughter, 12% of Inbox users turn to a Smart Reply for a quick answer.

A \$25 million autonomous ship will launch in 2018

A crewless ship to be christened the Yara Birkeland is expected to start sailing in 2018, initially delivering fertilizer along a 37-mile route in southern Norway. The electric-powered ship will be minuscule by modern standards, with the capacity for 100 to 150 shipping containers. But its arrival could be a huge turning point for the global shipping industry. The ship, according to the Wall Street Journal, will cost \$25 million, about three times as much as a conventional ship of similar size, but will save up to 90% in annual operating costs by eliminating both fuel and crew.



Though it is projected to launch next year, it will transition to fully autonomous operation only in stages. It will first be operated by an onboard crew, then remotely, before becoming fully self-guided by 2020. That is around the time rules governing autonomous ships are expected to be in place. The Yara Birkeland is being developed by the agricultural firm Yara International and guidance-system maker Kongsberg. The impact of autonomous ships may be milder than that of self-driving freight trucks, though, when it comes to jobs. While driverless trucks could put hundreds of thousands of human drivers out of work in the U.S. alone, the relative crew needs of shipping have already been declining for decades. Many container ships, including those carrying more than 10,000 containers, already use 30 crewmembers or less. (Source: Venturebeat)

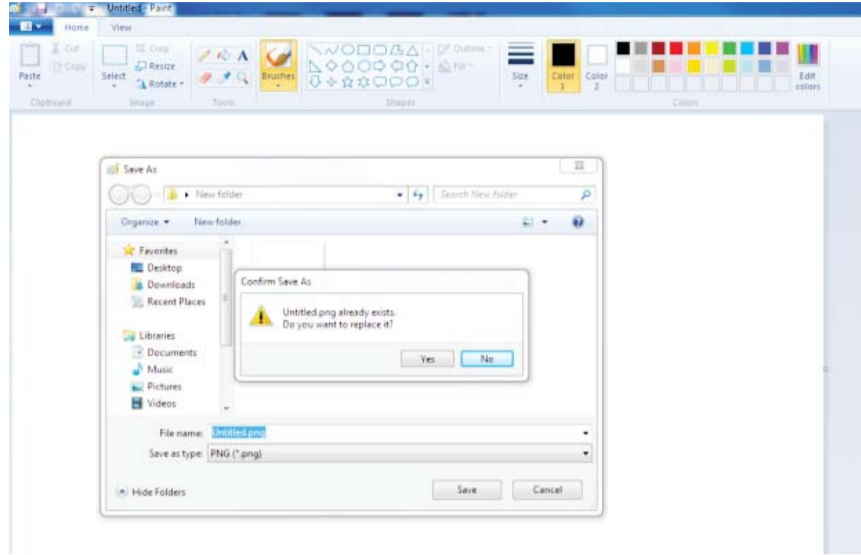
# Microsoft Paint to be killed off after 32 years

Microsoft's next Windows 10 update, called the Autumn (or Fall in the US) Creators Update, will bring a variety of new features. But one long-standing stalwart of the Windows experience has been put on the chopping block: Microsoft Paint.

First released with the very first version of Windows 1.0 in 1985, Paint in its various guises would be one of the first graphics editors used by many and became a core part of Windows. Starting life as a 1-bit monochrome licensed version of ZSoft's PC Paintbrush, it wasn't until Windows 98 that Paint could save in JPEG.

With the Windows 10 Creators Update, released in April, Microsoft introduced the new Paint 3D, which is installed alongside traditional Paint and features 3D image making tools as well as some basic 2D image editing. But it is not an update to original Paint and doesn't behave like it.

Now Microsoft has announced that, alongside Outlook Express, Reader app



and Reading list, Microsoft Paint has been signalled for death having been added to the "features that are removed or deprecated in Windows 10 Fall Creators Update" list.

Falling under the deprecated column for apps that are "not in active development and might be removed in future releases", Microsoft Paint's ticket has been called and now it's only a

matter of time before it is removed like your favourite piece of old furniture from your childhood home.

Paint was never one of the most capable apps, and was limited to the bitmap (BMP) and PCX formats until 1998, but if you wanted to scribble something out using your mouse or make a quick cut and paste job, Paint was always there, even on work computers.

The most recent version of Paint for Windows 7 and later was much improved, but still considered feature poor compared to other free alternatives such as the third-party Paint.NET.

When Microsoft Paint will officially be removed from Windows has yet to be confirmed, while a precise date for the release of the Windows 10 Autumn Creators Update is equally up in the air. Whether, like Clippy, Windows users will celebrate or decry Paint's removal, it will be a moment in the history of Windows as one of its longest-standing apps is put out to pasture. (Source: Guardian)

## Samsung Galaxy Note8 to have 3x zoom dual camera



Analyst Ming-Chi Kuo has long claimed that the Samsung Galaxy Note8 will have a dual camera with a telephoto lens and has now augmented his prediction – the telephoto will be 3x.

The dual module, allegedly built by Samsung itself, will feature one 13MP sensor for the wide-angle cam and a 12MP sensor for the telephoto. Both will feature optical image stabilization.

The Galaxy Note8 will be unveiled on August 23 and should go on sale in September. (Source: mydrivers)

## Android O Developer Preview 4 is now available



Today the search giant has outed the fourth and final Developer Preview of O. This has always been scheduled to come in July, and the final release of O is expected to hit next month.

The Android O Developer Preview 4 is a Release Candidate grade build that includes the final system behaviors, the latest bug fixes and optimizations, and the final developer APIs. This means that app developers can start their final testing against the upcoming iteration of Android, in order to have O-compatible apps as soon as 8.0.0 drops next month. (Source: android-developers)

## Huawei Watch 2 Porsche Design launched, Europe gets it first



The Porsche Design variant of the Huawei Watch 2, which was made official back in February at this year's Mobile World Congress (MWC), has now been launched. Carrying a €795 (\$925) price tag, the watch is currently available for purchase in Europe (including the UK).

For those who aren't aware, the Huawei Watch 2 Porsche Design only differs from the standard variant in terms of looks – there's a tachymeter bezel, strap with red stitching, and Porsche Design-created watch-faces. (Source: porsche-design)

## Google is sending out \$5 credit coupons to android users



Google is sending out \$5 credit coupons to Android users who have yet to purchase a book from Google, and who have opted in to receive the latest deals from Google Play. The coupon is good for use on certain titles. If you figured that you would be able to use the coupon to score a free book, forget it. The coupon can be used only toward eligible titles that cost more than \$5. (Source: phonearena)

## Prevents an iPhone from automatically connecting to a weak Wi-Fi signal

Today's release of iOS 11 beta 4 for Developers includes a new feature that just might stop you from throwing your iPhone against a brick wall. The feature will prevent your iOS powered handset from automatically using auto-join on sketchy Wi-Fi networks. The auto-join capability debuted with an earlier beta version of iOS 11, and appears when you tap on the circled blue "i" next to a Wi-Fi network in the settings. (Source: TheVerge)

Second Announcement

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National Iranian Drilling Company

Public Calls For Quality Evaluating Of Tender(First Publish/Seconed Publish)

One-Stage(compressed)

TENDER GUARANTEE		ESTIMATED VALUE (Rial)	Subject of Tender	Tenders Portal Reg. No.	TENDER NO. / INDENT NO	No
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**Brief discription of subject:**  
National Iranian Drilling Company(NIDC) address pasdaran Blev., Airport Saqare, Ahvaz, Iran hereby intends to purchase spare parts of cameron b.o.p 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 documents. Minimum acceptable point of quality is 60.

B) Preparation of tender documents:  
Purchasing 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.  
Reciving of documents:  
Tenderers must 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, Ahvaz, IRAN  
Notice: Only the real or legal persons who apply to purchase and recieve tender ducments from foreign procurement department in due date and participates in tender .

C) Delivery of envelopes of bids and call quality evaluating:  
Tenderers shall submit simultaneously envelopes of bids including bank guarantees(A), financial offer(C) and stamped and signed of tender documents(B) along with qualifaicion worksheets in form of software in CD and documentary within 40 days from last day of document recived deadline to the following address: Hall No.:107, 1thfloor ,Tender Committee, Building operations, National Iranian Drilling Company, Airport square, Ahvaz, 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](http://WWW.NIDC.IR)  
Foreign Procurement Dept  
National Iranian Drilling Company

تهران تایمز : نوبت اول ۹۶/۵/۳ نوبت دوم ۹۶/۵/۴



# Enhanced oil recovery method developed

Differences of the movement of oil through the micro channels of the addition of surfactant in the presence of silica nanoparticles as compared to the surfactant alone showing how the nano-sand alters the extraction of the oil.

An effective formula for EOR applications, according to the scientists at Swansea University.

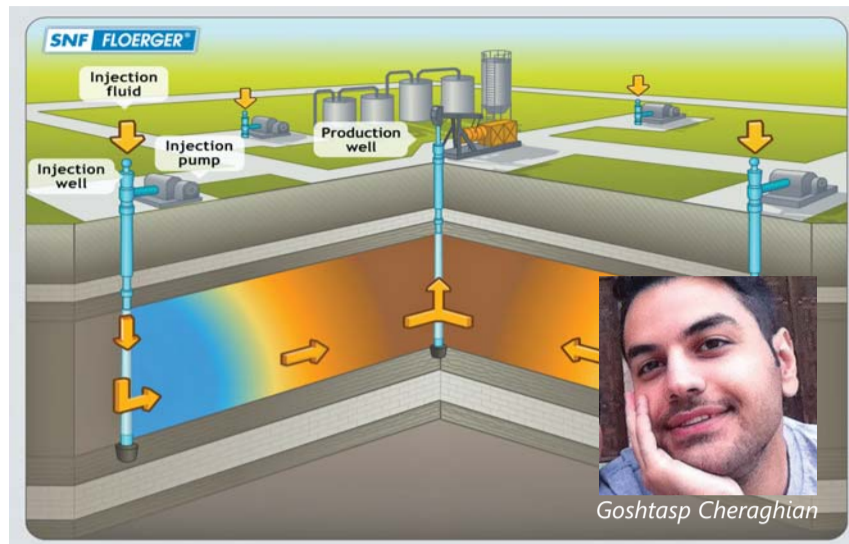
A new class of materials which are suitable agents for oil displacing in enhanced oil recovery have been developed by scientists in the Energy Safety Research Institute (ESRI) at Swansea University and scientists at Islamic Azad University in Iran.

The new nanoparticle-surfactant complexes, composed of sodium dodecyl sulfate (SDS) surfactant and fumed silica nanoparticles (Si-NPs) have important applications in enhanced oil recovery (EOR).

## Improving oil recovery

The materials are shown to improve the oil recovery by 58% compared to 45% recovery in the presence of surfactant alone.

