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## Rouhani defends minsters, vows structural reforms



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## China to fund \$250m construction hypermarket project in Iran

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — Beijing Construction Engineering Group (BCEG) is to finance \$250 million in a project for building a hypermarket of construction materials in Iran.

The group signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) in this regard with the Iranian Omran Holding Group- a subsidiary to the country's Civil Servants Pension Organization (C.S.P.O.), in Tehran on Tuesday, the official website of C.S.P.O reported.

The MOU was signed by the CEO of C.S.P.O Mahmoud Eslamian, the

Managing Director of Iranian Omran Holding Group Amir Hossein Karimi, and a director from BCEG.

As accorded, 15 percent of the required financial resources for implementation of the project will be supplied by C.S.P.O and the rest will be provided by the Chinese BCEG.

"The intended hypermarket will be constructed in an area of 90,000 square meters in east of Tehran," Karimi said during the signing ceremony, "construction of this hypermarket is an introduction to construction of other specialized markets in Iran."

## IRGC dismisses claim of 'unsafe approach' to U.S. aircraft carrier

**POLITICS** **TEHRAN** — The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) issued a statement on Tuesday rejecting claims that an Iranian drone had made an "unsafe approach" to an American aircraft carrier.

The IRGC stressed all aerial operations by Iran's Air Defense Identification Zone are carried out under the standard safety regulations.

"The Guards' drone patrols in Iran's Air Defense Identification Zone will continue with precision and in a continuous manner to safeguard the borders of the Islamic Republic of Iran without taking heed of the psychological warfare operations of foreign forces present in the Persian Gulf," the

statement said.

It further said the IRGC's drones are equipped with standard navigation systems and that the drone flights are operated precisely and professionally.

The statement was released hours after U.S. Navy spokesman Lieutenant Ian McConaughy said an Iranian QOM-1 drone flew within 300 meters (1,000 feet) of aircraft based on the USS Nimitz aircraft carrier in international waters on Sunday night, calling it an "unsafe and unprofessional" incident.

"Despite repeated radio calls to establish communications and remain clear, the QOM-1's controlling station was unresponsive and the (drone) did not use any aircraft" **→2**

## Russia could hold meeting on Iran nuclear deal: senator

**POLITICS** **TEHRAN** — A Russian senator says his country could convene a meeting with the U.S., China, France, Britain and Germany to protect the Iran nuclear deal as the moves by the U.S. is threatening the international agreement.

"Russia may demand the 'six' — thanks to whose efforts this agreement was reached — to convene, and to demand the U.S. not to disrupt efforts to stabilize the situation," Senator Igor Morozov told Sputnik on Tuesday.

Morozov, who is member of the Federation Council's foreign affairs committee, said the representatives of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) should also be invited to the meeting in order to reaffirm Iran's compliance with the accord.

"The European investment has begun to flow into Iran, Europe is not interested in destabilization of the situation in the region," he added, noting that the EU is likely to support the Russian position.

The Russian senator also said Iran's reaction to the expansion of U.S. sanctions against Tehran was reasonable and comprehensible.

Earlier in the day, President Rouhani said Iran could leave the nuclear agreement "in hours" and return to pre-deal situation if new sanctions are imposed on the country.

On July 27, the U.S. Senate imposed new non-nuclear sanctions on Tehran over its missile program and alleged role in destabilizing the region.

On Sunday, the Iranian parliament responded to the hostile move and voted for allocating \$520 million on the development of its own missile program and reinforce its campaign against terrorism championed by the IRGC Quds Force.

## New environment chief warns of 'disastrous' water scarcity

**SOCIETY** **TEHRAN** — Water scarcity is Iran's major concern and the situation is 'disastrous', the newly-appointed environment chief Isa Kalantari said on Monday.

Kalantari made the remarks at his inauguration ceremony with First Vice-President Es'haq Jahangiri and former chief of the Department Environment Masoumeh Ebtekar in attendance.

"Today's environmental issues cannot be attributed to the Pahlavi era as they all have occurred after the Islamic Revolution, Kalantari noted, adding, closing schools and offices

for two days may help to mitigate air pollution but water-related issues are catastrophic.

"In order to become self-sufficient in wheat we've lost sustainable water and soil resources through sentimental decision making," the former agriculture minister lamented.

Kalantari went on to say that "the difficulties we are going through now are the outcomes of our decisions during 80s and 90s; we were so excited to become self-sufficient that we overlooked the long-term implications."

Once Iran's total livestock population amounted to 70 million which believed to exceed meadows carrying capacity, now the

number has grown to 120 million, Kalantari pointed out. "Once we supported ranchers to produce up to 120,000 tons of meat which contributed to severe erosion; in fact we exchanged 120,000 tons of meat with 1 billion tons of soil per annum."

"Currently we withdraw more than 110 percent of our renewable resources while the number should be restricted to 40 percent," he added.

Even if the government seeks environmental reforms only some of the damages can be reversed and some are irreparable, he highlighted. **→12**

## 'Make America Great Again' slogan has made hate acceptable in American vocabulary: professor

By Ilia Moghanloo

**TEHRAN** — Professor Nader Entessar from South Alabama University says Donald Trump's slogan of "Make America Great Again" has made "bigotry, hate, and the fear of 'others' acceptable in American political vocabulary".

In an interview with the Tehran Times, Entessar also says the "rule of law will be further eroded" under Trump's presidency.

Following is the text of the interview:

**■ What will be Donald Trump's heritage for domestic politics?**

A: I think once Trump's demolition derby runs its course, we will see the significant undermining of America's socioeconomic fabric. The wealth and income gap, which is already

quite wide, will become even more skewed in favor of a tiny slice of the American society. Healthcare will become costlier than it has been in recent years, and the rule of law will be further eroded. But we have to be careful not to blame everything on Trump. The U.S. Congress is equally responsible for the unfolding mayhem.

**■ What about foreign policy? What will be his foreign policy legacy?**

A: We have been witnessing a frontal attack on international norms under Trump. This trend will worsen in the months and years ahead. Trump's foreign policy, aided and abetted by extremists in U.S. Congress, will augur more instability and bloodshed, especially in the Middle East and the broad-

er Islamic world. Also, U.S. relations with its traditional allies in Europe will become more fractious under Trump's erratic and volatile behavior in foreign affairs.

**■ Trump's ascendance to the White House was mainly owed to his slogan of "Making America Great Again". What steps has he taken in this regard?**

A: This was an utterly meaningless slogan but a catchy phrase that appealed to a spectrum of disgruntled people in the United States. In practical terms, this slogan has made bigotry, hate, and the fear of "others" acceptable in American political vocabulary and as part of the everyday discourse. Once reviled terms are now routinely used by American politicians, **→13**

## Iraq launches operation to liberate Tal Afar from ISIL control

Iraq has begun an operation to liberate the northern city of Tal Afar from ISIL (Daesh) terrorists weeks after driving the terror group out of its last urban stronghold in the country, the Defense Ministry says.

Mohammed al-Khudari, a spokesman for Iraq's Defense Ministry, announced that the Iraqi Air Force launched Tal Afar liberation operation by carrying out aerial attacks on Daesh positions on Tuesday.

He stressed that the ground offensive to retake Tal Afar, located 70 kilometers west of Mosul, will start following the completion of those strikes.

Following the start of the offensive, a local source said that six large explosions rocked several areas in Tal Afar. One of the blasts reportedly hit a workshop used to manufacture explosives in the west of the city.

There were no immediate reports of casualties and the extent of damage inflicted on the terrorists.

Tal Afar, which has a population of around 200,000, was captured by Daesh in 2014.

A high-ranking official of the Iraqi Popular Mobilization Units (PMU), commonly known by the Arabic name Hashd al-Sha'abi, said on Monday that the pro-government fighters will actively participate alongside other security forces in the operation to liberate the Tal Afar.

Speaking at a youth meeting on July 29, Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi also said Hashd al-Sha'abi fighters would take part in the offensive to win back Tal Afar.

He said the army and security commanders had devised a plan to dislodge Daesh from Tal Afar, which required the participation of security personnel as well as Hashd al-Sha'abi and tribal fighters.

In late June, Commander of Nineveh Liberation Operations Major General Najim Abdullah al-Jubouri said there are between 1,500 and 2,000 Daesh militants holed up in Tal Afar, and predicted a relatively easy victory for government forces in the operation saying the terrorists were "worn out and demoralized."

(Source: Press TV)



Jame Jam/ Mehri Gholipour

## Women's cycling championship held at Azadi Stadium

Iran's women's cycling championship was held in memory of Zeinab Sasanian, who was killed in a car crash in late July.

The Iranian national team cyclist, 19, was killed when her car collided with a tree.

The three-day championship took place in Tehran's Azadi Stadium.

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MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS



Navy chief: War games in Makran soon

**POLITICS** TEHRAN — The Iranian Navy commander announced on Tuesday that his forces will stage drills near the country's southeastern shores of Makran in the near future.

Habibollah Sayyari added more drills to be held during the current Iranian year (until March 20) will include 25 war games, including specialized exercises such as electronic warfare drills, Fars reported.

Elsewhere the rear admiral said Separ missile-launching warship will join Iran's North Fleet by the end of the current Iranian year.



UN: Iran's efforts to solve Yemen conflict remain strong

**POLITICS** TEHRAN — Iran's support to de-escalate the crisis in Yemen remains strong and Tehran backs a political solution to the conflict, UN spokesperson Farhan Haq said on Tuesday.

Referring to a recent visit to Tehran by Special Envoy for Yemen Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed, Haq said that there is a common understanding that only dialogue can bring an end to the war, ISNA reported.

In his meetings with Iranian authorities Ahmed discussed in length the urgent need to prevent the worsening of humanitarian crisis in Yemen, Haq added.



Australian deadline for illegal asylum seekers includes Iranians

**POLITICS** TEHRAN — The Australian government on Tuesday announced a deportation deadline of October 1 for thousands of illegal asylum seekers who arrived in Australia by sea between August 2012 and January 2014.

Iranian asylum seekers are included in the announcement, ISNA reported.

On the basis of the deadline, asylum seekers have been given until October 1 to formally apply for protection to the Department of Immigration and Aid Protection or face deportation.



Tehran sympathizes with Sierra Leone over fatal mudslides

**POLITICS** TEHRAN — Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Qassemi on Tuesday expressed condolences to Sierra Leone over deaths resulting from severe floods and massive mudslides in the West African country.

So far rescue forces in Sierra Leone have recovered 205 bodies and the number is expected to rise, with more than 1,000 others affected.



Iraqi interior minister in holy city of Mashhad

**POLITICS** TEHRAN — Iraq's interior minister arrived in Mashhad on Tuesday for a visit to the shrine of Imam Reza (AS), the eighth Shia Imam, IRNA reported.

Upon arrival, Qasim al-Araji was warmly welcomed by several local officials.

For many years, the holy city of Mashhad has been hosting large numbers of Iraqi and Afghan Muslims, the minister told reporters.

He was in Qom on Monday where he met with Governor Mehdi Sadeqi.



Court finishes hearings of Telegram admins

**POLITICS** TEHRAN — An Iranian court said on Tuesday it had finished hearings of a number of administrators of Telegram messaging app channels.

The hearings at the Revolution Court, third round in this case, attended to the cases of eight of such suspects, Tasnim quoted judicial sources as having said.

Two of the defendants were convicted of anti-state efforts, while six other were convicted of complicity against national security.

# “Iran will go to pre-nuclear deal stage ‘in hours’ if sanctions reimposed”

**POLITICS** TEHRAN — President Hassan Rouhani warned on Tuesday that Iran will quit nuclear agreement “in hours” and return to the previous stage if sanctions are re-imposed on the country.

“They [Trump’s administration] must know that the defeated experience of sanctions dragged their former governments to the negotiating table and if they are willing to return to those experiences, Iran will definitely return to a situation which is more advanced than the time of negotiations in a short period of time, in hours,” Rouhani explained.

According to the July 2015 nuclear accord, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), Iran put limits on its nuclear activities in exchange for termination of economic and financial sanctions.

“BARJAM [the Persian acronym for the nuclear deal] shows superiority of peace and diplomacy over war and unilateralism and the Islamic Republic of Iran prefers to remain in the deal, however, it [BARJAM] is not and will not be the only option for the country,” Rouhani said in a



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speech to the parliament while defending his nominees for ministerial posts in his new administration.

He added, “Iran knows BARJAM nei-

ther as a threat against the countries nor submission to the powers, but a win-win and balanced agreement which has opened the path of cooperation and

## Iran’s military chief visits Turkey for security talks

**POLITICS** TEHRAN — Iran’s military chief who visited Ankara on Tuesday said he had begun a trip to Turkey to exchange views with Turkish officials on security issues and campaign against terrorism in view of new developments in the region.

“We have centuries-old friendship with Turkey and have calm and secure borders, but it was necessary to make this visit for exchange of views and more cooperation on military issues and other regional matters,” Hossein Bagheri, the armed forces chief of staff, told reporters in Ankara, IRNA reported.

Major General Mohammad Bagheri, leading a military delegation to Turkey for a three-day visit, held talks with his Turkish counterpart General Hulusi Akar on issues related to security in the two countries, securing



General Hossein Bagheri(R) is welcomed by his Turkish counterpart General Hulusi Akar upon his arrival in Ankara

## Tehran welcomes Baghdad-Erbil talks

By Negar Asadi

**TEHRAN** — The Iranian Foreign Ministry on Monday welcomed talks between the Iraqi central government and the Iraqi Kurdistan as a push for independence referendum in the Kurdistan region has caused concerns in Iraq and neighboring countries.

“The Iraqi people and leaders have made valuable achievements in countering terrorism and liberating the Daesh-occupied lands through unity and integrity. They [the Iraqi people and government] will be able to take greater

steps on the path of Iraq’s development and long lasting stability and security,” Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Qassemi stated.

Qassemi noted that Iran seeks to have best relations with all Iraqi political, religious and ethnic groups, adding Iran is ready to be Iraq’s partner in reconstructing the country.

President of Iraqi Kurdistan Massoud Barzani tweeted on June 7 that an independence referendum is scheduled to be held on September 25, 2017.

The Iraqi government issued a statement on June 9 rejecting any unilateral

move by Kurdish regional authorities to press for independence.

Qassemi said on June 10, “The Islamic Republic of Iran’s clear stance is to support Iraq’s territorial integrity and unity.”

Prime Minister of Iraqi Kurdistan Nechirvan Barzani told Iranian Ambassador to Baghdad Iraj Masjedi in a meeting on July 16 that Iran can “play a positive role” in resolving disputes between the Iraqi government and the autonomous Kurdish Regional Government (KRG).

While all countries are insisting on territorial integrity in Iraq, Israeli Prime

borders, and fighting terrorism.

“Turkey as an important neighbor of the Islamic Republic of Iran has special status in the region and the world of Islam,” the top Iranian commander noted.

Bagheri is also expected to hold talks with senior Turkish military and political officials including Defense Minister Nurettin Canikli and President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

Bagheri is visiting Turkey upon an invitation by General Hulusi Akar.

The fight against ISIL in Iraq and Syria, the row between Qatar and Saudi Arabia, the planned referendum in the Iraqi Kurdistan Region are expected to feature high in the talks between Iranian and Turkish military officials.

## Rouhani defends ministers, vows structural reforms

By Ali Kushki

**TEHRAN** — President Hassan Rouhani went to the parliament on Tuesday for a long hearing on his priorities in his second four-year term, defending his ministerial roster and pledging “structural reforms” and “daring decision-making”.

“The government is resolute to bring about more structural reforms in its second four-year term,” Rouhani said in his two-hour long speech.

“The government will decide daringly yet tactfully and with foresight... purposeful realism, decision-making on the basis of human being’s experience and knowledge, and learning from past mistakes.”

An entourage of ministerial picks and Vice President Es’hagh Jahangiri were accompanying the sexagenarian president.

Last week Rouhani released the names of 17 nominees for ministerial posts to Majlis for approval, delaying one appointment for unknown reasons.

Rectifying structural loopholes, Rouhani emphasized, had been “less attended to” by the previous administrations which reveled in oil revenues as a nostrum for weaknesses.

Rouhani was referring mainly to the presidency of Mahmoud Ahmadinejad for two terms when oil prices soared up to an all-time high of \$140 yet virtually no tangible change in the country was made.

Reforms are unavoidable for one reason, inter alia, the president added. “Oil revenues at least in the incoming years won’t be so big to play the sedative role it used to play.”

An alternative is to increasingly fall back on “sustainable sources of income” such as taxation, Rouhani noted.

“We seek to introduce reforms into the country’s taxation system... cutting tax exemptions and widening tax coverage can cause more efficiency.”

In 2016, Iran collected some \$19.3 billion in taxes, up



**“The government will decide daringly yet tactfully and with foresight... purposeful realism, decision-making on the basis of human being’s experience and knowledge, and learning from past mistakes.”**

16 percent compared to 2015, according official statistics.

Currently, Iran is grappling with challenges in its banking system, state budget, retirement funds, water and environment, according to Rouhani.

“Failure to pay due attention to the depth of the issues now can damage big achievements of the Islamic Republic of Iran in other areas,” he warned.

Inefficient banking has been partly preventing Tehran from reaping full benefits of the international nuclear deal struck with world powers in 2015.

“The government will press ahead with its banking reform plan steadfastly,” Rouhani said.

## IRGC dismisses claim of ‘unsafe approach’ to U.S. aircraft carrier

**1→** navigation lights while it made several passes in close proximity to Nimitz and its escort ships during active flight operations, coming within 1,000 feet of U.S. aircraft,” McConnaughey said.

Back in June, the U.S. Navy claimed that an Iranian patrol boat had shined la-

ser at an American helicopter flying over the Strait of Hormuz.

U.S. Navy Commander Bill Urban noted that the American chopper responded by automatically firing flares at the Iranian vessel, adding the incident left no casualties and damage.

However, the commander of Iran’s First Naval Zone, Rear Admiral Hossein Azad, strongly rejected the claim.

In recent months, several encounters have been reported between the navies of the two countries.

Weeks ago, the IRGC reported that

the U.S. had made a “provocative and unprofessional” move by warning the Iranian vessels through firing flares, noting that the Iranian forces continued with their mission “in disregard of the unconventional and unusual behavior of American vessels” that later left the region.



# Taliban to Trump: Leave Afghanistan

The Taliban called on U.S. President Donald Trump on Tuesday to review the strategy for the war in Afghanistan and to hold peaceful dialogue directly with Afghans instead of engaging "corrupt" politicians.

Written in a tone of negotiation, the Taliban asked Trump to study the "historical mistakes" of his predecessors and to withdraw troops from Afghanistan completely.

The letter urged the U.S. to interact with Afghans "generously" instead of imposing war.

"It seems to be a historical mistake on part of the previous administrations to have dispatched American youth for the slaughter of Afghans. However, as a responsible American president, you need to study the mistakes of your predecessors and prevent death and injury to American forces in Afghanistan," it said.

Afghanistan was invaded by the United States in 2001 and has become Washington's longest military intervention since Vietnam. It has also been the costliest with more than \$100bn spent.

"American youth are not born to be killed in the deserts and mountains of Afghanistan in order to establish the writ of thieves and corrupt officials and neither would their parents approve of them killing civilians in Afghanistan," the letter said.

The Taliban also accused Afghan politicians and generals of protracting the war and occupation for personal gain.

"A number of warmongering congressmen and generals in Afghanistan are pressing you to protract the war in



Afghanistan because they seek to preserve their military privileges, but instead you must act responsibly as the fate of many Americans and Afghans alike is tied to this issue."

Afghanistan's interior ministry declined to comment when contacted by Al Jazeera.

In a press conference on Monday, U.S. Defense Secretary James Mattis said all options for Afghanistan remained on the table, and a full withdrawal of troops is one of them.

Trump has yet to announce a strategy for Afghanistan, but Mattis said one is "very, very close."

Possible plans include sending thousands more troops into the nearly 16-year conflict, or taking the opposite tack and pulling out, leaving private military contractors to help the Afghans oversee the fragile security situation.

Erik Prince, founder of the private security company Blackwater, has offered his private military force for Afghanistan, proposing a two-year plan in which

American troops - aside from a handful of special forces - would be replaced by his army of about 5,500 contractors who would train Afghan soldiers and join them in the fight against the Taliban.

However, the Taliban said privatising the war effort would be a grave mistake.

If the war can't be won with "professional U.S. and NATO troops ... you shall never be able to win it with mercenaries, notorious contractor firms, and immoral stooges", the Taliban letter said.

(Source: al Jazeera)

## North Korea's Kim holds off on Guam missile plan; Seoul says will prevent war

North Korea's leader has delayed a decision on firing missiles towards Guam while he waits to see what the United States does next, the North's state media said on Tuesday, as South Korea's president said Seoul would seek to prevent war by all means.

Signs of an easing in tension on the Korean peninsula helped stock markets rally for a second day running even as the United States and South Korea prepared for more joint military drills, which infuriate the North, and experts warned it could still go ahead with its provocative plan.

In his first public appearance in about two weeks, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un inspected the command of the North's army on Monday, examining a plan to fire four missiles to land near the U.S. Pacific territory of Guam, the official KCNA said in a report.

"He said that if the Yankees persist in their extremely dangerous reckless actions on the Korean peninsula and in its vicinity, testing the self-restraint of the DPRK, the latter will make an important decision as it already declared," the report said.

The DPRK stands for North Korea's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

In photos released with the KCNA report, Kim was seen holding a baton and pointing at a map showing a flight path for the missiles appearing to start from North Korea's east coast, flying over Japan towards Guam. North Korea has often threatened to attack the United States and its bases and released similar photos in the past but never followed

through.

Pyongyang's plans to fire missiles near Guam prompted a surge in tensions in the region last week, with U.S. President Donald Trump saying the U.S. military was "locked and loaded" if North Korea acted unwisely.

South Korean President Moon Jae-in said on Tuesday there would be no military action without Seoul's consent and his government would prevent war by all means.

"Military action on the Korean peninsula can only be decided by South Korea and no one else can decide to take military action without the consent of South Korea," Moon said in a speech to commemorate the anniversary of the nation's liberation from Japanese military rule in 1945.

"The government, putting everything on the line, will block war by all means," Moon said.

Japan will be seeking further reassurance from Washington in meetings between Japan's defense chief and foreign minister and their U.S. counterparts on Thursday.

"The strategic environment is becoming harsher and we need to discuss how we will respond to that," a Japanese foreign ministry official said in a briefing in Tokyo.

"We will look for the U.S. to reaffirm its defense commitment, including the nuclear deterrent."

The Liberation Day holiday, celebrated by both North and South, will be followed next week by the joint U.S.-South Korean military drills.

North Korea has persisted with its

nuclear and missile programs, to ward off perceived U.S. hostility, in defiance of U.N. Security Council resolutions and sanctions.

China, North Korea's main ally and trading partner, has repeatedly urged Pyongyang to halt its weapons program and at the same time urged South Korea and the United States to stop military drills to lower tensions.

On Tuesday, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said the crisis was approaching a critical juncture and urged all sides in the standoff to help "put out the flames" and not add fuel to the fire.

Hua said she noted comments by U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis and Secretary of State Rex Tillerson about using diplomacy to resolve the issue, saying China hoped these words can be put into action.

"We also call on North Korea to echo this in response," Hua told a daily news briefing.

Asian shares rose for a second day on Tuesday and the dollar firmed after Kim's comments further eased tension and prompted investors to move back into riskier assets after a sharp selloff last week. [MKTS/GLOB]

Kim Dong-yub, a professor and a military expert at Kyungnam University's Institute of Far Eastern Studies in Seoul, urged caution in assuming North Korea was bluffing with its missile threats.

Slideshow (7 Images)

"There is no stepping back for North Korea. Those who don't know the North very well fall into this trap every time (thinking they are easing threats) but

we've seen this before."

The United States and South Korea remain technically still at war with North Korea after the 1950-53 Korean conflict ended with a truce, not a peace treaty.

North Korea is currently holding three U.S. citizens it accuses of espionage or hostile acts but now was not the right time to discuss them, KCNA cited a foreign ministry spokesman as saying in a separate report.

Pyongyang has in the past used detainees to extract concessions, including high-profile visits from the United States, which has no formal diplomatic relations with North Korea.

U.S. officials have in recent days played down the risk of an imminent conflict while stressing their preparedness to respond militarily to any attack from North Korea.

Mattis said on Monday the U.S. military would know the trajectory of a missile fired from North Korea within moments and would "take it out" if it looked like it would hit the U.S. Pacific territory.

"The bottom line is, we will defend the country from an attack; for us (U.S. military) that is war," Mattis said.

On Guam, home to a U.S. air base, a Navy installation, a Coast Guard group and roughly 6,000 U.S. military personnel, residents expressed some relief at the lessening of tensions.

"I'm reading between the lines that I don't see an imminent threat," Guam Lieutenant Governor Ray Tenorio told a media briefing in the island's capital of Hagatna.

(Source: Reuters)

## 50,000 stranded on Jordan-Syria border: UN

The United Nations (UN) says roughly 50,000 Syrians are stranded on Syria's border with Jordan, expressing concern about their situation.

The refugees reportedly comprise an estimated 4,000 people at the Hadalat border crossing and 45,000, mostly women and children, at the Rukban border crossing in Jordan's extreme northeast.

The ISIL (Daesh) terrorist group slew seven Jordanian troops in a bombing near Rukban last year, forcing the closure of the common border and triggering the Jordanian army to declare the country's desert areas, which border Syria and Iraq, "closed military zones."

Aid agencies have been struggling to reach those in need in the area since the onset of the emergency situation along the border.

UN deputy spokesman Farhan Haq told reporters on Monday that, "Some



people are reportedly attempting to leave the area, risking further danger and deprivation in an inhospitable desert lo-

cation."

Haq said that UN agencies "are deeply concerned about the security and protec-

tion" of the stranded refugees. The refugees stuck at the Hadalat border crossing were reportedly living solely on flour and water, he added.

"The UN calls on all parties to the conflict to take the necessary steps to prevent further harm to the frightened and highly vulnerable individuals stranded at the border," he added.

The Syrian army recently advanced to the border with Jordan for the first time since 2011 — when foreign-backed militancy started in Syria — liberating a 30-kilometer-long stretch of land along the frontier. The operations have blocked the loopholes across the border, which would previously allow arms transfers from Jordan to Syria-based militants.

Jordan shares a desert border of more than 370 kilometers with Syria and says it is hosting 1.3 million Syrian refugees.

(Source: AFP)

## Saudi crown prince 'wants out' of war on Yemen

Purported emails recently leaked show that Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman is seeking an exit from the war that Saudi Arabia has been waging against Yemen on his initiative, more than two years into a conflict the Riyadh regime has been unable to win.