The researchers led by Goshtasp Cheraghian and Professor Andrew R. Barron reported their find in the American Chemical Society journal *Industrial &*



Engineering Chemistry Research.

Fabrication and testing of these materials were carried out by Goshtasp Cheraghian (Member of Young Researchers at

Azad University) and Sajad Kiani, (a Ph.D. student at the Energy Safety Research Institute at the Swansea University Bay Campus).

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There, they used a 5-spot glass micro-model to evaluate the suitable agents for oil displacing in EOR.

## Core-flooded experiments

Such micromodel experiments have been used to investigate the mechanism of the fluid flow on porous mediums via flow visualization, pore space geometry, topology and heterogeneity effects, which are not possible to assess using traditional core-flood experiments.

"It is a surprise that the addition of silica nanoparticles, essentially nano-sand, to the surfactant solution leads to such a large modification," said Barron, the "changes are due to an alteration of the viscosity as well as effective wettability alteration, which effects the sweeping of the oil towards the recovery point."

The results of this work support an improved insight into the role of NPs and surfactants in enhanced oil recovery and future use in EOR formulations. Barron described the multinational team as a "great example of international collaboration across borders aimed at developing new materials for minimizing the impact of oil production through maximizing recovery."

(Source: Science Daily)

## The moon's interior could contain lots of water, study shows

Ancient volcanic deposits on the moon reveal new evidence about the lunar interior, suggesting it contains substantial amounts of water.

Using satellite data, scientists from Brown University studied lunar pyroclastic deposits, layers of rock that likely formed from large volcanic eruptions.

The magma associated with these explosive events is carried to the moon's surface from very deep within its interior, according to a study.

Previous studies have observed traces of water ice in shadowed regions at the lunar poles. However, this water is likely the result of hydrogen that comes from solar wind, according to the new study's lead author, Ralph Milliken, a geologist at Brown University.

The new research reveals there is likely a large amount of water in the moon's mantle, as well. This suggests that the water was delivered to the moon very early in its formation, before it fully solidified, Milliken told Space.com.

## Elevated water content

Colored areas on this map show spots with elevated water content compared with surrounding terrain on the moon's surface. Yellow and red indicate the richest water content.

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moon's surface. Yellow and red indicate the richest water content.

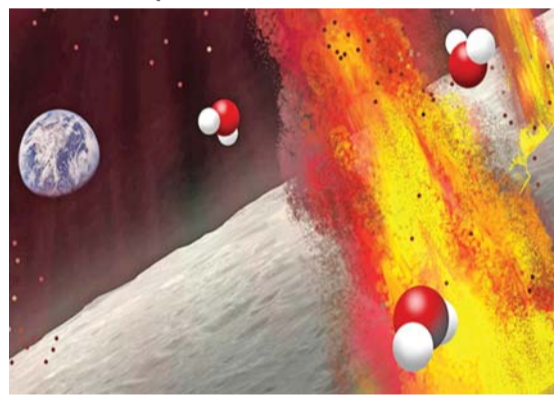
"We observe the water in deposits that are at the surface today, but these deposits are the result of magma that originally comes from deep within the lunar interior," Milliken said. "Therefore, because the products of the magma have water, the deep interior of the moon must also contain water."

The researchers analyzed satellite data from the Moon Mineralogy Mapper instrument aboard India's Chandrayaan-1 probe, which measures reflected sunlight at visible and near-infrared wavelengths. In order to estimate the amount of trapped water in the pyroclastic deposits, the scientists had to isolate the reflected sunlight from the thermal energy emitted by the moon's hot surface.

## Different materials, compounds

"Different minerals and compounds will absorb and reflect light in different ways, so in our case we looked at wavelengths where (the molecules) H<sub>2</sub>O and OH absorb light," Milliken said. "We found that there were larger absorptions, or less reflected sunlight, at these wavelengths for pyroclastic deposits, which indicates they contain OH or H<sub>2</sub>O."

Previously, scientists from Brown detected trace



amounts of water in similar volcanic samples — which are composed of loose material or "glass beads" — brought back to Earth from the Apollo 15 and 17 missions. However, the Apollo samples were not collected from the large pyroclastic deposits mapped using the satellite data in the recent study. This brought into question whether the Apollo samples represent a large portion of the moon's "wet" interior or if they represent only a small water-rich region within an otherwise "dry" mantle.

(Source: space.com)

## Dragonfly brains predict the path of their prey

New research from Australia and Sweden has shown how a dragonfly's brain anticipates the movement of its prey, enabling it to hunt successfully. This knowledge could lead to innovations in fields such as robot vision.

Researchers at the University of Adelaide and Lund University have offered more insights into the complexity of brain processing in dragonflies than has previously been understood.

"Until now, the international research community has primarily considered the capabilities of mammals, such as humans, for investigating how animals can predict where a moving object will be in the near future," says project partner Dr. Steven Wiederman from the University of Adelaide's Adelaide Medical School.

"Understandably, mammals in many ways are more complex organisms than insects, but with each discovery we're finding that dragonflies have been visual and neural processes that could be ideal for translating into technological advances," he says.

The Swedish-Australian collaboration resulted in the discovery of brain cells (neurons) in the dragonfly *Hemicordulia* that enables them to predictively pur-

sue and catch their flying prey. These neurons make it possible to focus on a small object that moves over a complex background, similarly to how humans can track and catch a ball, even when that ball is moving against the backdrop of a cheering crowd.

## Dragonfly neurons

Professor David O'Carroll, Professor of Biology at Lund University, says: the "dragonfly neurons can make a selection of a single target from the mass of visual information that the brain receives, such as the motion of another insect, and then predict its direction and future location. The dragonfly, like humans, makes this assessment based on the path along which the object moves."

"In other words, the dragonfly does something very similar to what we do when we track a ball in motion. Despite major differences in the complexity of the brain, evolution has led to the insect using its brain for advanced visual processes that are usually only considered in mammals."

University of Adelaide Ph.D. student Joseph Fabian and other team members were able to record target-detecting neurons in the dragonfly brain. These neu-



rons increased their responses in a small 'focus' area just in front of the location of a moving object being tracked. If the object then disappeared from the field of vision, the focus spread forward over time, allowing the brain to predict where the target was most likely to reappear. The neuronal prediction was based on the previous path along which the prey had flown.

"This is an exciting discovery, and it

helps our understanding of how single neurons make advanced predictions based on past history," Dr. Wiederman says.

"Our team is convinced that these results will have practical applications, especially in the development of artificial control and vision systems, such as self-steering vehicles and bionic vision."

(Source: phys.org)

## This app will analyze your DNA to help you lose weight

The weight-loss app Lose It! and Silicon Valley DNA analytics start-up Helix on Monday released *embodyDNA*, a service that analyzes 16 different traits as they relate to weight loss, nutrition, fitness and sensitivities to certain foods. It measures everything from body mass index and the metabolism of nutrients to muscle mass and gluten tolerance to give people insights into their genetic makeup, says Kevin McCoy, senior vice president of business development at the Boston-based Lose It.

23AndMe provides ancestry information, but there several other companies provide DNA analysis and nutrition programs to help with weight loss, including DNASimple, Fitness Genes and Nutrigenomix. They can cost as much as \$289, depending on the plan. (Privacy policies vary for each service, but Lose It users must opt into their data being aggregated anonymously for

future research.)

There are over 100 locations across the genome that play roles in various obesity traits, according to this 2015 study of more than 500,000 genetic samples published in the journal *Nature* by researchers at the University of Michigan.

## Large number of genes

The "large number of genes makes it less likely that one solution to beat obesity will work for everyone and opens the door to possible ways we could use genetic clues to help defeat obesity," senior study author Elizabeth Speliotes said.

But other more recent studies put less emphasis on the link between obesity and DNA. While genotype plays a role in obesity, another 2016 study in the *British Medical Journal* found that individuals carrying a gene that might give them a propensity for obesity respond

equally well to a change in diet, physical activity and/or drug-based weight loss treatments.

A genetic predisposition to obesity "can be at least partly counteracted through such interventions," it concluded.

## Increased obesity risk

Some fitness experts are also sanguine about the usefulness of these DNA analytic services for dieting. Anne Machalinski, a writer for *Self* magazine and marathon runner, tried Fitness Genes service and was told she had an increased obesity risk and had muscles that recovered quickly from exercise.

"These recommendations are essentially common sense of the 'eat less and move more' variety," she wrote for *Self*, "plus a push for resistance, strength and high intensity interval training."

(Source: MarketWatch)

## How blowing up atoms could revolutionize cosmology

There was a lot of excitement last year when the LIGO collaboration detected gravitational waves, which are ripples in the fabric of space itself. And it's no wonder — it was one of the most important discoveries of the century. By measuring gravitational waves from intense astrophysical processes like merging black holes, the experiment opens up a completely new way of observing and understanding the universe.

But there are limits to what LIGO can do. While gravitational waves exist with a big variety of frequencies, LIGO can only detect those within a certain range. In particular, there's no way of measuring the type of high frequency gravitational waves that were generated in the Big Bang itself. Catching such waves would revolutionize cosmology, giving us crucial information about how the universe came to be.

This is similar to how a person stretches the fabric of a trampoline when stepping on it. If the person starts moving up and down, this would generate undulations in the fabric that will move outwards from the position of the person. The speed at which the person is jumping will determine the frequency of the generated ripples in the fabric.

An important trace of the Big Bang is the Cosmic Microwave Background. This is the radiation left over from the birth of the universe, created about 300,000 years after the Big Bang. But the birth of our universe also created gravitational waves — and these would have originated just a fraction of a second after the event. Because these gravitational waves contain invaluable information about the origin of the universe, there is a lot of interest in detecting them.

(Source: IBT)

## Cool the planet? Geoengineering is easier said than done

With the world facing increased warming, melting ice caps, rising sea levels, intense weather events and other global disasters, scientists are exploring ways to re-engineer the planet to counter the effects of global warming.

Earth's surface has warmed, on average over land and sea, 1.53 degrees Fahrenheit (0.85 degrees Celsius) since 1880, according to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, an international organization created by the United Nations to evaluate the state of climate change science.

In the most recent issue of the journal *Science*, published online Thursday (July 20), two researchers provided perspective on two geoengineering methods that could reduce the so-called greenhouse effect, under which gases and clouds in Earth's atmosphere trap the sun's heat. Both schemes could contribute to a cooler climate, but they are not without risks.

And as both researchers made clear, neither idea addresses the rising levels of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) in the atmosphere that is primarily to blame for global warming and higher levels of oceanic acid. This acidity is killing the coral reefs that shelter marine life and support the fish that humans eat.