The heir to the Saudi throne, who also serves as defense minister, raised the subject in a meeting with ex-U.S. national security adviser Stephen Hadley, and Martin Indyk, a former U.S. ambassador to Israel, the Middle East Eye news portal reported on Monday.

The details of the meeting were revealed in an email exchange between Indyk and Emirati Ambassador to Washington Yousef al-Otaiba in April, which was obtained by the GlobalLeaks campaign group and reported by the Middle East Eye.

Otaiba wrote to Indyk that he thought Prince Salman "is far more pragmatic than what we hear is (sic) Saudi public positions."

Indyk replied, "I agree on that. He was quite clear with Steve Hadley and me that he wants out of Yemen," adding that the Saudi prince "is OK with the U.S. engaging Iran as long as it is coordinated in advance and the objectives are clear."



The report comes days after Iraqi Interior Minister Qasim al-Araji said that bin Salman had officially asked him to mediate between Saudi Arabia and Iran. Riyadh broke off relations with Tehran last year.

Bin Salman is considered the architect of the Saudi war on Yemen, which began in March 2015 and which Saudi authorities at the time reportedly believed would be over in weeks. The military campaign was launched in an attempt to eliminate the Yemeni Houthi Ansarullah movement and reinstall a Riyadh-friendly former president.

But Saudi Arabia has achieved neither of the objectives despite spending billions of dollars on the war and enlisting the cooperation of dozens of its vassal states as well as Western countries.

The Saudi-led bombing campaign, which has been accompanied by a naval and aerial blockade on Yemen, has so far killed over 12,000 people in the impoverished state, left 70 per cent of the country's 27 million population in desperate need of humanitarian aid, and caused the worst cholera outbreak in the world.

More than half a million Yemenis have been infected with cholera and nearly 2,000 others have died since the epidemic began four months ago, the latest figures provided by the World Health Organization (WHO) show.

Saudi Arabia has come under international criticism over the mounting civilian casualties in Yemen and the massive destruction.

Bin Salman's purported desire to seek an exit from the war may be a sign that the Saudi regime has realized its failure to impose its will on Yemen militarily, despite its massive military superiority on the Arab world's poorest country. It may also be an indication that the financial costs of the war have become unbearable for Riyadh.

(Source: Al Jazeera)

## Turkey detains Belgian ISIL suspect 'planning attack'

Turkish authorities have detained a Belgian national in Istanbul who spent time in Syria and is accused of planning a major attack, the state-run Anadolu news agency said Tuesday.

The man, identified as M.A., was detained in the Fatih district of the city, Anadolu said, adding that he had gone to Syria with his wife and children three years ago to join Daesh (ISIL).

The Hurriyet daily reported that the man was suspected of being the coordinator for all French-speaking terrorists seeking to join Daesh militants, and also of planning terrorist attacks in Europe.

He had been the target of an international search, it added.

The report of the arrest comes after a 24-year-old Turkish police officer was stabbed to death in Istanbul at the weekend by a suspected Daesh member who had been arrested on suspicions he was planning a suicide attack.

His superiors praised the heroism of the officer, saying he had helped prevent a "very serious attack".

Turkey was hit by a succession of attacks in 2016 that left hundreds dead in the bloodiest year of terror strikes in its history.

The attacks were attributed to Daesh militants as well as the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) who have battled the Turkish state in an insurgency lasting more than three decades.

In one of the bloodiest strikes, a militant gunman opened fire on an elite nightclub in Istanbul just 75 minutes into New Year's Day in 2017, killing 39 people, mainly foreigners. Several Lebanese nationals were killed and wounded.

There has since been a lull in similar attacks, but tensions remain high and Turkish police launch raids almost daily against suspected ISIL cells across the country.

(Source: AFP)



NEWS IN BRIEF



**Over 12m tons of goods loaded, unloaded at Iranian ports in a month**

**ECONOMY TEHRAN** — Some 12.631 million tons of goods were loaded and unloaded at ports of Iran during the fourth Iranian calendar month, Tir, (June 22 – July 22), with 2.3 percent fall from 12.93 million tons in its previous month, Tasnim news agency reported on Wednesday.

Last October, Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) Managing Director Mohammad Saeednejad said that the organization has it on the agenda to increase the current 209 million-ton capacity of the country's trade ports to 217 million tons.



**TEDPIX adds 36 points in a day**

**ECONOMY TEHRAN** — Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE)'s main index (TEDPIX) gained 36 points to end Tuesday's trade at 81,696, Tasnim news agency reported.

As reported, 703 million shares worth 1.39 trillion rials (about \$36.5 million) were traded through 46,000 deals in the stock market.

Also, IFX, the main index of Iran's over-the-counter (OTC) market known also as Iran Fara Bourse (IFB), fell 0.1 points to 918 on Tuesday, as 185 million securities worth 1.03 trillion rials (about \$27.1 million) were traded in 23,000 deals.

Domestic demand keeps Germany driving euro zone economy in Q2

Strong household spending, rising state expenditure and higher company investments consolidated Germany's role as the euro zone growth engine in the second quarter, although accelerating imports meant growth came in just below expectations.



Seasonally and calendar-adjusted gross domestic product (GDP) rose by 0.6 percent on the quarter, the Federal Statistics Office said on Tuesday. This was slightly weaker than the consensus forecast of 0.7 percent in a Reuters poll.

But the growth rate for the first quarter was revised up to 0.7 percent from 0.6 percent, and the April-June expansion marked a 12th consecutive quarter of growth.

«The German economy is proving its staying power, the upswing continues,» Bankhaus Lampe economist Alexander Krueger said, adding that the European Central Bank's low interest rates were boosting the economy.

The Statistics Office said that growth in the April-June period was mainly driven by domestic demand as households and state authorities increased their spending and companies boosted investment in buildings and equipment.

But overall growth was dampened by net foreign trade since exports rose less strongly than imports, which the vibrant domestic economy sucked in at a higher rate.

Risks ahead

«Germany's economic success story goes on and on and on,» ING Bank analyst Carsten Brzeski said, adding there was very little reason to fear a sudden end to the current performance.

He cautioned, however, that the main drivers supporting the domestic economy, such as rising employment, rising wages and increased government spending, could lose some momentum in the coming quarters.

«The same holds for the export sector, where a stronger euro, weaker-than-expected U.S. growth and Brexit uncertainty could take some wind out of the sails without bringing exports to a halt,» Brzeski said.

Unadjusted data had the economy growing by 0.8 percent on the year in the second quarter. This compared with a consensus forecast of 1.9 percent. Adjusted for calendar affects, the yearly growth rate was 2.1 percent in the April-June period.

The Statistics Office will publish its detailed GDP growth data on Aug. 25. The data, coming less than six weeks before a federal election in which Chancellor Angela Merkel seeks to win a fourth term, underlines the continued strength of the German economy compared with its peers.

The French economy, the second-largest in the euro zone, grew 0.5 percent in the second quarter, helped by stronger exports, according to preliminary data.

In Italy, the third-biggest economy in the 19-member bloc, the national central bank expects a quarterly expansion roughly in line with the first quarter's increase of 0.4 percent. Preliminary data are due on Wednesday.

The Spanish economy keeps powering ahead, however, with a growth rate of 0.9 percent in the April-June quarter.

This was well above the euro zone average of 0.6 percent, according to preliminary estimates released by the European Union's statistics agency this month.

Outside the euro zone, Britain's economic output grew by 0.3 percent on the quarter, edging up from 0.2 percent in the first three months.

(Source: cnbc)

Hand-woven carpet exports jump 3.7%

**ECONOMY TEHRAN** — "Iran desks" exported \$89 million of hand-woven carpets during the first four months of the present Iranian calendar year (March 21-July 22, 2017), showing an increase of 3.7 percent in terms of value," IRIIB new quoted Hamid Kargar, the head of Iran's National Carpet Center, as saying on Tuesday.

As of January 2016, Iran has resumed its exports of carpet to the U.S. under the implementation of nuclear deal with the six world powers, he said, the figure stood at

zero from 2010 to 2016 due to the sanctions.

"Before 2010, Iran's carpet exports to the U.S. stood at more than \$80 million, accounting for 16 percent of Iran' total carpet exports," he further described, "the first cargo of Iranian carpets was exported to the U.S. via Germany in 2016."

Some \$365 million of Iranian hand-woven carpets were exported to the globe last year, while the exports of the product to the U.S. stood at \$95 million, he added.



India, Turkmenistan hold talks on crucial transit corridor via Iran

India and Turkmenistan on Monday discussed ways to establish a transport transit corridor between Iran, Oman and Turkmenistan.

Nitin Gadkari, Minister for Road Transport and Shipping, met Rashid Meredov, Deputy Prime Minister and Trade Minister of Turkmenistan, on Monday.

The two sides discussed India's joining the Ashgabat Agreement that envisages establishment of International Transport and Transit Corridor between Iran, Oman and Turkmenistan, said an

official source. They also discussed ways to expand and deepen bilateral cooperation.

The meeting comes within days of Gadkari visiting Iran and stating that Chabahar port would be operational next year. Turkmenistan is known for having one of the largest gas reserves globally.

Turkmenistan is the Depository State of Ashgabat Agreement, which has Oman, Iran, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan as founding members. Kazakhstan

has also joined this arrangement.

In 2016, the Indian government decided to accede to the Ashgabat Agreement, a move that would enable the country to utilize this existing transport and transit corridor to facilitate trade and commercial interaction with the Eurasian region. India would become party to the agreement after consent from the founding members.

Further, this move would also be in synch with India's efforts to implement the International North South Transport

Corridor (INSTC) for enhanced connectivity. INSTC-Express Corridor is a transport link between India and Russia.

Recently, the External Affairs Ministry had a multi-stakeholder meet focused on possible routes of INSTC, its popularization, development and optimal utilization of Chabahar port to complement INSTC and to provide connectivity to Central Asia, modalities of and impediments to multi-modal transport and way ahead.

(Source: thehindubusinessline.com)

China says it will defend interests if U.S. harms trade ties

**BEIJING (Reuters)** — China will take action to defend its interests if the United States damages trade ties, the Ministry of Commerce said on Tuesday, after U.S. President Donald Trump authorized an inquiry into China's alleged theft of intellectual property.

Trump's move, the first direct trade measure by his administration against China, comes at a time of heightened tension over North Korea's nuclear ambitions, though it is unlikely to prompt near-term change in commercial ties.

U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer will have a year to look into whether to launch a formal investigation of China's policies on intellectual property, which the White House and U.S. industry groups say are harming U.S. businesses and jobs.

The United States should respect objective facts, act prudently, abide by its World Trade Organization pledges, and not destroy principles of multilateralism, an unidentified spokesman of China's Ministry of Commerce said in a statement.

"If the U.S. side ignores the facts, and disrespects multilateral trade principles in taking actions that harms both sides trade interests, China will absolutely not sit by and watch, will inevitably adopt all appropriate measures, and resolutely safeguard China's lawful rights."

The ministry said the United States should "treasure" the cooperation and favorable state of China-U.S. trade relations, and warned that any U.S. action to damage ties would "harm both sides trade relations and companies".

China was continuously strengthening its administrative and judicial protections for intellectual property, the ministry added.



China's policy of forcing foreign companies to turn over technology to Chinese joint venture partners and failure to crack down on intellectual property theft have been longstanding problems for several U.S. administrations.

Trump administration officials have estimated that theft of intellectual property by China could be worth as much as \$600 billion.

Experts on China trade policy said the long lead time could allow Beijing to discuss some of the issues raised by Washington without being seen to cave to pressure under the threat of reprisals.

China repeatedly rebuffed attempts by previous U.S. administrations to take action on its IP practices, and has insisted it rigorously protects intellectual property.

State news agency Xinhua said the U.S. investigation is a unilateralist "baring of fangs" that will hurt both sides.

Jacob Parker, vice president of China operations at the U.S.-China Business Council said Trump's memo is

Africa's biggest copper mine hit by Zambian power restrictions

Zambia is cutting power to mines including Africa's biggest copper site, the Kansanshi pit owned by First Quantum Minerals Ltd., escalating a fight over tariffs.

"They have still got some significant amount of power for them to operate,

but obviously their operations will not be at 100 percent because of the power restrictions," Energy Minister David Mumbumba told reporters Tuesday in Lusaka, the capital.

Glencore Plc has said it halted production at the Kitwe and Mufulira operations

in Zambia's Copperbelt province after the main electricity provider restricted supplies.

Copper miners in Zambia, Africa's second-biggest producer of the metal, have been in a dispute with the country's energy regulator since it raised tariffs by

almost 30 percent in 2014. The mines owned by First Quantum and Glencore are the only operations in Zambia that haven't agreed to a new power tariff that was introduced in January, Mabumba said.

(Source: Bloomberg)

Shares rally, yen and gold fall as Korea tensions ease

**LONDON (Reuters)** — Shares rose on Tuesday, while the Japanese yen, Swiss franc and gold all dropped after North Korea's leader signaled he would delay plans to fire a missile towards Guam, easing tensions and prompting investors to buy riskier assets.

European shares followed Asian bourses higher, having already risen late on Monday after U.S. officials played down prospects of the standoff between North Korea and the United States leading to conflict.

The pan-European STOXX 600 index rose 0.1 percent, adding to Monday's 1.1 percent gains.

North Korea's leader Kim Jong Un received a report from his army on its plans to fire missiles towards the U.S. Pacific territory of Guam and said he would watch the actions of the United States for a while longer before making a decision, the North's official news agency said on Tuesday.