(Source: Live Science)

## Three new 'club-tailed' scorpions join the tree of life

A team of researchers -- including Dr. Lauren Esposito, Curator of Arachnology at the California Academy of Sciences and colleagues from the American Museum of Natural History and Universidade de São Paulo (Brazil) -- have painstakingly revised a large group of Neotropical "club-tailed" scorpions. After sifting through DNA and comparing the physical traits of hundreds of specimens to reorganize (and strengthen) scientific understanding of this scorpion group, the scientists described two new genera and new species. The authors also restored a long-forgotten group called *Heteroctenus*. The colorful, new-to-science club-tailed scorpions hail from the tropical regions of North, Central, and South America. The results appear this summer in the *Bulletin of the American Museum of Natural History*.



"Clocking in at 435 million years old, scorpions are among the oldest living terrestrial arthropods on the planet," says Esposito, one of the world's only female scorpion biologists and expert in the evolution of their venoms. "We need to understand what they are and where they live so we can protect them. This review clears up longstanding confusion about the club-tailed group, but there's still so much to discover."

Scorpions -- which give birth to live young -- are found in every ecosystem on the planet, from cave systems below sea level to the snow-capped peaks of the Alps. Arachnologists estimate that the 2,200 species of known scorpion species only encompass around 60% of the group's total diversity. Esposito is part of a dedicated group of arachnologists determined to fill in those taxonomic gaps and care for vitally important museum collections -- often referred to as "libraries of life" available to students and researchers around the world.

Though their characteristics vary, specimens of the three new species -- *Ischnotelson peruassu* and *Physoctonus stritatus* from Brazil, and *Rhopalurus ocohalo* from Venezuela -- inhabit the same overarching group of mostly large-bodied, strikingly colored, and sonically gifted scorpions.

(Source: EurekAlert)



## Woodpeckers of Barzok are affected by asymmetrical pattern of development

By Farnaz Heidari

Most woodpeckers are tied to tree habitats but dwell on a wide variety of species of trees regardless of their age and size.

The Great Spotted Woodpecker may feed in willow thickets in winter, but needs bigger branches to nest. Others feed on the ground: The Green Woodpecker, an ant-eater, feeds much more on grassland than on trees. Others, however, are more exacting and require large amounts of dead wood, and struggle to survive in modern forests with intensive management.

The pictures are taken in Barzok, a city in Kashan, Isfahan Province. The signs of woodpeckers such as their nests and even feathers are visible but not correspondingly any easier to see.



If you listen closely, it is possible to hear their short and sharp calls, but it also sounds like a drum as the birds hammer their bills hard against a resonant branch in a short, rapid drum-roll.

### Syrian woodpeckers of Barzok

Two white patches on both wings, wing-sides barred black and white, long and sharp bill, dirty white cheek and brownish-white forehead, red crown and a black rim are all defining characteristics of Syrian Woodpecker which is a native and common species to Iran.

The species has jaw-dropping ways to chat, calls resemble Great Spotted but softer and more rounded. Drum-burst begins like Great Spotted but is longer and dies away at the end. It is common in woodlands, scrubs, parks, gardens, around clumps of trees and often near villages or farmlands. This species prefers adjacent to the villages and cultivated lands but that rule of thumb doesn't always hold up.

Human beings have used a large part of the land surface of the Earth for agriculture that many plants and animals such as woodpeckers cannot survive in fragmented or broken up habitats. Habitat loss is occurring at a rapid rate in Barzok too. Habitat loss is an insidious agent of biodiversity loss because it is rare to have a good catalog of the species in a region after habitat clearing.

### Asymmetrical pattern of development in Barzok

Conflicts between "green spaces" and development is a tragic item of news nowadays. One way to determine an ecosystem health is to obtain some of the environmental indices for example woodpeckers' presence in a place. The general notion of ecosystem health is useful to provide the society and decision-makers with some indication of how environmental factors is coping with stresses arising from physical factors, such as human beings intervention with the nature.

The problem of less developed areas such as Barzok is that environmental issues have polarized the area. The technological optimists believe that through technological innovations human beings will dominate nature and become independent of nature. This is the dominant view in many villages and is based partly on the fact that this approach to life has facilitated great progress in human health and living standards. But the big question concerns the future, why we cannot see the environment as an investment portfolio, and ask how we can manage this portfolio, particularly in situations of uncertainty such as changing the landscape.

Farming and building concrete structures in Barzok is rapidly gaining ground and most of the woodlands close to the seasonal rivers are being converted to pastures and agricultural fields into suburbs with relatively little thought given to the ecological consequences of these land use planning. →13

## LEARN ENGLISH

### The Weekend - Talking About Skincare

A: You want to go get a **facial** with me today?  
 B: Dude, what are you talking about? Only girls do that.  
 A: Not at all, guys also get facials, **manicures** and **pedicures**. There is nothing wrong with looking after your skin and looking good.  
 B: True. So what do they do to you at your beauty **spa**?  
 A: Well, first they **exfoliate** my face, getting rid of all the dead skin. Then I get a face mask with nutrients that keep my skin healthy and young. Afterwards, they apply some moisturizer and you leave feeling like a million bucks.  
 B: That doesn't really sound like something I would be interested in. In any case, I just wash my face every night and use **sunscreen** during the day.  
 A: Well you should come with me one day, I'm sure you'll love it.  
 B: Uh... no.

### Key Vocabulary

**facial**: a treatment to beautify the face.  
**manicure**: a cosmetic treatment of the hands and fingernails, including trimming and polishing of the nails  
**pedicure**: professional care and treatment of the feet  
**spa**: a luxurious resort or resort hotel.  
**Exfoliate**: to remove the surface of...such as skin and dirt  
**sunscreen**: a substance formulated to prevent sunburn, skin cancers, and other conditions caused by excessive exposure to the sun

### Supplementary Vocabulary

**massage**: the act or art of treating the body by rubbing, kneading, patting  
**tranquil**: free from commotion or tumult; peaceful; quiet  
**sunburn**: inflammation of the skin caused by overexposure to the sun or a sunlamp.  
**tan**: A brown color on the skin caused by the rays of the sun  
 (Source: irlanguage.com)

# Melancholic temperament: Specifications and lifestyle



## ARTICLE

By Seyed Mahdi Mirghazanfari, MD, PhD

**TEHRAN** — Iranian-Islamic traditional medicine is a holistic medicine which has been based on individual differences and a determinant basic concept named as Mizaj (temperament).

According to Iranian-Islamic traditional medicine, everybody has a definite Mizaj which is determinant to construct all physical or mental characteristics.

The excess or less 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, yellow bile, black bile, and phlegm respectively. Words written in italic show original Persian terms in the ancient literature.

In what comes next the distinctive behavioral and physical characteristics of people with melancholic temperaments will be thoroughly explained.

### Melancholic: Cold and Dry

People with melancholic temperament are usually thin and have a small frame. They don't have much big body parts and they don't gain weight.

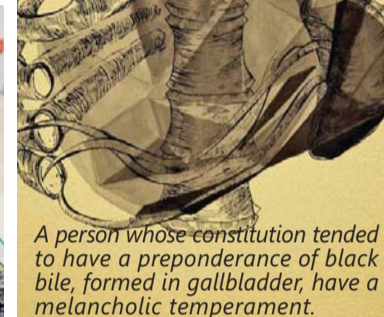
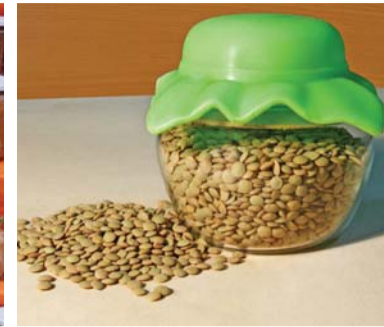
They have a dark complexion and are likely to develop dark spots on their skin. Their skin is dry and rough and is prone to get wrinkles and show signs of premature skin aging.

Their hair is coarse, curly and coil. They also have excessive unwanted hair (hirsutism).

From mental point of view people with melancholic temperament tend to be introspective and introvert. They act and speak unhurriedly and might need more time to accomplish a task but they do it perfectly.

They might have negative thoughts. They can be perceived as cynical, skeptic, distrustful and suspicious and are more likely to develop mental disorders such as depression. They are also likely to have more nightmares than other people.

They don't sleep much, have trouble falling asleep



Pickled fruits and vegetables, food stuff with vinegar content, lentil, eggplant, and fast food are not recommended to people with melancholic temperament.

fast, they have a lower sleep efficiency which might cause disturbed sleep. They have a retentive memory.

They are much more likely to suffer constipation and dry skin. Body waste discharged from their bodies (including urine, feces, menstrual fluid or sweat) might become dark in color. They are not in favor of change. For example they try to wear the same clothes and perfumes as much as possible.

They are sensitive to food stuff and drinks with cold and dry temperament and they have to cut down on pickled fruits and vegetables, food stuff with vinegar content, lentil, eggplant, leftovers, and fast food.

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 AJA University of Medical Sciences, Tehran.

## British princes regret rushed final conversation with mother Diana

Britain's Prince William and Harry have spoken of their regret over the last conversation they had with their mother Princess Diana before she died, saying the telephone call was "desperately rushed".

In a documentary called "Diana, Our Mother: Her Life and Legacy", timed to coincide with the 20th anniversary of Diana's death in a Paris car crash on Aug. 31, 1997, the two princes said they spoke to their mother shortly before she died.

"Harry and I were in a desperate rush to say goodbye, you know 'see you later' ... if I'd known now, obviously, what was going to happen, I wouldn't have been so blaze about it and everything else,"

Prince William said in the film.

Prince Harry said: "It was her speaking from Paris, I can't really necessarily remember what I said but all I do remember is probably regretting for the rest of my life how short the phone call was."

Nick Kent, the film's executive producer, told Reuters he believed the documentary offered a glimpse of "the private Diana".

"Nobody has ever told this story from the point of view of the two people who knew her better than anyone else, and loved her the most: her sons."

The princes recall their mother's sense of humor, with Prince Harry describing

her as "one of the naughtiest parents". They also recall the pain of their parents' divorce and how they dealt with the news of her death and its aftermath.

While the film addresses aspects of Diana's life such as her charity work involving HIV and landmines, it shies away from some other issues, such as extra-marital affairs.

According to the makers, however, the British royals were very open and did not put any subject off-limits. Rather, they wanted to cover new ground and make a different type of film.

"What we had in mind is that in years to come, Prince William and Prince Harry would be happy to show this film

to their own children and say this is who your grandmother was", Kent said.

A number of commemorative events have been planned to mark Diana's death.

William and Harry attended a private service this month to rededicate her grave and the brothers have commissioned a statue to be erected in her honor outside their official London home.

Rarely-seen possessions of Diana, including her music collection and ballet shoes, went on display on Saturday at Buckingham Palace. An exhibition celebrating Diana's fashion opened in February.