"There is a more relaxed attitude being taken towards the Korean situation in markets. With the report North Korea has put its plans on hold, there is a sense of stepping back from the brink," Rabobank analyst Lyn Graham-Taylor said.

MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan .MIAPJ0000PUS was 0.1 percent higher in afternoon trade, with Australia up 0.5 percent. South Korea's markets were closed for a holiday.

Japan's Nikkei stock index .N225 closed up 1.1 percent, boosted by the weaker yen, a day after skidding 1 percent to its lowest since early May.

U.S. stocks futures were higher, indicating Wall Street



would open higher later in the day EScl 1YMc1 NQc1.

On Monday the S&P 500 .SPX rose 1.0 percent, led by technology stocks .SPLRCT, in its biggest daily percentage rise since April.

Assets that generally do well in time of market or geopolitical turbulence were among fallers on Tuesday.

The yen, which tends to gain on expectations Japanese investors will repatriate assets in a crisis, fell 0.6 percent to 110.32 per dollar.

"We have North Korea saying they will wait, and Trump not saying anything at all, compared to his past promise of 'fire and fury,'" said Mitsuo Imaizumi, chief FX strategist at Daiwa Securities.

"That added up to good news for the dollar, bad

news for the yen," he said.

The Swiss franc, which gained 1.1 percent on Aug. 9 as the war of words over the Korean peninsula intensified, fell 0.2 percent to 0.9736 per dollar. This followed a 1.1 percent fall on Monday.

The euro was down 0.4 percent at \$1.1733, helping push the dollar index .DXY, which measures the greenback against a basket of currencies, up 0.4 percent.

The dollar was also helped by comments from New York Federal Reserve President William Dudley, who told the Associated Press he would favor a third increase in Fed interest rates this year if the economy developed as he expected.

In debt markets, yields on low-risk German and U.S. government bonds rose.

German 10-year yields DE10YT=TWB, the benchmark for euro zone borrowing costs, rose 1.7 basis points to 0.42 percent, having fallen to as low as 0.38 percent on Friday.

U.S. 10-year Treasury yields US10YT=RR rose 3 bps to 2.47 percent, up from a six-week low of 2.18 percent touched on Friday.

Gold, viewed as a safe haven for investors in troubled times, fell 0.6 percent to \$1,274 an ounce.

Oil prices steadied somewhat after falling more than 2.5 percent on Monday to its lowest in about three weeks on the strength of the dollar and reduced refining in China.

Brent crude LCOc1, the international benchmark, was last down 2 cents at \$50.71 a barrel.



# S.Korea’s July Iranian crude oil imports jump 27%

South Korea's crude oil imports from Iran rose 26.5 percent in July from a year ago, driven by Seoul's strong appetite for competitively priced Iranian light oil as Tehran looks to boost market share.

Korea, one of Iran's major Asian customers, shipped in 1.40 million tonnes of crude from Tehran in July, or 330,151 barrels per day (bpd), up from 1.10 million tonnes last year, customs data showed on Tuesday.

The world's fifth-biggest crude importer brought in 10.67 million tonnes of Iranian crude in the first seven months of this year, or 368,952 bpd, up 47.7 percent from 7.22 million tonnes over the same period last year, the data showed.

South Korea mainly imports Iranian condensate, an ultra-light oil used to produce more expensive fuels like naphtha. No breakdown of imports was available.



Iran, a member of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is exempt from the oil cartel's deal to limit production to drain a global supply glut. The country is seeking to regain market share

lost during the years it was under western sanctions over its nuclear program.

In July, the Middle Eastern country exported 2.2 million bpd of oil to Asian and European markets, with its

exports to Asia up by 100,000 bpd.

South Korea's intake of crude oil from top exporter Saudi Arabia fell 9.3 percent to 3.69 million tonnes, or 873,656 bpd, a year ago.

OPEC's July oil production rose further by 173,000 bpd to 32.87 million bpd, in the latest sign the oil producer club's joint efforts to cap output are weak.

Overall, South Korea's total July crude imports increased 3.2 percent to 12.44 million tonnes, or 2.94 million bpd, from a year ago, the data showed.

In the January-July of 2017, South Korea imported 84.68 million tonnes of crude, or 2.93 million bpd, up 2.0 percent from 83.04 million tonnes in the same period last year.

South Korea's final data for July crude oil imports by state-run Korea National Oil Corp (KNOC) is due later this month.

(Source: Reuters)

## China to build new shale gas bases, offer more oil and gas block tenders

China is likely to build two shale gas bases in the south of the country and open up tenders for more oil and gas exploration blocks in the world's biggest energy producer, the Ministry of Land Resources said on Tuesday.

At a news conference in the capital, ministry officials said China is likely to start commercial production of shale gas in southern city of Anye in Guizhou province and Yichang in Hubei province. The ministry did not give a timetable for the start date.

The steps come as China ramps up its exploration efforts as crude oil production from ageing wells drops. Beijing is also on a mission to lift natural gas consumption to help combat smog.

(Source: Reuters)



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- 8-Tear tape (Gold&Clear)
- 9-Alufoil
- 10-Packet, Box, Label and Hologram
- 11-Carton
- 12-BOPP
- 13-Lazer gas
- 14-Vanilla
- 15-Honey
- 16-Ethanol
- 17-Glycerin
- 18-Propylen glycol
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For more information you can contact to 0098 21 5126 1928, ITC commercial department

**The Management of Communication and International Affairs**  
**Iran Tobacco Company**

## Oil prices steady after overnight tumble on dollar strength, China concerns

Oil prices steadied on Tuesday after sharp falls the session before to the lowest in about three weeks as a stronger U.S. dollar and a drop in Chinese refining runs hit the market.

Global benchmark Brent crude futures were up 3 cents, or 0.1 percent, at \$50.76 at 0551 GMT. That was just above the contract's 100-day moving average, briefly breached in the previous session.

U.S. West Texas Intermediate crude futures were down 1 cent at \$47.58 a barrel.

Oil prices tumbled more than 2.5 percent on Monday in volatile trade as the dollar strength and the demand concerns in China, the world's second-largest oil user, weighed on sentiment. A stronger dollar tends to limit the demand for oil for buyers paying in oth-

er currencies. Both Brent and WTI had reached two-month highs on Aug. 10.

"Stale speculative long positioning and a reluctance to hold unprofitable positions has been the main force behind the oil rally running out of steam over the last few sessions," said Jeffrey Halley, senior market analyst at brokerage OANDA.

Chinese oil refineries operated in July at their lowest daily rates since September 2016, official data showed on Monday, to ease brimming inventories as state-owned oil giants faced off independents in a retail petrol price war.

Analysts said the drop was steeper than expected, exacerbating concerns that a glut of refined fuel products could weaken Chinese demand for oil.

The dollar firmed on Tuesday after North Korea's leader signaled that he

would delay plans to fire a missile near Guam, further easing tensions and prompting investors to move back into riskier assets.

The dollar index, which measures the greenback against a basket of six major currencies, climbed 0.4 percent on Monday and was up 0.1 percent on Tuesday.

An announcement by the Nigerian subsidiary of Royal Dutch Shell that it had lifted a force majeure on Bonny Light crude exports also added to market surplus woes.

Oil prices had earlier on Monday been supported by reports that Libya's top oilfield had cut its output by 30 percent on security concerns.

"A mere supply cut is not going to boost prices," said Sukrit Vijayakar, director of energy consultancy Trifecta.

"We actually need product demand for that to happen."

U.S. crude stockpiles likely fell for the seventh consecutive week, along with a probable fall in distillate and gasoline inventories last week, a preliminary Reuters poll showed.

The weekly U.S. crude inventory report from the industry group American Petroleum Institute (API) is due out later on Tuesday. Official U.S. government statistics will be released on Wednesday.

Efforts by the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and other oil producers to limit output have helped lift Brent past \$50 a barrel, but concerns remain that these efforts could be undermined by producers in the U.S. and other countries.

(Source: Reuters)



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## History will judge those who stand by Trump after Charlottesville – the UK should cut its ties with him immediately

By Basit Mahmood

As we watch events unfold across the Atlantic in which white supremacists march with impunity, emboldened and enabled by a president who refuses to condemn them until pushed by voices from all sides, many of us here in the UK will seek to gain comfort from the distance between ourselves and what is happening in present-day America.



Indeed, it is tempting to think that there is not much we can do because of that distance – yet act we must, and decisively so. After the latest events, during which Donald Trump's woeful response to a far right uprising has been roundly condemned by even members of his own party, there can only be one response: to cut off our ties with the Trump administration once and for all.

Undoubtedly many will think this as unthinkable and rash. But the question we must ask ourselves is this: are we happy to court Trump and maintain the "special relationship" with a president who threatens nuclear war one day and refuses to openly condemn the actions of white supremacists in the very same week?

The unthinkable is already happening. The fact that David Duke claimed that the Charlottesville protests were about "fulfilling the promises of Donald Trump, that's what we believed in, that's why we voted for Donald Trump, because he's going to take our country back" should be enough for many of us to think about whether we wish to be aligned with a president who receives a ringing endorsement from the former leader of the KKK. "I highly recommend you take a good look in the mirror and remember it was white Americans who put you in the presidency," he tweeted over the weekend.

Let that sink in. If that's not enough to show that this is no normal president which means it can't be business as usual, then we must ask ourselves what actions he has to undertake before we are willing to consider open condemnation and an end to our usual diplomacy with America.

There can be little doubt that Trump's words emboldened those in Charlottesville: the trail apparently leads back to him. He has been happy to make disgraceful remarks about Mexicans and Muslims, and happy to employ Steve Bannon as chief executive of his presidential campaign, a man who "proudly" told a reporter at the 2016 Republican convention: "We're the platform for the alt-right." The white supremacists who marched in Charlottesville are people to whom Trump appeals, and he is only ever interested in shoring up his support amongst those who voted for him. That is, of course, why he took so long to disavow them.

The question for our own Government, then, is: what to do next? How do we deal with a man who seeks refuge in moral equivalence when there was only one perpetrator of hatred over the weekend, only one killing and it was that of a woman protesting against neo-Nazis?

We can't offer pathetic, underwhelming statements which simply state that we stand with America in its fight against racism and violence. How about standing against Trump, the man who many believe has helped such ideologies fester and grow?

### ■ Isolate the Trump administration

Let us not put a state visit on hold, but cancel it altogether. Parliament should hold a debate on how to isolate the Trump administration, for he is already being isolated by his own party members who have decided enough is enough.

Are we that desperate after Brexit that we're willing to go cap-in-hand for trade deals with his administration, after all the condemnation he has received from across the world? Prioritizing trade deals and cooperation with forward-looking and progressive countries would surely be in our nation's interests, especially given our British values: values of tolerance, respect and equality for all.

The Prime Minister should now make a statement about how we stand against Donald Trump, his supporters and his worldview. By cutting off our ties with Trump and stating that there are some conditions to our love of the U.S. – namely, that we can't stand by them when the country descends into xenophobic chaos – we'd be doing nothing more than asserting our belief in our values. This is not a call to cut off ties with America in its entirety but a call to break relations with the Trump administration. Are we willing to blindly follow and prioritize a relationship with a man who is unable to condemn white supremacists and neo-Nazis unless pushed to do so? Are we truly happy to hold his hand?

History will judge those who stick by Trump harshly. This week, Britain decides which side of history we will be on.

(Source: Independent)

**Let us not put a state visit on hold, but cancel it altogether. Parliament should hold a debate on how to isolate the Trump administration now, before he and his supporters do global damage.**

# As Trump flirts with nuking North Korea, where is Congress?

By Eric Segall

Donald Trump might be the last person on the planet I would trust with making reasonable decisions concerning what to do about North Korea's nuclear capability.

Having said that, we shouldn't trust any President with the unilateral power to commit a non-emergency, no-need-for-secrecy act of war without congressional consent.

The founding fathers wanted to separate the war declaring function from the war fighting function, yet here we are in a world where the President can unilaterally start a war. Congress must act, and act now.

Article I Section 8 of the United States Constitution gives Congress the power to declare War.

Alexander Hamilton explained that the "Congress shall have the power to declare war; the plain meaning of which is, that it is the peculiar and exclusive duty of Congress, when the nation is at peace, to change that state into a state of war."

In a letter to Thomas Jefferson in 1798, James Madison wrote that the "constitution supposes, what the History of all Governments demonstrates, that the Executive is the branch of power most interested in war, and most prone to it. It has accordingly with studied care vested the question of war to the Legislature."

And founding father James Wilson said that the new Constitution "will not hurry us into war; it is calculated to guard against it. It will not be in the power of a single man, or a single body of men, to involve us in such distress; for the important power of declaring war is vested in the legislature at large."

There are many provisions of the Constitution that have contested histories and which are difficult to apply to modern circumstances. The power to declare War in Article I, Section 8, is not one of those provisions.

Absent an imminent attack on the United States, or perhaps an important need for secrecy, it is Congress, not the President, who under our supreme law has the power to declare war.

### ■ Declaring war

Unfortunately, starting with the Korean War and then Vietnam, American Presidents have used strong military force amounting to acts of war without Congress formally declaring war (although in both instances Congress did ultimately fund the wars, thereby giving tacit approval).