(Source: Reuters)

## 22 safe houses for women running in Iran



**SOCIETY TEHRAN** — There are currently 22 centers across Iran providing shelter for homeless women and those who are victims of domestic violence.

Of the centers, dubbed "safe houses", 15 are run by the private sector and the rest are state-run, ISNA quoted the head of State Welfare Organization, Anoushiravan Mohseni-Bandpei, as saying on Tuesday.

He made the remarks on the sidelines of the opening ceremony of the first center in the northern Golestan province.

"We should provide shelters for those women who are victims of domestic violence," he said.

He noted that the centers provide beds for women who want to keep their children during their stay at the centers.

The welfare organization pays 1 billion rials (about \$25,000) for establishing each new safe house, he added.

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# China-India dispute would not flare up: expert

**I→** There was no message as such conveyed by the Trump administration that should make Islamabad uneasy about its own ties with the U.S. But the U.S. relationship with Pakistan continues to be a foggy patch over otherwise brightened U.S.-India ties.

**■ What role does India play in the equations of power in Asia and also balance of power between the United States and China?**

A: India probably plays a significant, but not yet crucial, role in the balance of power in the Asian region. On China and Chinese foreign policy initiatives, India's feelings are mixed. On one hand it wants stability in a growing economic and business relationship with China; on the other hand it is anxious about China's rapidly spreading influence and of a related encroachment, as strategic experts see it, of India. The Belt Road Initiative is a case in point. It can produce important economic benefits for Indian development but it also has a China-Pakistan economic 'corridor' part of which runs through territory disputed by India and Pakistan and appears to be a part of Beijing's desire to constrict New Delhi's strategic space in the region. The joint statement following Modi's visit to Washington calls for "support bolstering regional economic connectivity through the transparent development of infrastructure... while



ensuring respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, the rule of law, and the environment" and called on "other nations in the region to adhere to these principles". This seems to be an oblique reference to aspects of China's BRI that concern India.

India has, however, not been idle in the region. It has been involving itself quite a bit in Afghanistan's affairs, especially in reconstruction and development, to the worry of Pakistan. India has also been drawing closer than before to Japan and

Australia and has maintained close ties with Vietnam.

**■ The tensions between India and China in the Sikkim region have intensified and the two countries have deployed military forces to the region. Is it possible that the conflict flare up?**

A: Tensions exist on the long and still disputed border between India and China and any sign of tension in Sikkim or elsewhere is part of an almost ritualistic display of apparent belligerence between the two countries, which have been unable to settle their dispute over the border since 1962. It is highly unlikely, however, that matters will go out of hand and spill over into a full scale conflict between the two Asian giants. Such instability is clearly not in India's interest. More importantly, China may not want any avoidable disturbance to mar its otherwise steady and rapid expansion of influence across the entire region.

**"The visit by Modi to Washington was thus a bit of a scouting mission. By most accounts, by the end of the visit the relationship appeared to be on track even though it remains unclear whether the Trump administration sees India as a key power player in Asia."**

**■ Is the recent suggestion by U.S. Secretary of Defense James Mattis to strengthen Delhi's military capability as a confirmation that the U.S. is seeking entry into Delhi-Beijing tensions?**

A: In defense cooperation, the U.S. and India have significantly ratcheted up the level over the past few years. The Trump administration has reiterated the U.S. commitment to regard India as a major defense partner. U.S. military sales to India continue to expand and military-to-military joint exercises, such as the annual Malabar naval exercises in the Indian Ocean, have become quite routine. But this does not signify much more than an American desire to see India play an active role in the Indian Ocean, which is also a continuation of a trend followed by the previous two U.S. administrations. Peripherally it may be of concern to China, which also sees the Indian Ocean as within its zone of influence, but the Trump administration seems to accept the status of China as Asia's premier power and is unlikely to push India to play a strategic role beyond South Asia or to build a significant resistance to China's Asian dominance.

**"Trump administration seems to accept the status of China as Asia's premier power and is unlikely to push India to play a strategic role beyond South Asia or to build a significant resistance to China's Asian dominance," the researcher at the Center for American Progress says.**

## Saudi-led group blacklists 18 individuals, groups

### Saudi lobby pays \$138,000 for anti-Qatar ads in the U.S.

The House of Saud regime, Bahrain, Egypt and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have added 18 individuals and groups to its "terror list", according to state-run Saudi Press Agency (SPA).

The four Arab states cut ties with Qatar on June 5. In addition to placing a political and economic blockade, the countries placed 71 Qatar-funded or Qatar-based individuals and organizations on a ban list because of alleged links to Qatar over "terrorism".

The new entrants include entities from Libya and Yemen and individuals from Qatar, Yemen and Kuwait who the Arab states say have direct and indirect links to Qatari authorities, a joint statement by the Saudi regime-led group said, according to SPA.

Qatar has vehemently rejected the group's accusations of funding "terrorism" as baseless.

Tuesday's additions to the list include three organizations based in Yemen and six based in Libya, which the four Arab governments accuse of having ties to al-Qaeda.

They also banned three Qataris, three Yemenis, two Libyans and a Kuwaiti they said were implicated in "fundraising campaign to support [former al-Qaeda affiliated] al-Nusra Front and other terrorist militias in Syria", SPA reported.

The move by the four Arab governments came despite mounting international pressure to compromise in their blockade on Qatar which is in its second month.

On June 22, the Saudi regime-led group issued a 13-point list of demands, including shutting down Al Jazeera, limiting ties with Iran and expelling Turkish troops stationed in the country, as a prerequisite to lifting the sanctions.

Doha refused to accept those demands. Earlier this month, Qatar and the United States signed an agreement to help combat "terrorism financing".

But the Saudi regime-led group called the agreement "insufficient" and said it would "carefully monitor the seriousness of Qatari authorities in combating all forms of financing, supporting and harboring terrorism".

The U.S. has praised Qatar for signing the deal and for its commitment to the effort to "track down and disable terror financing".

**■ \$138,000 for anti-Qatar ads in the U.S.**

Meanwhile, a Saudi lobby in the United States has launched a television advertisement campaign against Qatar, contracts reviewed by Al Jazeera show, with \$138,000 spent on seven, 30-second TV spots.

The TV spots have been purchased by the Saudi American Public Relation Affairs Committee (SAPRAC).

The advertisements, which began airing on NBC-4 in Washington, DC on July 23, say Qatar is supporting "terrorism" and destabilizing U.S. allies in the region, allegations that the Saudi regime-led group of countries has maintained since cutting ties with Qatar on June 5.

Doha rejects the allegations as "baseless". Four of the ads will run during Meet the Press, a weekly news-interview program that sees host Chuck Todd interview high-level politicians on Sunday mornings.

The program leads the Sunday show news market and has seen gains in viewership over the past year, according to reports.

For the four spots, totaling 120 seconds, SAPRAC

paid \$120,000, or \$1,000 per second.

The three other ads were aired during the British Open golf tournament on July 23 and cost \$6,000 each.

Kip Cassino, executive vice president of research of a market research firm Borrell Associates, said SAPRAC probably does not want to influence the public, but decision-makers, given the few spots purchased for the ad.

"Having a few ads is not much repetition. There's not much to gain from it," Cassino told Al Jazeera, adding that current research suggests that repetition is key to influencing an audience.

Richard Lau, a professor of political science at Rutgers University who specializes in media effects in political campaigns and political persuasion, agreed.

The few airings, time slots and the fact that the advertisement is only airing in DC means there is a select audience: politicians.

The ad "would only be in the service of influencing government policy towards the countries. It's not like a campaign where people are going to go out and vote for Saudi Arabia or Qatar", Lau said.

U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson visited the Persian Gulf earlier this month and called for direct talks between Qatar and the Saudi regime-led group, which includes Bahrain, Egypt and the United Arab Emirates.

Lau doubted the effectiveness of the TV spot, saying that experts and politicians in Washington, DC, are some of the most informed individuals regarding foreign policy, and many have already made up their minds on the issue of who funds "extremist" organizations in the Middle East.

"What strikes me as interesting is that Saudi Arabia is starting a new strategy for influencing opinion in America," he said.

**■ The Saudi strategy**

The strategy is headed by the new pro-Saudi lobby organization in Washington, DC.

SAPRAC was founded in March 2016, according to filings from the U.S. lobbying disclosure database.

Salman al-Ansari, a Saudi writer, lobbyist and political commentator who has become a fixture on U.S. national news networks, is SAPRAC's founder and president.

Al-Ansari stirred controversy last October when he wrote in favor of strong ties between Israel and the House of Saud regime.

He said Mohammed bin Salman, the crown prince of the Saudi regime, who replaced the previous Crown Prince Mohammed bin Nayef, is "prepared and willing to develop real, enduring ties with Israel".

SAPRAC paid for the ads, and the screen time was purchased by the ad firm Canal Partners Media.

The ad firm, which is typically employed by Democratic candidates and received more than \$9m in payments for the 2016 election cycle, made a commission of more than \$20,000 on the SAPRAC deal.

Canal Partners Media did not respond to Al Jazeera's request for comment on its relationship with SAPRAC.

For Riza Marashi, Research Director at the DC-based National Iranian American Council, SAPRAC is one of the most obvious instances of warmer Israeli-Saudi relations.

Israel has a long history of influencing U.S. politics through its lobbying group, the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC).

Marashi said he has noticed "a willingness" from pro-Israel lobbyists and groups to teach SAPRAC how to lobby, "particularly since King Salman and Mohammed bin Salman came into the most powerful positions".

An Al Jazeera investigation in June also showed a joint lobbying effort between Israel, the House of Saud regime and the United Arab Emirates.

Marashi noted that Saudi Arabia had a powerful lobbying apparatus in Washington for years, but it was mostly done through the embassy through a behind-the-scenes strategy.

The lobbying disclosure database shows that SAPRAC has kept a low profile since March 2016. Of the organization's six quarterly reports, only one shows any actual lobbying: a 2016 meeting with Joseph Westphal, the former U.S. ambassador to Saudi Arabia.

Now, there is a "thrust to create a greater presence in DC", and these TV ads are another example, Marashi said.

**■ Extremely dangerous**

If its efforts are successful, the Saudi regime will wield even greater influence in Washington, and "this is extremely dangerous", Marashi said.

"The Trump administration has given the Saudis, Emiratis and Israelis a blank cheque to do whatever they want in the region. You saw this after the president visited Saudi Arabia, who then began the Qatar blockade."

Marashi listed human rights concerns in Yemen, where Saudi regime and UAE forces are accused of inflicting widespread civilian casualties and continuing a blockade of vital ports, leaving people with limited access to food and medicine amid one of the worst cholera outbreaks in years.

Israel, for its part, is increasing pressure on Iran with the help of the House of Saud and the U.S.

U.S. President Donald Trump has repeatedly criticized Iran and imposed new sanctions on the country despite its adherence to a landmark nuclear deal.

Marashi said that this belligerence is not in the U.S. interests.

"If you're Kuwait or Oman, and you see the U.S. ally Qatar being blockaded without response from Washington, does that inspire confidence? If you're Iran, you say 'thank God we have our missiles, what would stop them from doing this to us?'"

**■ Qatar: Ending blockade should precede dialogue**

The blockade imposed on Qatar by four Arab states must be lifted before the country can engage into a dialogue, Qatar's Defense Minister Khalid bin Mohammed al-Attiyah said.

Foreign diplomats have visited the region, urging a dialogue to resolve the crisis that is now in its second month. However, al-Attiyah said "lifting the siege should precede any dialogue".

"If the blockading countries remain reluctant to lift the siege, Qatar will be compelled to resort to the available international legal procedures to lift it," al-Attiyah said in an interview with Russia Today, excerpts of which was published by Qatar's official news agency on Tuesday.

The Qatari minister ruled out the relocation of the Al-Udeid U.S. military base from his country.

(Source: agencies)

## Jordan seeks to question Israeli embassy guard

Jordan has said it is looking to question an Israeli security guard who killed two Jordanians at the Amman embassy compound, as Israel points to his diplomatic immunity.

A Jordanian government source, who declined to be named, told AFP news agency on Monday that Israel was "still examining the request" to question the guard involved in Sunday's incident in which, according to Israeli officials, a Jordanian attacked the guard with a screwdriver.

"There is no need for a diplomatic escalation," the source said.

The embassy's staff, including the security guard, returned to Israel late on Monday, according to the office of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who said hours earlier that they would seek to find an agreement.

"We are holding contacts with Jordanian security and government officials in order to bring the incident to a close ASAP (as soon as possible)," he said in a statement.

The security guard shot the Jordanian attacker dead, while a second Jordanian there at the time was also killed - reportedly by accident.

A Jordanian security source named the first dead man as 17-year-old Mohammed Jawawdeh and the second as Bashar Hamarneh, a doctor who was in the residential quarter of the embassy at the time of the incident.

He said the Israeli was the deputy director of security at the embassy.

The government source said an initial investigation indicated that Jawawdeh and the security guard "fell out over some dispute which led to a stabbing and a shooting".

Jawawdeh's father, Zakariya, told AFP news agency that he wanted "the truth", urging authorities to view CCTV footage from security cameras at the embassy.

"My son has no interest in politics. He does not follow any extremist ideology," he said.

"I want to know how the investigation is going and know what happened and what led to the killing of my son."

Israel and Jordan are bound by a 1994 peace treaty. But tensions have been high in recent days after Israel put in place security measures at the highly sensitive al-Aqsa Mosque compound in east al-Quds (Jerusalem), known to Jews as Temple Mount.

Israel installed metal detectors at entrances to the site after an attack nearby on July 14 that killed two of its policemen. Palestinians view the move as Israel asserting further control over the compound.

Jordan is the official custodian of Muslim holy sites in Jerusalem.

Israeli measures at the flashpoint site sparked angry demonstrations in Amman on Friday, when thousands took to the streets in a protest.

(Source: AFP)

## Iraq seeks 'substantial' Russian military, political presence: Maliki

**I→** On Saturday, Maliki criticized the United States role in Iraq, saying Washington had in the first place contributed to the emergence of the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Daesh) terrorist group.

Washington now seeks to establish military bases on Iraqi territory in a bid to maintain influence in the region, he said.

"ISIL resembles the Taliban which was created by the US administration to counter the USSR (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) in Afghanistan. The same way, ISIL was created to counter the Iraqi stance, which did not agree to blockade Syria, was against no-fly zones in Syria and against American military bases," said the Iraqi vice-president in an interview with Russia's RIA Novosti news agency.

"The Iraqi society is against foreign military bases on the country's territory," al-Maliki noted, adding that he has already warned the Americans against "coming back to Iraq and setting up bases here."

(Source: agencies)

## Woodpeckers of Barzok are affected by asymmetrical pattern of development

**I2→** The main problem of Barzok is similar to other regions and is pertaining to assessing impacts on Flora and also Fauna. Changes in land use have a dual impact- both on habitat loss for plants such as \*\*\*\*\*Tamarix spp\*\*\*\*\* and animal communities e.g. Syrian Woodpecker (\*\*\*\*\*Dendrocopos syriacus\*\*\*\*\*). These species are considered as ecosystem health indicators and as a result of farming and urban sprawl, their proper habitats are being abandoned.

**■ The importance of woodpeckers**

It is well-known that woodpeckers provide cavities for secondary cavity nester. Woodpeckers are dependent on dead wood for foraging and excavating cavities. Many of woodpecker species such as Syrian Woodpecker are highly susceptible to habitat changes and that's why they are being used as general indicators.

It is also known that the increase of woodpeckers is connected with decrease and even increase of some other species. For example, investigations show that the success of woodpeckers in excavating nests or roost sites depends on fungi having rotted the wood. Then all data suggest that woodpeckers are disproportionately important to their ecosystems. As such, woodpeckers are important model species in conservation biology. The ecology of woodpeckers such as habitat use and foraging patterns in Iran, have not been studied well and even population data are much scarcer than we have to think more about all of these gaps because of woodpeckers' importance.



## 'Emotional' Philipp Lahm vote has made award absurd - Toni Kroos agent

The decision to vote Philipp Lahm Germany's Footballer of the Year has reduced the vote "to absurdity," the agent of Real Madrid midfielder Toni Kroos has said.

Former Germany and Bayern Munich captain Lahm, 33, won the award for the first time at the weekend.

Lahm, who retired at the end of last season, took the prize — organised by football magazine Kicker and voted for by journalists — in an outcome that Volker Struth said left him "very surprised and astonished."

In a statement on his Sport Total agency's website, Struth said he felt the vote had been determined by "emotional criteria."

He said it should have "honoured the outstanding player of the past season, and that was without a doubt Toni Kroos," who won the Champions League title with Madrid.

"This is not a singular opinion, because feedback from several club and media people from the Bundesliga and abroad endorsed my position," Struth added.

"Philipp Lahm is an extraordinary footballer, but Toni Kroos should have been named Footballer of the Year.

"The vote for the Footballer of the Year has been reduced to absurdity."

Lahm, who succeeded Bayern and Germany defender Jerome Boateng as the winner, said at the weekend he felt "the journalists in the vote have watched me for my entire career."

Meanwhile, Bayern president Uli Hoeness expressed his surprise at the timing of the award.

"It's very surprising that he's only won it now," Hoeness told reporters in Singapore. "Philipp deserved to win it much earlier."

(Source: ESPN)

## Real Madrid want a top-class French striker, Lyon president claims

Lyon president Jean-Michel Aulas says Real Madrid are determined to sign a top-class French striker in the transfer window, prompting suggestions they will move for Kylian Mbappe.

The Monaco star has been heavily linked with a number of major European clubs in recent months and Madrid are widely reported to be among the favourites to win the race to sign him.

The Spanish and European champions are said to be keen on bolstering their attacking options after selling Alvaro Morata to Chelsea and Mariano Diaz to Lyon.

And Aulas claimed he has been given suggestions by Madrid counterpart Florentino Perez that a raid for a one of Ligue 1's top talents is imminent.

"I spoke with Florentino and I believe he has the intention of signing a top-level striker," Aulas told RMC. "I believe he is French."

Madrid boss Zinedine Zidane denied this week he has asked for a forward to be signed but admitted that "anything can happen" until the transfer window closes next month.

Mbappe has offered no guarantees over his future but Monaco head coach Leonardo Jardim has made it clear the club want to keep him.

The Ligue 1 champions have also threatened to get FIFA involved after accusing unnamed clubs of making unauthorised approaches for the player.

(Source: Soccerway)

## French mayor has to eat a RAT after losing bet on Barcelona's miraculous comeback against PSG

When Paris Saint-Germain emerged from their first-leg against Barcelona with a 4-0 lead, most people would have put their mortgage on them progressing in the Champions League.

Unfortunately for the mayor of a commune in south-western France, he went a step further with his prediction for the round of 16 game.

Charles Dayot of Mont-de-Marsan took to Facebook prior to the second-leg to suggest he was so confident that PSG would emerge from the Nou Camp with a win over two legs that he would eat a rat if they went out.

And in the 87th minute, with Barcelona requiring three goals to advance, he would have been confident that he would not be feasting on any rodents in the near future.

Then Neymar scored. A penalty flew in. And finally Sergi Roberto got his toe to a cross to confirm one of the most sensational comebacks in football history.

Which meant that Dayot had to take the incredible step of chowing down on a rat after his bet did not pan out.

Given the game took place back in March, it took him quite a while to get around to eating his meal. But on Sunday he finally managed to follow through on his bet.

Dayot ate the rat while using a PSG shirt as a napkin, letting a Barcelona top rest on the table next to him.

He was clearly slightly more enamored with the meal than he expected, suggesting that the unusual cuisine actually tasted like rabbit.

Barcelona kick off this season with a Spanish Super Cup clash against Real Madrid on August 12.

(Source: Daily Mail)

# Liverpool's Jurgen Klopp: I'm not interested in what Jose Mourinho says

Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp has said he is "not interested in what Jose Mourinho says."

Manchester United boss Mourinho, who guided his team to a Europa League win last season, suggested Liverpool and Chelsea would find it difficult to juggle the demands of domestic and European action next season.

However, Klopp pointed out that Liverpool had experienced a hectic schedule when they reached the Europa League final during his first season in charge at Anfield.

"I'm not interested in what Jose Mourinho says," he said. "Why should I talk about Manchester United? Jose is talking about us, yes."

"OK, we had a season like Man United the year before. I don't know if anybody asked us how it feels. Sorry that we lost the final, yes. We played Sevilla, they played Ajax. That's the difference."

"So we suffered during the season. The Europa League was hard. Yes, Chelsea will feel also the difference — they played something like 13 players last season. But it's also not my problem if they use only 11, well done."

"I don't want to be part of this. I answer if you ask, but I am not interested."

Liverpool have added three players this summer, spending a club record fee on Mohamed Salah and bringing in Andrew Robertson and Dominic Solanke.

Everton have signed seven new faces, with Manchester United having spent an initial £75 million on Romelu Lukaku as well as bringing in defender Victor Lindelof.

But asked about their business, Klopp said: "First of all, I'm not interested in what other clubs are doing until we play them."

"They can do the best business or the worst business, I'm not in it. I don't know why they do the things they do,



that's why I'm completely fine.

"But, at the end of the day, just like us, they can only line up 11 players. Then we have to see what will happen. But all the teams have tried to get stronger."

"With Everton, usually derbies are really close games."

I don't think we have gone into any of the last few derbies thinking: 'It's only Everton.'