In 1973, in the wake of the Vietnam War, Congress passed, over President Nixon's veto, the War Powers Resolution. This law confusingly says the President can introduce American troops into hostilities only after congressional approval or an attack on the United States, but also requires the President



**In any event, the War Powers Resolution has been completely ineffective in separating the war deciding function from the war making function because Congress has consistently lacked the will to enforce it.**

to remove such troops after sixty days if Congress has not given its approval, suggesting the former restriction may not be a restriction at all.

In any event, the War Powers Resolution has been completely ineffective in separating the war deciding function from the war making function because Congress has consistently lacked the will to enforce it.

Sadly, President Obama made important decisions and arguments that further diluted Article I, Section 8, and the important separation-of-powers ideas behind the Constitution's assignment of the war declaring function to Congress.

He made those decisions despite having said, before he assumed Office, that "The President does not have power under the Constitution to unilaterally authorize a military attack in a situation that does not involve stopping an actual or imminent threat to the nation."

President Obama often acted without congressional consent when using military force. For example, he didn't have approval to lead a NATO coalition against Libyan dictator Muammar Gaddafi in 2011, nor did he have approval when he ordered airstrikes against ISIS fighters in Iraq and Syria.

The President argued that those strikes were authorized under a law passed in the wake of 9/11 giving the President authority to use whatever

means were necessary to capture the terrorists responsible for 9/11, but ISIS did not exist at the time.

President Obama also argued that bombing Libya, without troops on the ground, did not constitute "hostilities" under the War Powers Resolution. That argument was derided by just about everyone.

For example, a former CIA Director under President George W. Bush said the following:

Using armed Predator drones against Libyan targets with the occasional defense suppression strike from manned aircraft, all the while being on call for more robust missions and with U.S. servicemen collecting imminent danger pay ... all that certainly feels like hostilities.

### ■ Constitutional traditions

Professor Bruce Ackerman, a liberal constitutional law scholar at Yale, argued in the New York Times that Obama's decisions regarding the use of force "mark[ed] a decisive break in the American constitutional tradition," and amounted to "imperial hubris." Other commentators disagreed, arguing that Obama's decisions simply reflected well-developed "constitutional traditions."

President Donald Trump has made sever threats against North Korea, promising "fire and fury" and warning that "North Korea better get their act together, or they are going to be in

trouble like few nations have ever been in trouble."

But so far there have been no attacks against the United States, and obviously Trump does not think secrecy is necessary for attacking North Korea.

Where is Congress? There is no reason why there can't be a serious discussion between the President and Congress, whether in public (even on the golf course if he prefers) or behind closed doors, about whether to actually attack North Korea.

There has never been a better time for Congress to reassert its authority to declare war before a President instigates one. The Congress and the President are of the same political party, so there can't be charges of partisan politics interfering with important security decisions.

President Trump's first six months have been riddled in scandal like no other President, and he has absolutely no foreign policy experience, having never worked in public office before assuming the Presidency.

I am not a huge fan of Paul Ryan, Mitch McConnell, or for that matter the Congress as a whole. But, now more than ever, it is time to heed the stern warnings of the founding fathers and divide the war declaring function from the Commander-in-Chief Power before it is too late. Where is Congress?

(Source: Newsweek)

## Turkey warns of migrant surge in spat with EU

By Ayla Jean Yackley

Turkey has renewed a warning to the European Union about a new surge of migrants as its impatience grows over foot-dragging on visa-free travel, exposing the divide between Ankara and the bloc it says it still wants to join.

Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu also complained in an interview published by the Turkiye newspaper on Aug. 11 that the EU's refusal to open new chapters in membership talks was "entirely political" and Western allies had failed to sufficiently support President Recep Tayyip Erdogan after he faced down a military coup last year.

Under a 6 billion euro deal agreed last year, EU money has been coming in, giving Turkey's sluggish economy a boost and helping it manage the world's largest population of refugees.

But Brussels has not delivered on pledges to allow Turks to travel to most EU countries without a visa and to accelerate membership talks. Instead, it has heaped criticism on Turkey for human rights abuses in the crackdown that followed the failed coup and persisted through a constitutional referendum in April that gave Erdogan sweeping new powers.

"Were our law enforcement to quit all of its efforts tomorrow, the Aegean Sea would become a route for irregular migration and a serious crisis would emerge. We expect the EU to keep this in mind and immediately fulfill its obligations under the agreement," Cavusoglu told the newspaper.

He stopped short of saying Turkey would tear up the deal, and it is not the first time Turkey has threatened to set off a humanitarian crisis if the EU fails to meet its demands. Erdogan told the EU in March it could "forget about" Ankara's promise to readmit asylum seekers.

But it clashes with a Turkish push in recent weeks to



**Erdogan told the EU in March it could "forget about" Ankara's promise to readmit asylum seekers.**

repair frayed ties with Europe, especially Germany, that have undermined Ankara's decades long quest to become an EU member.

Leveraging the plight of refugees in exchange for cash and visas dents the credit Turkey is rightly due for sheltering more than 3 million people fleeing the six-year war in Syria and even offering them a path to citizenship.

### ■ The peak of the migration crisis

Cavusoglu's rhetoric aims to stir memories of 2015, the peak of the migration crisis, when a record 1.05 million people reached Europe, nearly 90% of them from Turkey across the Aegean, where 279 people died trying, according to the International Organization for Migration.

Images of lifeless bodies washing up on Greek and Turkish beaches and hundreds of thousands of people trudging on foot in freezing weather through the Bal-

kans still haunt Europeans.

Turkey has proven it can control the flow. In the first six months of this year, 12,191 people used the eastern route to reach Greece from Turkey, and 45 people died on the way.

"A year and a half ago, EU leaders were all lining up to deal with the refugee crisis. We ended this drama in the Aegean Sea. It's as though they have forgotten our efforts," Cavusoglu said.

Just two weeks ago, the EU said it had "no concerns" about the migration agreement and that it was working well.

And relations with Germany show glimmers of a recovery. Last week, NATO brokered a deal to allow German lawmakers to visit their troops at a base in central Turkey after Germany threatened Turkey with economic sanctions and said the country was not safe for its businesses and tourists. Berlin is also outraged by the detention of two German journalists and a rights activist in the post-coup clampdown that has jailed 50,000 people.

For his part, Erdogan said Aug. 12 that German criticism was motivated by electioneering and relations would normalize after Germany's Sept. 24 Bundestag poll.

Despite Cavusoglu's salvo, the migrant deal is largely sticking because both sides have benefited from it, experts say. But Ankara may have less sway in other matters. It has lobbied for an expansion of a 20-year-old Customs Union to include more Turkish exports to its biggest trading partner.

The European Commission in December proposed negotiations on upgrading the trade pact. But late last month Germany reportedly asked the European Commission to suspend the talks with Turkey and to consider withholding financial aid to compel it to respect the rule of law.

(Source: Al Monitor)



# Let's save the world – Trump must go!

By Peter Koenig

For the last few days, the megalomaniac, Donald Trump, doubling as President of the United States of America, with a happy finger on the red-nuclear bottom – has been lambasting and shouting threats of “fire and fury” at North Korea, for her purely self-defensive ICBM tests, carried out under constant threats by US air and naval forces. According to the latest “fake news”, DPRK’s Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles are capable of bearing “miniaturized nuclear bombs”. – Most scientists call this false propaganda which is again so proper to the empire of doom. Fortunately, the mainstream pressstitute’s credibility is rapidly fading, in fact is almost dead. There is an up-swell of people waking up.

This morning, the same almost Inhuman Being has not only doubled-up on his threats of fire and fury to the Pyongyang Government, but had the audacity to also menace Venezuela with military intervention – to save lives. He, who – along with his predecessors – have killed tens of millions of people around the world in illegal wars and conflicts, now wants to invade the hydrocarbon-rich neighbor, Venezuela; incidentally almost the only true democracy left in the Americas, and arguably on the globe.

President Trump just refused a phone call from Venezuela’s President Maduro, who probably wanted to explain what the people of Venezuela intended to achieve with this newly voted National Constituent Assembly, the ultimate step towards a true people’s democracy. He did so, perhaps in the hope, a clever man would understand.

To no avail. One of Trump’s aides told Mr. Maduro, his boss would talk to him, once he, President Maduro, reinstated democracy in Venezuela. Imagine! – That coming from the man who is reigning over the biggest, oppressive police state on this globe, using deception and falsehood to brainwash the western world into a herd of sheep; and playing world dictator slaughtering people throughout the planet, only because they want to keep their sovereignty and

are not willing to be subjugated by this ridiculous, preposterous caricature of an emperor.

A new threat hangs over Venezuela. US Military invasion. The country is already invaded by US / CIA trained, funded, fed and armed proxy fighters, that regularly help disturbing peace, stirring up chaos and causing death in the streets of Caracas – death, that the Anglo-Zionist controlled press is ascribing to the Maduro Government – an outright lie. The west largely believes it, as the lie is hammered in throughout the globe. The West is losing its marbles for licking Trump’s blood-stained casino boots.

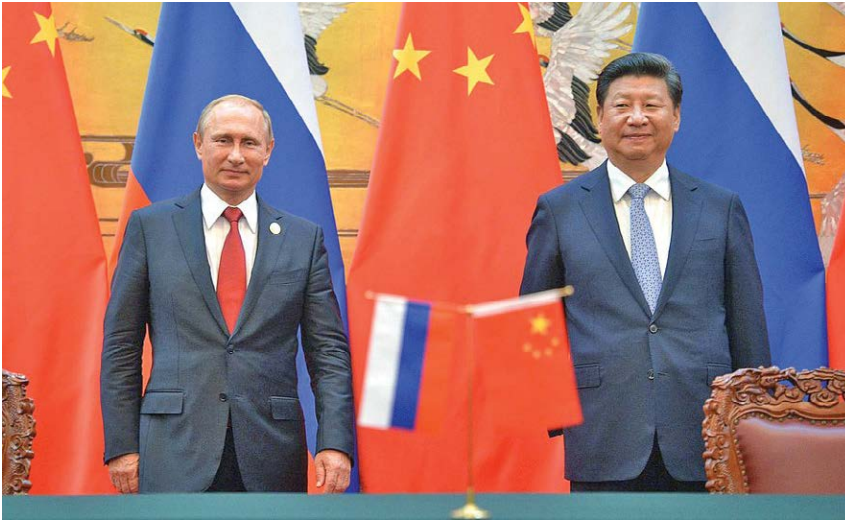
This madman occupant of the White House pulls along his close entourage, foremost his Minister of War, “Mad-Dog”, General James Mattis, and his oil-magnate Secretary of State, Rex Tillerson, plus certainly a number of Pentagon and Congress hawks. – But, do they follow him because of conviction or fear? – Fear cannot be excluded, as the little common sense they may still have left tells them what their unpredictable psychopath-in-chief may be capable of doing. Fortunately, some reasonable generals in the Pentagon and representatives of Congress are aware of the real danger in leaving the ultimate responsibility for triggering a pre-emptive nuclear war with Trump. They quietly distance

## One of Trump’s aides told Mr. Maduro, his boss would talk to him, once he, President Maduro, reinstated democracy in Venezuela.

themselves – and in Congress there is an initiative under way to curb Trump’s power as Commander-in-Chief of pushing the red bottom. Will they succeed – before it is too late?

This madman has to go to save humanity and the planet.

There are already talks – and well-founded talks – that after the DPRK will be Iran. Never mind the Nuclear Agreements reached with Iran after years of negotiations on 14 July 2015 in Vienna, the so-called Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), between the five permanent members of



## How about China and Russia taking such an initiative, calling upon the entire United Nations to stop the Empire of Horror, the United States of America.

the UN Security Council – China, France, Russia, United Kingdom, United States – plus German, and the European Union, under which all sanctions would be lifted on Iran, so that this country rich in resources, history and science, a nation that has never done any harm to her neighbors, may become integrated again in the chorus of world societies.

tire United Nations to stop the Empire of Horror, the United States of America, as it were, from her ever-increasing killing spree around the globe, from her masterminding mass murder, oppression, human exploitation, abrogation and violation of human rights and invasions, infringements on peoples’ and their nations’ sovereignty – a UNSC Resolution that would wake up the world and have the 192 members stop and dismantle the one empire of fear and destruction that risks to devastate human lives and livelihoods?

That should be possible. – Russia and China have nothing to fear. They are way above equal powers with the self-styled hegemon. Acting fast, before it is too late is of the order. The madman has his finger on the trigger. Whether he is bluffing or not, we can’t say. And there is no room to gamble.

The League of Nations, today’s United Nations, may it become solidary again – has nothing to fear. The tides are turning. Russia, China and the SCO alliance are offering a new perspective, a new economic paradigm, one of peace and equality, instead of the fraudulent dollar-hegemony. The tide is rapidly turning away from the enslavement of hydrocarbons dominated and monopolized by the bogus dollar economy. The tide is turning towards alternative energy sources. The tide is gradually turning its back to the fake, worthless fiat money that has no backing other than the hypocritical freemasonry slogan “In God We Trust”. – What God, for heaven’s sake? It’s their god of money. Their god of usury, their god of the stranglehold by debt. The tide is turning – and turning fast.

People of this planet, the only one we have and know, wake up, lift your courage upon your shoulders and step out of the blue pill-managed matrix into a new world offered by a legally steadfast UN Resolution – your Resolution, Resolution 101, the only one to freedom; dear People, 192 nations united against an atrocious vicious despot. There is no way of losing.

How about for once a true UN Security Council Resolution, true and factual in the sense that it is introduced on behalf of the world community and for the security of the globe. To save species, to save the environment, to save life as we know it. Not some fake ‘security’ serving only the purpose of enlarging Washington’s grandeur.

How about China and Russia taking such an initiative, calling upon the en-



## Is there any diplomatic peaceful way to stop this megalomaniac from annihilating Mother Earth, and life as we know it?

## Challenging America’s military madness

By Stephen Lendman

Candidate Trump argued against interventionism. He criticized wasting trillions of dollars on warmaking, creating a mess in multiple theaters, depriving the country of vitally needed revenue for homeland needs.

President Trump proved he’s the latest in a long line of warrior presidents – escalating Obama’s wars, planning new ones if he dares launch them, saber-rattling recklessly against North Korea, Iran and Venezuela.

Trade war may loom with China. US warships intruding near its waters and air space risk possible confrontation.

Relations with Russia are worse than any time during the Cold War years. Trump should have stood tall by rejecting illegal sanctions on all nations Washington targeted.

Instead, he’s hostage to America’s deep state, a front man for its imperial recklessness like his predecessors. He’s aiding, not combating, terrorists groups.

He’s responsible for massacring civilians in Iraq, Syria, and other US war theaters. As military commander-in-chief he could stop the carnage. Instead, it continues, things heading from bad to worse.

Chinese President Xi Jinping urged restraint and diplomatic outreach, discussing North Korea with Trump by phone on Saturday.

Hours before they spoke, Trump tweeted: “Military solutions are now fully in place, locked and



loaded, should North Korea act unwisely.”

The problem lies squarely in Washington, not Pyongyang.

It’s time for China, Russia, South Korea, Japan and

other world community nations to challenge America’s imperial recklessness.

The risk of possible nuclear war is too great to stay silent. Failure to act could let the unthinkable happen. South Korea especially is threatened.

War on the peninsula risks unthinkable carnage on both sides of the DMZ. Following his May election, President Moon Jae-in urged outreach to resolve longstanding differences with Pyongyang. He suggested meeting Kim Jong-un face-to-face.

Instead, he’s become hostage to Washington’s imperial agenda, supporting illegal sanctions on the DPRK, suggesting they be strengthened.

At the same time, he called for a “complete and thorough overhaul” of Seoul’s already formidable military. He’s more amenable to provocative US THAAD missile systems on South Korean territory, menacing the region.

Over 70 years since WW II ended, South Korea and Japan remain occupied by US forces, provoking North Korea, China and Russia, affording America’s allies the illusion of protection.

A unified Chinese, Russian, South Korean and Japanese front against America’s imperial recklessness, along with hostile rhetoric toward Pyongyang, risking possible nuclear war on the peninsula, is the best way to stop it.

Washington is a thuggish bully, taking full advantage of the world community’s failure to confront it responsibly – smashing weaker countries like tenpins.

Sino/Russian unity match America militarily, more so if allied with South Korea and Japan, together able to challenge US imperialism responsibly.

It’s the best way, maybe the only way, to save East Asia and humanity from the risk of devastating nuclear war – affecting all regional countries if launched.

## Kim vs. Trump, “Behavior” vs. “Misbehavior”, Who are the Lunatics?

### Bringing a Peaceful End to Conflict on the Korean Peninsula

By Kim Petersen

United States president Donald Trump said of North Korea: “We want to talk about a country that has misbehaved for many, many years, decades...” [emphasis added]

Misbehaved? What constitutes this misbehavior by North Korea? Has it attacked any countries since the end of the war?

What about the US’ behavior since 1953? It has since gone on to attack, among others, Viet Nam, Grenada, Panama, Somalia, Haiti, ex-Yugoslavia, Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, and Syria. It begs the question: which country is the demonstrable threat to peace around the world? It would be egregiously euphemistic to describe US aggression as misbehaviors. Such acts are war crimes; for example, in 1986, the International Court of Justice found the US guilty of unlawful use of force in Nicaragua. The US rejected the ruling. More recently, a compelling case has been made charging the US with genocide in Iraq.

But North Korea is building nuclear weapons and testing ICBMs. North Korea has an estimated 10 to 60 nukes, although there is still some doubt expressed about North Korean ICBMs being capable of reaching the continental US, of carrying a nuclear payload, or being capable of atmospheric reentry. As for the US, it has 1800 nukes, in Trump’s parlance, “locked and loaded.”

But forget all the puerile huffing and puffing emanating from the United States-North Korea brinkmanship. Why? Because there will be no nuclear launch or missile launch or other military attack. Why? Because to do so would be sheer lunacy.

The North Korea leadership, unless it has a death wish, will absolutely not initiate military violence. While it may engage in back-and-forth hyperbolic rhetoric, it will not provide the excuse for a reprisal that will devastate the country and destroy the government. North Korean leader Kim Jong-un and his political counsel know that to start a war would be lunatic and suicidal. As Vox notes:

“North Korea is more rational than you think: The assumption that the country is run by a lunatic is not only incorrect — it’s dangerous.”

The rationale political figures on the US side are aware of this as well.

Donald Trump sounds lunatic, but he can’t be considered suicidal in the conventional meaning of the word, as he’ll not be in the line of fire. However, to start a nuclear conflagration that leads to massive deaths of not only North Koreans but South Koreans, Japanese, and American military personnel in the region would be suicidal for Trump’s business interests. The devastation and fall-out among allies would render the Trump brand radioactive.

So no, there will not be a military response from either side. The American side could not emerge from initiating such an asymmetric attack with any pretense of international prestige or high standing intact.

Will North Korea dismantle its nukes? Its nukes are meant as a deterrence (albeit there may well be some secondary basking in the technological achievement of having attained nuclear-power status). Without nukes, North Korea would depend on the integrity and good will of the US, which the Libyans and Iraqis now know well not to depend on.

If the playground bully carries a baseball bat to threaten other children, can one blame the other children if they start carrying a bat with them? The bully knows if he swings his bat at anyone that he’ll be ducking bats swung in retaliation. Unless one is a sado-masochist, it is not so enjoyable bruising others when one gets bruised as well. By analogy, North Korea is well aware of the effectiveness of nuclear deterrence.

The record is clear, no nuclear power has ever dared attack another nuclear power. There has been all kinds of braggadocio but never a military confrontation. Consider the current situation in the Doklam Plateau where there has been a stand-off for 50-plus days between two populous nuclear powers, India and China. Neither side has yet resorted to violence.

North Korea has never attacked the US. It is only the US, when it intervened in a Korean civil war, that engaged in battle against North Korea. So what moral authority has the US to threaten North Korea? After all, when discussing military threats it is the US holding hostile military maneuvers in Korean waters (not North Korea holding military maneuvers in US waters).

The US lack of diplomacy — all stick and little or no carrot — has demonstrated to be a failure in achieving denuclearization.

### Bringing a peaceable end to conflict

At a minimum, North Korea wants a peace treaty, an end to the US troop presence in South Korea (which many South Koreans want as well), and an end to sanctions against it. These measures might spur North Korea to end its nuclear program.

It would be a quid pro quo demand. But North Korea is leary of US assurances. After all, did the US adhere to the Agreed Framework with North Korea? And what would stop the US from orchestrating a false flag to attack a denuclearized North Korea? The examples are myriad, including the phantom missile attack in the Gulf of Tonkin, the vanishing Iraqi WMDs, the apocryphal slander of Libyan troops being supplied with Viagra to carry out a spree of rapes, and the disinformation of Syrian government forces having used chemical weapons.

Despite hard right-wing reservations in the US, such a quid pro quo would cost the US next-to-nothing, and it would be hailed worldwide for its diplomacy. Trump has called for decreasing the number of US bases overseas, so this would be a major triumph for him: the first US president to officially end the Korean War as well as bring about the peninsula’s denuclearization. Considering Brack Obama was awarded a Nobel Peace prize for absolutely nothing, bringing peace to the Korean peninsula would assuredly earn Trump, in spite of his reckless and bombastic rhetoric, his own Nobel Peace Prize.

Above all, if all sides honored such an agreement, it would be a victory for the rest of the world. (Source: Global Research)

## Relations with Russia are worse than any time during the Cold War years. Trump should have stood tall by rejecting illegal sanctions on all nations Washington targeted.





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# Here's why underwater cycling class is about to be your new favorite workout

By Amy Schlinger

Generally speaking, I'm the type of person who likes a hardcore workout that leaves me dripping in sweat. We're talking things like CrossFit, high intensity interval training (HIIT), or boot camp-style group fitness classes. But after a trainer recently told me I should try slowing things down a bit and work on improving balance, mobility, and flexibility, I decided it was time to consider branching out. And that's when I came across aqua cycling. (It's just one of the super fun pool workouts that aren't swimming.)

It's exactly what it sounds like: You get on a bike, submerged in a pool, and peddle away while an instructor guides you. Thanks to the resistance of water, the activity is supposed to be super low-impact and restorative. "This practice was originally invented by a physical therapist, in Italy, for injured athletes trying to recover while continuing to build strength and endurance," explains Esther Gauthier, founder of Aqua Studio in New York City.

Aqua Studio offers a variety of classes; I decided to sign up for the "restore" one, got dressed in my one-piece swimsuit, and headed to the studio. I checked in and borrowed my shoes from the front desk—think water shoes made completely of rubber so that you won't hurt your toes if they accidentally knock into the bike. I put my stuff in a locker, slipped on my shoes, showered off in the pool area, and stepped into the pool.

Being a newbie, I wanted to be able to look at other riders for guidance, so I chose a bike in the middle row. Glancing around, I noticed there were all different ages, sizes, and shapes of people in the class. It was nice to see such a mix! "Because the water makes the workout accessible to anyone, we have all body shapes and sizes—from pregnant ladies to athletes training for a race," Gauthier later told me.

After the instructor asked who was new and checked to make sure our bikes were set up correctly, we slid our feet into the cages on the pedals and reviewed the different positions on the bike. Similar to a normal Spin class, position one is seated with your hands on the closest handlebars; position two is standing up out of the seat but hovering directly over it with your hands on the closest handlebars; and position three is up and out of the seat, with your hands out as far as they can be on the handlebars, hips pushed back so your knees never go past the resistance knob.

So far, this seemed pretty standard. But then I learned that in underwater Spin there's also a position four! To get in this position, you lift yourself up off the seat, then drop your body into the water behind the seat, feet still in the cages on the pedals, hands holding onto the seat. Apparently it's pretty much everyone's favorite position, according to some of the women who'd taken the class before.

Classical music filled the pool area and class began with some stretches to warm up the body. We used water as resistance to stretch forward and back, from left to right, contracting and releasing certain muscles. Then we started to get into the Spin portion.

Aqua Studio offers classes like "interval" and "power," which are fast-paced. Because I was taking the restore class, there was no pressure to be a speed demon. In fact, several times the instructor said we could go at whatever pace we wanted



**"The water is a thousand times thicker than air and creates a very intense resistance, so while there's no flywheel on our bikes, you make your own resistance—the faster you pedal, the harder it gets."**

to—slow if it felt more comfortable or quick if we wanted to raise our heart rates. I decided to go with a mix of paces.

Speed aside, I was always pushing myself at least a little. Yes, I was biking in the water, so I didn't feel like I was sweating. But water provides constant resistance on the bike, so I was always working hard to push the pedals. ("The water is a thousand times thicker than air and creates a very intense resistance, so while there's no flywheel on our bikes, you make your own resistance—the faster you pedal, the harder it gets," explains Gauthier.)

I realized that unlike in a normal Spin class, even as a newbie, I was willing to try the moves because the worst that could happen is I'd go underwater. There's no falling off the bike onto the floor or accidentally unclipping and hurting myself. Sure, my foot could slip out of the cage, but again, I'm in water, so there's nowhere for it to fall and the pedals won't just move uncontrollably without me pushing them.

I thought I was doing great, but then we tried something called "swimming" in position four. The goal is to keep pedaling while taking your hands off the seat and stroking them through the water instead, like you would to stay afloat when swimming.

While I can swim normally (really!), I just couldn't sort out how to swim while pedaling the bike.

As I was trying super hard to stay afloat, the ladies next to me who were about twice my age had mastered it—even though this was their first class, too. Needless to say, my age didn't give me a one-up on anyone. I eventually realized that it was more about slowing down and getting my arms and legs into a steady rhythm rather than trying to be the fastest. (That only leaves you sinking, with really tired hands.)

As the class came to an end, we finished up with some long, deep stretches. You'd be surprised what positions you can get your body into using the water as a tool. I was able to stretch areas of my legs and back that I otherwise can't normally get to on land.

All in all, I really enjoyed the class and the experience at the studio as a whole. It was a welcoming environment, being in the water provided a sense of calm, and the exercise was just challenging enough while still rooting itself in providing some rehab and stretching for the body. If you're looking to try something new, I'd definitely recommend giving underwater Spin a try.

(Source: prevention.com)

## We need to talk about male suicide – and not just when celebrities suffer

By Richard Taylor

I was doing what everyone does with their phones when they're bored – refreshing social media feeds to the point where minutes turn to hours and suddenly it's 3am and you're eating cereal – when I saw Chester Bennington's name trending. I scanned for facts hoping that his reported suicide was another sick example of fake news being spread on social media.

Bennington took his own life just months after his close friend Chris Cornell of the band Soundgarden died by suicide, and I'm sure it's no coincidence that it also happened to be Cornell's birthday when Bennington was found dead at his home in California. Bennington's death prompted an outpouring of posts from fans online: many of them accounts by people whose lives were touched by his lyrics, his humanity and his passion.