"There is a lot of respect and, if they've done good business, well done. But when we face them we still want to win."

(Source: Soccernet)

## Djokovic '99 per cent sure' to miss US Open with elbow problem



Former world No.1 Djokovic has had a year to forget. And it could end on a sour note with Serbian star missing the final major of the year at Flushing Meadows.

Djokovic retired hurt during the quarter-finals at Wimbledon and said he was considering taking a break from playing to recover from the long-standing injury to his right elbow.

Serbian news outlet Sportski Zurnal claim the 30-year-old could face up to 12 weeks on the sidelines, and make him '99 per cent' sure to miss the US Open.

The country's Davis Cup team doctor Zdenko Milinkovic told Zurnal that Djokovic needs six to 12 weeks out of the game, which would see him sit out the tournament which gets underway on August 28 in New York.

"He has a bruised bone due to excessive playing," Milinkovic said.

"He did not have enough of a pause, Novak clenched his teeth and continued playing despite a serious injury."

"It was always a big concern for me as his friend."

"In the next examination, we're going to know whether this assessment stays or it will be changed."

"During that time he will not have a training session with the racket, but he will be able to do other segments of practice connected with the condition and similar things."

"Of course, he will have to undergo certain therapies."

The 12-time grand slam champion won the U.S. Open in 2011 and 2015.

Djokovic has appeared in 51 straight grand slams since his debut at the 2005 Australian Open.

The Times report a decision over his future will be made either tomorrow or Thursday.

"We are doing different checks and getting opinions from more than one doctor," a spokesman for Djokovic said.

(Source: Daily Star)

## Cristiano Ronaldo confirms he's staying at Real Madrid



Cristiano Ronaldo has told a Spanish newspaper he is staying put at Real Madrid to plunder more silverware, ending weeks of speculation about his future.

"To win important trophies with my club and the personal honours last season was brilliant, to do it again would be nice," Ronaldo told the sports daily Marca on Tuesday in an interview from Shanghai.

Ronaldo's declaration of intent to remain at the Bernabeu for the upcoming season comes despite rumours of his departure which surfaced last month in Portuguese newspaper O Globo.

Those reports were founded on his apparent feeling of abandonment by his club over his run-in with the Spanish tax authorities.

Ronaldo, 32, has been summoned to appear before a judge near Madrid on July 31 to answer four counts of evading 14.7 million euros (\$16.8 million) in taxes.

The four-time Ballon d'Or winner has

protested his innocence with O Globo saying he had threatened to leave Real over the investigation.

Since extending his contract last November until 2021, Ronaldo is the highest paid sports star in the world with \$93 million (83m euro) in 2016-2017, according to Forbes magazine.

On Saturday Real manager Zinedine Zidane assured Real supporters that the superstar striker "was on holiday and would be back with us on (August) 5".

Ronaldo has been given leave to miss the club's pre-season US tour and Zidane, speaking in Los Angeles, insisted that he would be back at the club "on the fifth (of August) and I think he'll stay for the next two or three years he's got left with us."

In Tuesday's Marca interview Ronaldo also looked ahead to the 2018 World Cup with European champions Portugal.

"We still have to qualify but I'm hoping that Portugal can win an incredible title."

(Source: AFP)

## Romelu Lukaku wants to create his own history at Old Trafford

Romelu Lukaku says he wants to create his "own history" at Manchester United.

The Belgium striker, 24, joined the Red Devils for £75m earlier this month, after scoring 25 Premier League goals for Everton last season.

Lukaku, the first foreign player to score 80 Premier League goals before his 24th birthday, said: "I can't say I'm the complete package."

"There is a lot of work to be done and I'm delighted that there is as it means I can become even better than I am."

Lukaku's move to United means he is reunited with Jose Mourinho, who was manager of Chelsea when they sold the forward to Everton for £28m in July 2014.

Last week, Mourinho was asked to compare Lukaku to Didier Drogba, who scored 157 goals in 341 appearances during his first spell at Chelsea, winning three Premier League titles and the Champions League.

The Portuguese said: "I don't compare, I don't compare at all. One has his history and one is still in the beginning of his history."

Lukaku said he and Drogba were "totally different players".

He told BBC Sport: "Drogba is more of a hold-up player, a target man. I prefer to have ball to feet and run in behind."

"I'm Romelu Lukaku, I want to create my own history." Before Lukaku's move to United was confirmed, Red



Devils midfielder Paul Pogba posted pictures on social media of him and the Belgian together.

The Frenchman, who moved back to Old Trafford for a world record fee of £89m last summer, also referred to himself as 'Agent P'.

Lukaku said: "We were just on holiday together. I had

to make my own choices."

Chelsea also bid £75m for Lukaku, and there had been suggestions he and Mourinho did not get on.

But the forward says the manager's vision was the decisive factor in him moving to Manchester.

He said: "The conversation I had with the manager really convinced me the most. He told me of his plans, about how he wanted to rebuild the club, and wanted me to be part of it."

"He is a manager who has always had a lot of belief in me and I believe in his methods."

"It is going to be good to work together again."

■ 'I've been working since I was 11'

Lukaku was 16 and still at school when he made his professional debut for Belgian club Anderlecht.

Just a year later he finished top scorer and won the league title.

Lukaku moved to Chelsea when he was 18 but made only 15 appearances for them before joining Everton, initially on loan.

Five years later he is the fifth most expensive player ever, and has scored at least 15 league goals in four of the past five seasons.

He said: "I've been working to be a pro since I was 11 years old. I've always had a goal to win as many trophies as I can and to play for a club like Manchester United."

"I want to grab this opportunity."

(Source: BBC)



# Iran freestyle team win title at Cadet Asian C'ships

**S P O R T S** Winning four gold medals on last day of Cadet Asian Championships, Iran grabbed the freestyle team title at the Bangkok Youth Center of Thailand. India came second, while Kazakhstan placed third.

Seyed Erfan JAFARIAN secured the gold medal at 46kg with an impressive performance against Yelaman KADYRSEIT (KAZ), winning by 10-0 technical fall in the final match.

After winning two matches by technical fall against Mongolia and Korea wrestlers, Mehdi ESHGHI (IRI) beat Karoolbecov SHAILOOLEK (KGZ) in the semifinal and then edged Naveen NAVEEN (IND) 4-2 in the final match of 54kg.

The third gold medal of the night went to Uzbekistan as Ikhtiyor NORMURODOV defeated Byambadorj ENKHBAYAR (MGL) in the 63kg final.

The surprise of the Asian Championships came from 69kg where Inayat ULLAH won a silver medal for Pakistan. ULLAH (PAK) beat Iranian Seyedmubin HOSSEINI ZAHEDI 7-6 and Sundujadamba BOLDBAATAR (MGL) in qualification rounds to storm to the finals. But Meirambek SULEIMENOV (KAZ) downed ULLAH in the finals.

The fantastic final of 76kg had 13 points as Parveen MALIK (IND) beat Meysam ZAREE (IRI) 7-6 in a close match.

The Iranian upperweight wrestlers added to other gold medals to their team.

After winning qualification matches against Kazakhstan and China by 10-0 technical fall, Abbas FOROUTAN had difficult job in the 85kg final, but prevailed 10-8 over Mukhammadrasul RAKHIMOV (UZB).

The last gold medal of the 2017 Cadet Asian Championships was won by Mehdi HASHEMI (IRI). HASHEMI stormed to the final match at 100kg with technical falls over Japan and Tajikistan before winning by fall in the semifinals over Bakdaulet OSSERBAY (KAZ). HASHEMI then beat Zyamuhmet SAPAROV (TKM) 5-1 to secure the fourth gold medal for Iran in freestyle.

Freestyle results on last day

#### 46kg-

GOLD- Seyed Erfan JAFARIAN (IRI)  
SILVER- Yelaman KADYRSEIT (KAZ)  
BRONZE- Parveen PARVEEN (IND)  
BRONZE- Toyoki ARAMICHI (JPN)  
FIFTH- Arslan RAKHIMOV (UZB)  
FIFTH- Karoolbecov SHAILOOLEK (KGZ)

#### 54kg-

GOLD- Mehdi ESHGHI (IRI)  
SILVER- Naveen NAVEEN (IND)  
BRONZE- Kansuke OHASHI (JPN)  
BRONZE- Daulet TEMIRZHANOV (KAZ)  
FIFTH- Lhyrghlbekov ARGEN (MGL)  
FIFTH- Buyantogtokh BATSAIKHAN (MGL)



#### 63kg-

GOLD- Ikhtiyor NORMURODOV (UZB)  
SILVER- Byambadorj ENKHBAYAR (MGL)  
BRONZE- Rohit ROHIT (IND)  
BRONZE- Haruto MORIKAWA (JPN)  
FIFTH- Ilmlek NAZAROV (KGZ)  
FIFTH- Hyunwoo JANG (KOR)

#### 69kg-

GOLD- Meirambek SULEIMENOV (KAZ)  
SILVER- Inayat ULLAH (PAK)  
BRONZE- Vishal KALIRAMANA (IND)  
BRONZE- Seyedmubin HOSSEINI ZAHEDI (IRI)  
FIFTH- Montree WANTADA (THA)  
FIFTH- Sundujadamba BOLDBAATAR (MGL)

#### 76kg-

GOLD- Parveen MALIK (IND)  
SILVER- Meysam ZAREE (IRI)  
BRONZE- Daichi IMAMURA (JPN)  
BRONZE- Kamybek ADDUJIKHAIROV (KGZ)  
FIFTH- Ibragim ABIDOV (KAZ)  
FIFTH- Jamshid ABDUFATKHOV (UZB)

#### 85kg-

GOLD- Abbas FOROUTANRAMI (IRI)  
SILVER- Mukhammadrasul RAKHIMOV (UZB)  
BRONZE- Abylay SOVET (KAZ)  
BRONZE- Sandeep Singh MANN (IND)  
FIFTH- Jiangzhe SUN (CHN)  
FIFTH- Batmagnai ENKHTUVSHIN (MGL)