They swept me back in time to a place in my past that I'd happily forget. Five years ago, I was at the tail end of being bed-bound for nine months and I'd lost all sense of rationality. My memory of this period is patchy and blurred but my severe depression and obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD) had deteriorated and I was suicidal. I was trapped by my mind, constantly listening and falling prey to lie after lie, following the thoughts as far down as I possibly could, engulfed by their ever-growing shadow. When you're mentally ill, "normality" becomes meaningless and the world reflects the distorted and warped version of reality you project through bloodshot eyes.

This situation became so unmanageable that my father also experienced a breakdown. He couldn't bear to see his son, his only child, wasting away in front of him. With tears streaming down his face, unable to hug me because my OCD prevented me from touching anyone or anything, he asked if it wouldn't be better if he ended both of our lives. He had run out of hope and was desperate for an end to my pain and suffering, as well as his own. I can't even begin to fathom what he must have been going through as a parent; that he even briefly imagined that a suicide pact with his child was the only answer, fills me with overwhelming sadness.

Suicide is the biggest killer of men in Britain between the ages of 20 and 50, but we seem only to talk about it when famous men die. When my father's friend – a trained counsellor who had a loving family and caring mates – stepped off the edge of a platform and took his own life, there was no outcry. OK he wasn't famous, so no hashtags, no retweets, no vigils, memorials or concerts. But more importantly, nobody seemed to be asking how someone who had a seemingly great support network could wind up on the platform's edge. And while it's progress that we talk about male suicide when the Robin Williamses or the Chester Benningtons of this world take their own lives, if we don't carry on the conversation, if the hashtags only last a day or two, then I think we're failing. We need to open the conversation for everyone and retrain the way we all think about suicide.

Men who speak up about depression or illness and talk about what's going on in their heads are usually the exceptions. But a lot of the blame for the silence lies with us as more broadly as a society.

Online, behind the comfort of a screen, people will say that it's OK for young men to cry – it's OK not to be OK seems to be the buzz phrase of late – but when it comes to listening to men or giving them practical help, the support is non-existent. Aside from the Samaritans and Calm, I can't think of anywhere you can go to seek urgent help when you're feeling suicidal without becoming caught up in the NHS conveyor belt of woe and misery. I've been on the seemingly endless waiting lists, I've sat in dreary GP waiting rooms and been told that "a place in a support group is waiting for me". We're being told to do an awful lot of waiting when we frankly don't have much time to waste. What's the point in telling men it's OK not to be OK if we fail to lift them out of the fog?

(Source: The Guardian)

## 'Fat but fit' still has higher risk of heart disease, study confirms

By Meera Senthilingam

The idea that you can be overweight or obese yet healthy -- if factors such as your blood sugar, blood pressure or cholesterol levels are normal -- is a myth, according to a new study, and messaging around this should be changed.

Carrying those extra pounds can increase risk of coronary heart disease by up to 28% even if your other results appear normal, further disproving the notion that people can be "fat but fit".

"We conclude that there is no such thing as being healthy obese," said Camille Lassale, an epidemiologist from Imperial College London's School of Public Health, now based at University College London, who led the research. "You are at an increased risk of heart disease."

Previous studies have found that some obese or overweight people lack the health issues that often come with this added weight, such as high blood pressure or signs of fat in the blood that could clog arteries, classing them as "metabolically healthy."

But more recent studies have gone against this belief, showing that people with excess weight still have a greater chance of developing heart disease than those with a normal weight.

The latest study, published Monday in the European Heart Journal, confirms that stance.

**■ Proving that risk increases with excess body mass**

Lassale's team conducted the largest study to date investigating the impact on heart health when people are overweight or obese, as well as when they are "metabolically unhealthy," such as having elevated blood pressure, blood sugar, triglycerides (which store fat in your body) and waist size or having reduced levels of HDL cholesterol, the "good" form, which the body needs.

These factors combine to cause metabolic syndrome, which increases risk of various heart-related conditions, including heart disease and stroke.

The team used data from more than 7,600 adults who experienced coronary heart disease -- when coronary arteries are blocked and can cause a heart attack -- and categorized them by their body mass index as well as by their metabolic health, such as high blood sugar levels. They also used data from 10,000 healthy controls to represent the general health of the population being sampled.

People were sampled from the larger European Prospective Investigation into Cancer and Nutrition, which contains data from more than half a million people across 10 European countries. People within the samples were first separated into two groups, healthy and unhealthy, based on whether they had three or more of the markers for being "metabolically unhealthy," followed by separation by BMI to class them as normal weight, overweight or obese.

BMI is the ratio between weight and height, with a BMI of 25 to 29.9 considered overweight and over 30 being obese.

Those in the metabolically unhealthy group were at greater risk for coronary heart disease, with unhealthy obese people having the highest risk.

But the researchers then looked within the group classified as "metabolically healthy" -- without risk factors such as high blood sugar. They found that within this seemingly healthy group, people who were overweight or obese had a greater risk of heart disease than normal weight people: 26% increased risk in those who were overweight and 28% increased risk in those who were obese.

"Even if you are classified as metabolically healthy, (excess weight) was associated with an increased risk of heart disease," Lassale said. "It's another brick in the wall of evidence that being healthy overweight is not true."

The risk is much higher in the unhealthy group, Lassale added, but she highlighted the need for those without signs such as high blood pressure

not to rest on their laurels. "(They) seem to be at an intermediate risk," she said. "We saw that they went on to develop (more) heart attacks."

But the team members acknowledge that they cannot say with certainty why those carrying extra weight went on to have more heart disease.

**■ Healthy now, unhealthy later**

The larger European study from which these data were obtained collected only information such as BMI, blood pressure and blood sugar at the start of the study. For the 12 years after those data were collected, people were followed up only to identify whether they had experienced aspects of coronary heart disease, such as a heart attack.

"We couldn't monitor the evolution of their metabolic health," Lassale said. "They probably went on to be metabolically unhealthy."

What she does know, however, is that this further emphasizes the need to prevent the burgeoning obesity epidemic.

"This reinforces the fact that obesity in itself is a risk factor," Lassale said. "Every effort should be made by health professionals to advise on lifestyle changes regardless of these metabolic factors." These factors are likely to become abnormal if weight is not controlled, she added.

"This study provides robust evidence that there is no such thing as 'healthy obesity,'" said Metin Avkiran, associate medical director at the British Heart Foundation, who was not involved in the study. "The take-home message here is that maintaining a healthy body weight is a key step towards maintaining a healthy heart."

Nick Finer, honorary clinical professor at the National Centre for Cardiovascular Prevention and Outcomes at University College London who also was not involved in the study, added that it "supports the ever-pressing need for governments, local authorities, public health bodies and individuals to seriously address the issues leading to our current levels of overweight and obesity."

(Source: CNN)



**Aria Banader Iranian Chabahar Port  
and Marine Services Company  
International Public Retender  
Tender No. ME/1007/96**

Retender

Tender subject: Manufacturing, Shipping, Training and Delivery of One unit of Mother Search and Rescue Marine Vessel (Mother SAR) for Shahid Beheshti port of Chabahar.

It is hereby to announce that Aria Banader Iranian Chabahar Port and Marine Services Co. as the equipment supplier of Shahid Beheshti Port (Chabahar) Development Plan First Phase proceeds to retender the international public tender of Manufacturing, Shipping, Training and Delivery of the above mentioned vessel in a two-stage way after quality assessment.

All domestic and foreign manufacturer companies with the experience in the field of manufacturing similar vessels are invited to receive the CD containing the quality assessment forms and tender documents by presenting a written introduction letter (National ID No. is mandatory), valid ID card and the original bank receipt of **2,000,000 Rials** deposited to account **No. 0203568843007** of Aria Banader Iranian Chabahar Port and Marine Services Company, by Bank Day maximum until **Wednesday August 30, 2017 at 16:00** (local time), refer to the following address.

The deadline for submitting the documents and completed quality assessment forms will be **Monday October 02, 2017 at 10:00**.

- Purchasing and delivery of tender documents address:

No. 40 ,Kish St., Jahankoodak Crossroads, Nelson Mandela Blvd., Tehran, IRAN, Postal Code : 1518814111, Phone : +982188190677-9, FAX: +982188190679 or Email: [m.niapak@abiports.com](mailto:m.niapak@abiports.com)

- Tender deposit: unconditional and multiple extendable bank guarantee to the amount of 15,000,000,000 Rials and/or its equivalent sum of 350,000 Euro. (The aforesaid guarantee will be received after participants qualification in tender in quality assessment stage at the same time with price and technical proposal offer)

- To keep the date of documents delivery, any question is allowed only 72 hours before deadline of documents delivery.

- All manufacturers are obliged to consider the Law of Maximum Local Capabilities.

- The cost of advertising is undertaken by the winner.

- After quality assessment, to provide technical and commercial documents the competent companies will be invited.



## 10 hot titles of IT world

By Alireza Khorasani

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

**1** Apple releases new iOS 11 beta 6 to developers. One of the most immediately visible change is a set of new icons for the App Store and Maps. Apple had modified the original pencil-brush-ruler icon within a circle for iOS 11 by removing the circle.

**2** HiSilicon's Kirin 970 reported to have begun mass production. we have no doubt the Huawei Mate 10 will debut the Kirin 970 and the Kirin 970 might keep its Cortex A73 CPU architecture (but could go with Cortex A75 cores) with its main improvement said to be focused on a more powerful GPU, said to feature 12 cores.

**3** Google has made an app that was previously exclusive to its Nexus, Pixel, Android One, and Google Play Edition devices available for all Android phones and tablets running version 5.0 Lollipop or newer. We're talking about the Google Contacts app, which is now downloadable from the Play Store even if you're not part of the Nexus, Pixel, Android One, or Google Play edition clubs.

**4** Asus Zenfone 4 Pro specs spotted in GFXBench: Snapdragon 835, 6GB RAM. The Adreno 540 GPU is going to fly on the 1080p resolution of the 5.5" screen. There will be a dual camera on the back that shoots 12MP photos.

**5** ZTE Blade Z Max announced with 6" display and dual camera setup. It is an update of the Blade X Max with dual cameras on the back. Other highlights are the 6" screen with Full HD resolution and the very low off-contract price.

**6** Samsung's next Gear Fit will track your swimming. The Gear Fit 2 Pro would look much like its predecessor, complete with that tall, curved display, but would include some big design upgrades.

**7** The redesigned Trending Topics section of Facebook is now called Trending News and the updates to this feature -- which were announced in May -- are now available to most US users on both iOS and Android devices. For iPhone users, Trending News also has its own direct link in the Facebook app's main navigation menu.

**8** Target buys same-day delivery company to battle Amazon. A couple of months ago, Target took on Amazon's Prime Pantry services with its own version: Restock. The retailer's new service undercut Amazon by a dollar for a 45-pound box full of goodies, and even offered next-day service to beat out Amazon's four-business-day deliveries.

**9** Google hires a legendary Apple engineer to tackle AI. Legendary programmer Chris Lattner has had a roller coaster of a year. He left Apple (where he developed the Swift programming language) to help build Tesla's Autopilot technology, only to leave months later after realizing that he wasn't a good fit.

**10** Pandora appoints Sling TV's Roger Lynch as CEO. The streaming music company found a replacement for its long-serving chief executive Tim Westergren.

## Trump administration demands data on over a million visitors to anti-Trump site

The Trump administration is demanding web host provider Dreamhost turn over the logs of over 1.3 million visitors to an anti-Trump website it hosts, the company has revealed. News of the Justice Department order landed when the company took an unusual step of announcing that it had been in talks with the government to clarify and narrow the search warrant in an effort to comply, but had failed to reach an amicable resolution.



The order demanded that the company provide "all information available", including its owner and its visitors, of a political activism and protest organizing website against the current Trump administration, the web host said in a blog post. The website, known as DisruptJ20, is a political organization that planned a mass protest for the inauguration of then president-elect Donald Trump in January.

Several purported members of the organization were arrested for alleged violent conduct during the protests.

The specific information that prosecutors want isn't known as the affidavit for the search warrant remains under seal. Dreamhost has however confirmed the order demanded the company hand over "contact information, email content, and photos of thousands of people," to determine "who simply visited the website," the company said.

The company argued that the data, including logs and specific identifiable information, will allow the government to build a comprehensive list of names who oppose the Trump administration.

(Source: zdnet)

# Google may have paid Apple \$3 billion to remain the iPhone's default search engine

By Kif Leswing

Apple won't say what the exact number is, but Google pays a substantial amount of money to remain the default search engine on iPhones and iPads.

A new analysis from Bernstein analyst Toni Sacconaghi estimates that Google may be paying Apple upward of \$3 billion a year.

Based on that estimate, Google may account for 5% of Apple's total operating profit this year and up to 25% of total operating-profit growth recently, according to the Bernstein research.

The only hard number we know is that Google paid Apple \$1 billion in 2014. That \$1 billion, specified in court documents, was paid as part of Google's agreement to pay Apple a percentage of the money Google earns from iPhone and iPad users. The percentage is unclear, but Bernstein cited media reports putting the agreed-upon percentage at 34% "at one point."

Apple has recently been drawing investor focus to its Services line item, which could amount to as much as 13% of Apple's total revenue this year.



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from software sold on the App Store or the money the company makes through subscriptions like Apple Music.

Basically, this means the analysis started with the \$1 billion payment in 2014 and then extrapolated for Google or Apple's growth in the relevant line items in the three years since then.

Bernstein points out that whatever money Google pays Apple is most likely all profit — a pretty great deal for Apple and a strong sign of the importance of the iPhone ecosystem.