#### 100kg-

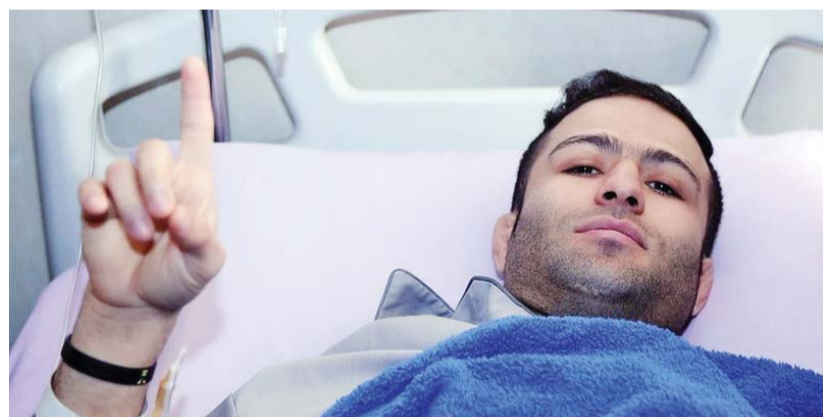
GOLD- Seyed Mehdi HASHEMI (IRI)  
SILVER- Zyamuhmet SAPAROV (TKM)  
BRONZE- Farkhod TESHEBAEV (KGZ)  
BRONZE- Rahmonjon MAHMADBEKOV (TKJ)  
FIFTH- Buheerdun BUHEERDUN (CHN)  
FIFTH- Bakdaulet OSSERBAY (KAZ)

#### Freestyle team standings:

- Iran 79 pts
- India 72 pts
- Kazakhstan 72 pts
- Japan 63 pts
- Uzbekistan 58 pts
- Kyrgyzstan 58 pts
- Mongolia 57 pts
- Korea 34 pts
- Thailand 15 pts
- China 12 pts
- Taipei Chinese 11 pts
- Pakistan 9 pts
- Turkmenistan 9 pts
- Tajikistan 8 pts
- Saudia Arabia 6 pts
- Syria 4 pts
- Myanmar 3 pts
- Jordan 1 pts
- Yemen 0 pts

(Source: unitedworldwrestling)

## Freestyler Hassan Rahimi undergoes knee surgery



**S P O R T S** Hassan Rahimi, the bronze medalist in Rio, underwent surgery on his right knee on Tuesday.

The 57kg freestyler, who had surgery in Tehran's Treata Hospital, needs to rest one month for recovery, according to his doctor.

Rahimi had already missed the Baku 2017

Islamic Solidarity Games due to the injury. He had undergone an MRI, revealing a torn meniscus in his right knee.

Rahimi defeated Yowlys Bonne from Cuba to take bronze in the 2016 Summer Olympics.

He has also won a gold medal at the 2013 World Wrestling Championships in Budapest, Hungary.

## Iran's Sepahan signs Brazilian midfielder Crivellaro



Iranian football club Sepahan completed the signing of Brazilian midfielder Rafael Schuler Crivellaro on Tuesday.

The 28-year-old midfielder has joined the Isfahan-based club on a two-year contract for an undisclosed fee.

Crivellaro has joined Sepahan from Portuguese club Arouca.

Crivellaro started his playing career

with Brazilian third-tier Caxias and has also played at Guaratingueta, Vitoria Guimaraes, Ajman Club and Wisla Krakow.

He is reunited with his countrymen Lee Oliveira and Jairo Rodrigues in the Iranian team.

Sepahan finished in fifth place last season in Iran Professional League (IPL).

(Source: Tasnim)

## Maradona: VAR would have disallowed my goal against England

Over the last few years, technology has become an integral part of the game. Following the appearance of goal-line technology, the video assistant referee (VAR) system has now been trialed at a number of FIFA tournaments, the most recent of them being the recent FIFA Confederations Cup in Russia.

One man in favor of such developments is Diego Maradona, who attended the Russia 2017 final between Chile and Germany in St Petersburg. "Football can't fall behind," he said. "Given the rate at which technology is advancing and the fact that every sport uses it, how can we not think about using it in football?"

Speaking to FIFA.com, the Argentinian highlighted the misconceptions about the VAR before it came into use: "People used to say that we'd waste a lot of time, that it would cause a lot of annoyance. But that's not the case."

"People get annoyed when something that shouldn't be given is given, or when you have a goal wrongly disallowed. Technology brings transparency and quality, and it provides a positive outcome for teams who decide to attack and take risks."

The use of the VAR proved vital on more than one occasion during the Tournament of Champions, when it was employed to detect offside and hand-balls di-



rectly affecting goalscoring opportunities. "You get ups and downs during the course of 90 minutes of football," added Maradona.

"One team can be in control for 15 minutes and then the other team takes charge. If you score a goal, you can see a lot more of the ball and get the opposition to push out more, which makes the game more dynamic. But if you score a goal and it gets disallowed, you can be forced back and miss your chance. And that's not right."

#### Looking back

In asking for transparency, Maradona cast his mind

back a few years, to the 1986 FIFA World Cup Mexico™ and his famous "Hand of God" goal against England. "Obviously I think about it whenever I show my support for the use of technology," he said with a laugh.

"I thought about it and, sure, that goal wouldn't have stood if technology had been around. And I'll tell you something else: at the 1990 World Cup I used my hand to clear the ball off the line against the Soviet Union. We were lucky because the referee didn't see it. You couldn't use technology back then, but it's a different story today."

Enjoying the opportunity to revisit history, a smiling Maradona added: "It's not just my goal in '86 that wouldn't have counted. Let's not forget that England won the World Cup in '66 with a shot that didn't go over the line. Then it happened to them in 2010, when (Frank) Lampard's shot crossed the line against Germany but wasn't given. England had the ball and scored the goal they deserved, but Germany grew in confidence after that and it changed the match completely."

"There have been lots of incidents where World Cup history would have been different if technology had been used. It's time to change all that."

(Source: FIFA)

## Iran sweep past Pakistan at Asian Men's Volleyball Championship

**S P O R T S** Iran swept past Pakistan in straight sets (25-23, 25-22, 25-14) in Pool B of the 19th Asian Men's Volleyball Championship opener on Tuesday.

The Iranian U-23 volleyball team started the competition with a 3-0 win over Iraq on Monday.

Iran, headed by Juan Cichello, will meet Chinese Taipei on Wednesday.

The 16 teams have been split into four-team pools for the First Round. In the Second Round, the top two teams from each pool advance to the Winners Bracket, Pools E and F. While the bottom two teams advance to the Losers Bracket, Pools G and H. The results of the First Round carry into the Second Round. The Knockout Round starts after two Second Round matches. Winner Bracket teams will play for 1st through 8th. With the Losers Bracket, the top two teams in Pools G and H will play for 9th through 12th, and the bottom two teams play for 13th through 16th.

Indonesia as the hosts have been placed in Pool A with Kazakhstan, Qatar and Saudi Arabia.

The FIVB highest ranked Asian team and 2015 tournament 2nd place team, Iran, are in Pool B with Chinese Taipei, Iraq and Pakistan.

Defending 2015 Champions, Japan are in Pool C with South Korea, Sri Lanka and Vietnam.

2018 World Championship Qualifier Australia will be in Pool D with China, Hong Kong and Thailand.

The event is being held in Surabaya, Indonesia from 24 July to 1 August 2017. It will be the second time that the Indonesia hosts the tournament after the 2007 Asian Championship.

## Iranian karate fighters get five medals in 2017 Summer Deaflympics

Iranian male and female karate practitioners have managed to collect five more medals at the ongoing 23rd edition of Summer Deaflympics in Turkey, and raised the Islamic Republic's medal count to fourteen at the prestigious international event.

Iran's Bahareh Safari participated in women's minus 50-kilogram kumite competitions at Ataturk Sports Hall in Turkey's northern and major Black Sea port city of Samsun, and drew level with her Turkish rival Melek Morgil in her last contest to bag the bronze.

Atefeh Bayat also settled for the bronze medal in the women's minus 55-kilogram kumite division.

Additionally, Mojdeh Mardani prevailed over Tetiana Khyll from Ukraine 4-1, and claimed another bronze medal for the Iranian delegation in the women's individual kata section on Monday.

Milad Sadeghzadeh Moghaddam downed Russian opponent Tigran Kolyan 8-0 in the final of men's minus 6-kilogram kumite contests, and clinched the yellow metal.

Mohammad Khodayar defeated Italy's Daniele Di Guido 7-1 in the men's minus 67-kilogram category, and received the bronze.

The 2017 Summer Deaflympics, officially known as the 23rd edition of Summer Deaflympics, opened in Samsun, Turkey, on July 18 and will finish on July 30, 2017. A total of 3,148 athletes from 97 countries are competing in 21 sports at the international multi-sport event.

Dozens of Iranian athletes are in action across 13 sports. They are vying for top honors in athletics, beach volleyball, bowling, football, freestyle and Greco-Roman wrestling, judo, karate, shooting, swimming, table tennis, taekwondo and volleyball.

(Source: Press TV)

## Park Ji-sung appointed to IFAB's Football Advisory Panel

Former Korea Republic international Park Ji-sung was appointed to the International Football Association Board's (IFAB) Football Advisory Panel (FAP) on Monday.

The FAP and the Technical Advisory Panel, which are newly introduced, aim to bring together experts from across the world of football for bi-annual meetings which will propose alterations to the Laws of the Game, recommendations for experimentation and other matters.

The former Manchester United midfielder, along with Faisal Al Dakheel, will represent the Asian Football Confederation on the panel.

Park, who is also a member of the AFC Social Responsibility Committee, retired from professional football in 2014. He also earned a FIFA Masters last year after completing the sports management programme organised by the International Centre for Sports Studies, which is endorsed by FIFA.

(Source: AFC)

## Peaty sets 50m breaststroke record

**BUDAPEST (Reuters)** — Briton Adam Peaty smashed his own world record in the men's 50 meters breaststroke while Hungary's Katinka Hosszu and American Katie Ledecky set out their stalls to become the leading female swimmer at the world championships on Tuesday.

Following the successful defense of his 100m title on Monday evening, Peaty clocked a world best time of 26.10 seconds to qualify fastest for the semi-finals at the Duna Arena.

The 22-year-old shaved 0.32 seconds off the record mark he set at the 2015 world championships in Kazan when he first announced himself on the global stage.

"I wasn't going out there this morning for a world record," he said, saying he could do faster.

"It's 10 o'clock and I'm very happy with that swim. That world record is two years old, so it's due another push on."



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## Asghar Farhadi denies reports of collaboration with Turkish star Saadet Aksoy

**A R T TEHRAN** — Oscar-winning Iranian filmmaker Asghar Farhadi has denied reports that Turkish actress Saadet Aksoy will play a role in his upcoming project.



Director Asghar Farhadi speaks at a meeting in an undated photo.

In a post sent on his official Telegram channel on Monday, he said that a cast of Spanish and Argentine actors will play in his untitled project whose shooting will begin in Spain in a few weeks.

The Oscar-winning Spanish couple Javier Bardem and Penelope Cruz and Argentine star Ricardo Darin are the main members of the cast.

Darin is scheduled to play Cruz's husband from Buenos Aires in the family drama and psychological thriller, which will explore how the kidnapping of a young girl leads to the unraveling of family secrets, the Screen Daily reported earlier in May.

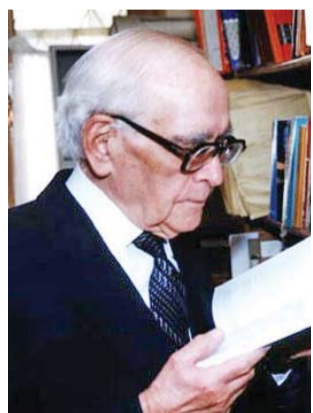
Farhadi has written the script in Persian and it has been translated into Spanish.

Pedro and Agustin Almodovar's Madrid-based El Deseo will produce the movie.

The \$12-13m project will be made as a French-Spanish-Italian co-production with Memento Films in France, Morena Films in Spain and Lucky Red in Italy.

## Iranian orchestra to perform in honor of scientist Mahmud Hesabi

**A R T TEHRAN** — The Iran Philharmonic Choir and Orchestra will give performances in Tehran during August to commemorate the distinguished Iranian scientist Mahmud Hesabi.



Portrait of Mahmud Hesabi.

The performances will take place at Rudaki Hall on August 18, 19, and 20, conductor Alireza Shafaqinejad announced on Tuesday.

A collection of compositions by Mozart and Iranian maestro Loris Tjeknavorian are due to be performed at the concert, he added.

Gelareh Vaziri, Sayeh Sadifi, Yashar Ahmadi and Hamid Khosroshahi are among the musicians who will collaborate in the concert.

Professor Hesabi was the only Iranian student of Albert Einstein, and during his years of scientific research he had meetings with well-known scientists such as Erwin Schrödinger, Max Born, Enrico Fermi, Paul Dirac, Aage Niels Bohr, and scholars such as Bertrand Russell and André Gide.

## "Game of Thrones" author teases two possible new books in 2018

**LOS ANGELES (Reuters)** — Author George R.R. Martin has hinted at the possibility of not one but two new "Game of Thrones" books in 2018, whetting the appetites of fans who have been waiting for the next installment of the epic saga since 2011.

Martin, whose "A Song of Ice and Fire" novels were adapted into HBO's hit medieval fantasy series "Game of Thrones," currently is working on the sixth installment, "Winds of Winter," continuing the story from 2011's "A Dance With Dragons."

"I am still working on it, I am still months away (how many? good question), I still have good days and bad days, and that's all I care to say," Martin wrote on his blog, grrm.livejournal.com, during the weekend.

"I do think you will have a Westeros book from me in 2018... and who knows, maybe two. A boy can dream..." he said.

The seventh season of the television show, which premiered this month, already has advanced beyond the events of Martin's published books.

# Imam Reza (AS) Intl. Festival opens in Qom

**A R T TEHRAN** — The 15th edition of the Imam Reza (AS) International Festival was inaugurated Tuesday with the birthday celebration of Hazrat Masumeh (SA), the sister of Imam Reza (AS), at her holy shrine in Qom.

The ten-day festival is scheduled to offer a wide variety of programs in 31 Iranian provinces and 70 countries around the world, the organizers have announced.

The programs include film screenings, theater performances, book fairs, art exhibitions and cultural seminars.

The Astan-e Qods Razavi Museum and Library in Mashhad has arranged several exhibits with the central theme of Imam Reza, the eighth Imam of the Shia Muslims.

Exhibitions of manuscripts, documents, artworks as well as book fairs are among the programs in the Astan-e Qods Library.

The Razavi Theater Festival, an event dedicated to plays on religious themes, will be held during the festival in Bojnurd, the capital of North Razavi.



People gather at the holy shrine of Hazrat Masumeh (SA), the sister of Imam Reza (AS), in Qom on July 2017, 24 to attend a celebration held on the eve of her birthday. (ISNA/Ahmad Zohrabi)

The Art and Cultural Organization of Tehran Municipality will also be the host of numerous programs in

several cultural centers across the capital.

The festival will come to an end on August 4 that marks the birthday of Imam Reza (AS) in Mashhad, the Capital of Islamic Culture for 2017.

## Catherine David, Nadim Karam tapped for Tehran sculpture event jury

**A R T TEHRAN** — French curator Catherine David and Lebanese sculptor Nadim Karam were selected for the jury of the 7th Tehran National Sculpture Biennial, the organizers announced on Tuesday.

David is currently the deputy director of the National Museum of Modern Art at the Centre Georges Pompidou in Paris.

Karam who is also a painter and architect fuses his artistic output of sculpture, painting and drawing with his background in architecture to create large-scale urban art projects in different cities of the world.

Bahram Shirdel, an Iranian architect internationally known as one of the most influential architects dealing with interdisciplinary field of architecture and science, is another member of the jury.

The jury also includes sculptor



Lebanese sculptor Nadim Karam (L) and French curator Catherine David are seen in a combination photo.

Hamid Shans and art expert Hamid Suri, both from Iran.

"Situation" is the main theme of the biennial, which will take place at the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art from September 5 to October 22.

## Tehran exhibit to explore daily life in Tanzania

**A R T TEHRAN** — An exhibition of photos depicting scenes of daily life in Tanzania will open at Tehran's Shalman Gallery on Friday.

The photos were taken by Iranian photographer Besharat Bohluli for the exhibit titled "Maisha", which means life in Swahili.

Bohluli has assembled the collection in her trip to Tanzania during March 2016.

"The photos highlight rural life, carrying pure African happiness, hardworking, coexistence and natural peacefulness, which are the basis of the Tanzanian's lifestyle," reads part of the statement of the exhibit.

"This nation, after hundreds of years of historical hardship, prefers to smile against the eyes of an alien photographer. This collection attempts to document



A photo from Besharat Bohluli's collection

this rural culture, the faces, movements, clothes, body states, and the generally green field of their nature," it continues.

The exhibit will be running until August 2 in the gallery located at 27 Kavusi Alley, West Rudbar St., off Mirdamad Blvd.

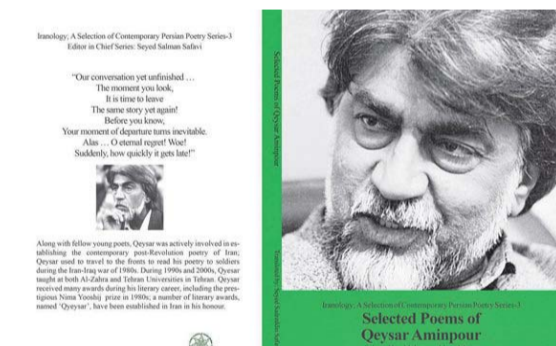
## Anthology of Qeisar Aminpur poetry published in London

**A R T TEHRAN** — A selection of poems by Qeisar Aminpur, the most influential poet of the post-revolution literature, has recently been published in English in London.

The London Academy of Iranian Studies Press has released "Selected Poems of Qeisar Aminpour" based on an agreement with the Translation Department of the Art Bureau in Tehran, Mohammad-Javad Aseman, a secretary of the department, told the Persian service of MNA on Monday.

The book has been translated into English by Seyyed Sadreddin Safavi.

The book is a follow-up to a program launched by the academy and the department to translate anthologies



The cover of "Selected Poems of Qeisar Aminpour"

of contemporary Persian poetry into English.

Two collections containing pieces from poets Ali Musavi Garmarudi and Alireza Qazveh have previously published in this program.

"Over the past three decades, Persian poetry has been deeply indebted to Qeisar Aminpur who has an incomparable place in our contemporary poetry," Aseman said.

Poems were selected for the collection in observance of the interests of world readers, he noted.

He said that works by Hushang Ebtehaj, Salman Harati, Mohammadreza Shafiei Kadkani and several other literati will be published in the coming parts of the program.

## Next James Bond film set for November 2019, no word on 007 star

**LOS ANGELES (Reuters)** — James Bond is returning to movie theaters in November 2019, producers said on Monday, but they did not say who will play Britain's most famous fictional spy.

Eon Productions and MGM studios said in a statement that the 25th Bond film will be released in U.S. theaters on Nov. 8, 2019, with a slightly earlier release in Britain.

They gave no title, casting or other details.

Britain's Daniel Craig has played Bond in the last four films, including 2012's "Skyfall" and 2015's "Spectre". The 2015 film took some \$880 million at the global box office, according to film tracker BoxOfficeMojo.com.

His reprisal of the role for a fifth time has been the subject of much speculation after the actor said in 2015 that he would rather slash his wrists than play Bond again.

Callum McDougall, the executive producer of the Bond film franchise, told Britain's BBC Radio last year that Craig, 49, was "absolutely the first choice ... We would love Daniel to return as Bond."

Meanwhile, actors such as Idris Elba, Tom Hiddleston and Tom Hardy have all been named as potential candidates to step into the fast cars



Actor Daniel Craig poses for photographers on the red carpet at the German premiere of the new James Bond 007 film "Spectre" in Berlin, Germany, October 28, 2015. (Reuters/Fabrizio Bensch)

and sharply tailored suits of Bond, M16's secret agent 007.

With its futuristic gadgets, menacing super villains and larger-than-life explosions, the Bond series is the longest-running film franchise in history, with actors such as Sean Connery, Roger Moore and Pierce Brosnan inhabiting the role of the leading man.

The new film will be written by Neal Purvis and Robert Wade, who wrote the last four movies in the franchise.

## Brokenhearted Linkin Park remember Bennington - and his demons

**LOS ANGELES (Reuters)** — California rock band Linkin Park said on Monday the suicide of frontman Chester Bennington had left them brokenhearted but recalled it was Bennington's demons that had made fans fall in love with the band.

In their first statement since Bennington's suicide at his Southern California home last week, the remaining members of Linkin Park said they did not know "what path our future may take."

The alt-rock band on Friday canceled its North American tour that had been due to start on July 27.

Bennington, 41, had a history of alcohol and drug abuse and depression and had spoken openly in the past about his struggles when Linkin Park first found fame in 2000 with their best-selling debut album "Hybrid Theory."

"Dear Chester, Our hearts are broken," the band said in a statement.

"Your absence leaves a void that can never be filled - a boisterous, funny, ambitious, creative, kind, generous voice in the room is missing. We're trying to remind ourselves that the demons who took you away from us were always part of the deal. After all, it was the way you sang about those demons that made everyone fall in love with you in the first place. You fearlessly



Fans stick posters as they gather at Revolution monument to pay tribute to Chester Bennington, Linkin Park frontman, following the singer's death by suicide, in Mexico City, Mexico, July 23, 2017. (Reuters/Edgard Garrido)

put them on display, and in doing so, brought us together and taught us to be more human," the statement added.

Bennington, who was twice married, leaves six children. The band said they and the singer's wife Talinda and his family appreciated the love and support shown by fans and other musicians over his death.

Bennington was the second American rock star to die by suicide in the last two months. Soundgarden and Audioslave frontman Chris Cornell, 52, a close friend of Bennington, hanged himself in a Detroit hotel room in May.