And unless Google changes the deal, Apple is set to collect larger and larger checks every year as it gains users.

Bernstein analysts even see a possibility that Apple could double down on licensing revenue by selling off app placement on the iPhone, which could be profitable "particularly if Apple offered to make them default applications within iOS — think Uber (vs. Lyft) or Amazon (vs. Jet) or Facebook (vs. Snapchat/Twitter) or Google Maps (vs. Mapquest) or WeChat (vs. Line) or Netflix (vs. Hulu)," Sacconaghi wrote.

(Source: Businessinsider)

## Gaming chat app shuts down alt-right server



Google and GoDaddy aren't the only internet companies dumping racists in light of the violence in Charlottesville. The team behind the gaming chat app Discord has shut down both accounts "associated with the events in Charlottesville" and the alright.com chat server.

As the company explains, it plans to take action against "all forms of hate," and that its mission is "positivity and inclusivity" -- it doesn't believe gamers will feel welcome if racists have a home

in the app.

The move has already drawn criticism from users who believe it's an attack on free speech and claim that Discord is playing favorites.

However, the company maintains that it will take action against anyone who violates its guidelines and terms of service -- racists who condone or participate in violence happen to be part of that group.

(Source: mashable.com)

## Intel CEO leaves Trump manufacturing council

Intel CEO Brian Krzanich has become the third company chief in recent days to depart from United States President Donald Trump's American Manufacturing Council.

Writing in a blog post, Krzanich said he was leaving to "call attention" to the fractured political environment in the United States.

"Politics and political agendas have sidelined the important mission of rebuilding America's manufacturing base," he wrote.

"I have already made clear my abhorrence at the recent hate-spawned violence in Charlottesville, and earlier today I called on all leaders to condemn the white supremacists and their ilk who marched and committed violence.

"I resigned because I want to make progress, while many in Washington seem more concerned with



attacking anyone who disagrees with them."

The Intel boss said increasingly, politicisation had made significant progress on any issue impossible.

"The current environment must change, or else our nation will become a shadow of what it once was and

what it still can and should be," he said.

The departure of Krzanich follows the earlier resignations of Under Armour CEO Kevin Plank and Merck CEO Kenneth Frazier.

Plank said he was resigning due to the president's initial response to the Charlottesville protests.

His resignation came even after Trump made a statement on Monday explicitly calling out hate groups, including the KKK, neo-Nazis, and white supremacists, for their role in the unrest. One woman was killed when one of the demonstrators rammed a car into a group of counter-protesters.

In June, Elon Musk left the council after Trump removed the United States from the Paris Agreement.

"Leaving Paris is not good for America or the world," Musk said at the time.

(Source: theverge)

## Galaxy Note8 will have a dual-SIM version



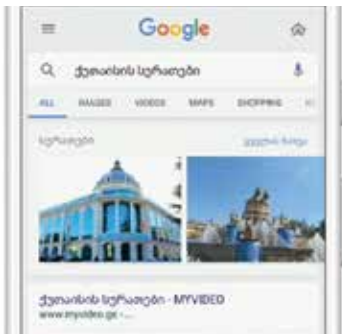
The Samsung Galaxy Note8 is going to have a dual-SIM version.

The page lists model number SM-N950F/DS, which should be the Exynos-powered version of the Note8 (F models usually are). The page was on the Austrian sub-site, so this model is for Europe. The card slot arrangement is not yet clear, though the Galaxy S8+ uses a hybrid slot exclusively.

The US version of the Galaxy Note8 could launch as soon as 9 days from now.

(Source: Galaxyclub)

## Google announces voice support for 30 new languages



Google invests a lot in its voice neural machine learning and now announced that it added support for 30 new languages.

Here's the full list of newly supported languages:

Amharic (Ethiopia), Armenian (Armenia), Azerbaijani (Azerbaijani), Bengali (Bangladesh, India), English (Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Tanzania), Georgian (Georgia), Gujarati (India), Javanese (Indonesia), Kannada (India), Khmer (Cambodian), Lao (Laos), Latvian (Latvia), Malayalam (India), Marathi (India), Nepali (Nepal), Sinhala (Sri Lanka), Sundanese (Indonesia), Swahili (Tanzania, Kenya), Tamil (India, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Malaysia), Telugu (India), Urdu (Pakistan, India).

(Source: Google)

## Essential now valued at over \$1 billion



We are still on the verge of knowing when the Essential PH-1 will actually become available to the public. Even so, Foxconn's filing for a \$3 million investment into Essential has brought the company's valuation to about \$1.2 billion, breaking past the \$1 billion barrier and pegging it as a "unicorn" in the tech industry. This is according to Bloomberg columnist Tim Culpan via Twitter.

Essential was previously valued at \$997 million in June following a short period of large investment backing. This was also around the time that executives were leaving the company.

(Source: Pocketnow)



# Australia to build a solar power plant to meet energy needs

Earlier in 2017, China completed the world's largest floating solar power plant to meet its growing energy demands and it looks like another country is looking to diversify its domestic energy production with a massive clean energy initiative.

Australia recently announced plans to construct a massive solar power plant to fuel the entire South Australian state government's power needs and then some.

Australian State Premier Jay Weatherill confirmed a contract for the Aurora Solar Energy Project, 150-megawatt solar thermal plant, to be built in South Australia. Global solar power developer, SolarReserve, will begin construction on the \$650 million facility in 2018 and plans to have the plant ready by 2020.

Currently, the maximum government power consumption is about 125MW (far less than the plant's projected 150MW output). This means the plant should have enough production capacity to fulfill the government's energy needs and send excess power to the local grid.

## ■ Largest of its kind

When completed, the Aurora Solar Energy Project will produce 495-gigawatt hours of power annually (representing roughly five percent of South Australia's yearly energy consumption). Once the system goes online, the emis-



sion-free plant will be the largest of its kind.

SolarReserve is no stranger to massive solar efforts by any means. The company was in charge of a similar enormous

solar farm, the Crescent Dunes Solar Energy Project, covering more than 1,600 acres of Nevada desert and has also announced a 450MW plant to be built in Chile.

**Unlike traditional solar panel-based facilities, solar thermal power plants use a series of mirrors to heat molten salt contained within a central tower and this subsequent heat is used to activate a steam turbine.**

## ■ Solar thermal power

Unlike traditional solar panel-based facilities, solar thermal power plants use a series of mirrors to heat molten salt contained within a central tower and this subsequent heat is used to activate a steam turbine.

In 2017, the federal government committed \$110 million of equity to constructing a solar thermal power facility. The SolarReserve contract will last for 20 years and create about 700 jobs (including 650 construction jobs and 50 "ongoing positions" in the region). However, some experts worry about the long-term limitations of solar thermal technology.

"One of the big challenges for solar thermal as a storage tool is that it can only store heat. If there is an excess of electricity in the system because the wind is blowing strong, it cannot efficiently use it to store electrical power to shift the energy to times of shortage, unlike batteries and pumped hydro," Dr. Matthew Stocks, a research fellow at the Australian National University, told The Guardian.

Nonetheless, Weatherill hopes that this project alongside other clean energy initiatives will make the energy grid more secure moving forward.

(Source: [digitaltrends.com](#))

## Falcon 9 launches Dragon with heavy science payload

A SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket successfully launched a Dragon cargo spacecraft on August 14 with a diverse payload of science experiments for the International Space Station.

The Falcon 9 lifted off from Launch Complex 39A at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida at 12:31 PM. Eastern, and deployed the Dragon spacecraft into low Earth orbit 10 minutes later. Neither NASA nor SpaceX reported any issues during the countdown or liftoff. The Dragon, flying a mission designated SpX-12, will arrive at the ISS early on August 16.

The Falcon 9's first stage also made a successful landing at Landing Zone 1, a former launch site at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station now used by SpaceX for landing first stages.

## ■ Successful landing

The landing was the 14th successful landing in 39 Falcon 9 liftoffs, and the sixth to land back at Cape Canaveral.

"We still will say we attempt to land," said Hans Koenigsmann, vice president of build and flight reliability for SpaceX, at a pre-launch briefing Aug. 13. "It's still a maneuver that is—'audacious' I think is the right word."

The launch was the first for SpaceX since the July 5 Falcon 9 launch of an Intelsat communications satellite

from the same pad, breaking a rapid cadence of launches SpaceX had performed prior to that. The Eastern Range, which encompasses Kennedy Space Center and Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, was down for upgrades for a month after the Intelsat launch.

At the pre-launch press briefing, NASA officials said that they had one chance to launch this mission before standing down for several days. Dan Hartman, deputy manager of the ISS program at NASA, said a planned spacewalk by two Russian cosmonauts on Aug. 17 would have coincided with a Dragon arrival at the station if launched Aug. 15. The mission would also have had to wait until the launch of a NASA communications satellite on an Atlas 5, scheduled for Aug. 18.

Other investigations carried on the mission include one funded by the Michael J. Fox Foundation to grow crystals of a protein linked to Parkinson's Disease, an experiment to grow stem cells that could treat lung disease, and the latest in a series of rodent research experiments.

The Dragon is also carrying several satellites for later deployment from the station, including the U.S. Army's Kestrel Eye imaging satellite and Dellingr, a six-unit cubesat developed by NASA's Goddard Space Flight



Center to perform space science experiments and perform technology demonstrations.

"Every mission we come to, it seems like the portfolio, the projects in the pipeline, are getting more and more diverse and more and more interesting," said Ken Shields, director of operations for the Center for the Advancement of Science in Space (CASIS), the non-profit organization that manages the portion of the ISS designated as a U.S. national laboratory, at a pre-launch briefing.

(Source: [SpaceNews](#))

## Underwater robot labs monitor toxins

Almost exactly three years ago, in August 2014, residents of Toledo, Ohio were told to immediately stop drinking their city water. The "do not drink" advisory lasted three days, and sent residents across state lines in search of bottled water. Nearly half a million people were affected.

The culprit? A blue-green algae called cyanobacteria in Lake Erie, the city's water supply. When conditions are right, cyanobacteria blooms into large, sludgy mats.

These blooms can produce a toxin called microcystin, which causes a number of health effects in humans, ranging from rashes and diarrhea to liver damage. Due to climate change and human impacts like agricultural runoff, these toxic blooms are becoming more common.

The "problem is really worldwide," says aquatic ecologist Tom Johengen, associate director of the Cooperative Institute for Great Lakes Research at the University

of Michigan.

## ■ Worst-affected lakes

Johengen and his colleagues hope Lake Erie, one of the worst-affected lakes in America, may be one of the first to benefit from a new solution. They're experimenting with a new technology — a lake-bottom "robotic lab" — to test water and give information and early warnings about pollution.

The technology is called an environ-

mental sample processor, or ESP, and is positioned on the lake bottom four miles from the water intake for the Toledo municipal water supply. Looking rather like an industrial garbage compactor, the ESP is sometimes described as a "lab in a can." The fully automated ESP

tests the water once or twice a day, and sends the results wirelessly to researchers.

(Source: [Smithsonian](#))

## BMI Oversees 163 Development Projects Strictly: Official

Bank of Industry and Mine (BMI) monitors and supervises a number of 163 development projects, valued at 9,970,000,000 toman.

Director of Department to Supervise Development Projects of Bank of Industry and Mine Seyyed Reza Emadi announced the above statement and said: "Construction operation of Ilam, Masjed Soleyman, Hengam, Bushehr and Bidboland petrochemical companies is underway by the bank, costing more than €7.1 billion."

He expounded on the main duties of the bank in this regard as follows: receiving applicants' documents

according to the pertinent rules and regulations, introducing applicant to the consulting engineer, concluding contract of facilities according to the sample of contract approved by the legal management bureau of the bank, observing requirements of international standards, analyzing results obtained from the provided reports (such as report on the physical progress of the project, etc.), giving proposals on the projects (granting complementary financial facilities, annulling facilities, etc.), selecting and evaluating performance of consulting engineering companies, monitoring projects in cooperation with the concerned organizational

units according to the stipulated rules and regulations, providing and presenting various types of analytical reports on the performance of consulting engineering companies and providing various types of specialized backgrounds in the field of supervision implementation of projects, etc.

Upon setting up research and development (R&D) Department, the management of the bank focused on the following five Working Group including domestic auditing, improving supervision process, risk, finance and interacting with the consulting engineers in removal of pertinent problems, he maintained.

## Executives of World's Most Prestigious Investment Funds Advise Investors to Buy Gold

The managers of world's leading investment funds advised investors to buy gold due to the exacerbation and escalation of tensions between U.S. and North Korea and in order to maintain the value of their assets and cap-

itals, the Public Relations Dept. of Iran Mercantile Exchange reported.

Given the above issue, veteran analysts of CMC Markets believe that world's gold price will be affected in coming

days to the growing trend of purchase by the international investors.

Once the tension between U.S. and North Korea is occurred, there will be no excuse for the reduced gold price in the

world, analysts opined.

It seems that gold will fluctuate between the two levels of supportive and resilient psychology in the coming days, the report ended.

## MA Insurance Co.'s New Building Opens in Tabriz

The new building of MA Insurance Company was inaugurated in the city of Tabriz in the presence of Eng. Safdari Managing Director of MA Insurance Company, Mr. Hojjat Baharifar Member of Board of Directors, Amir-Hossein Qorbanian Technical Deputy of company, Akbar Zahedvand Advisor to the managing director of the company, Amir Shafiei Manager of Branches Affairs, Gholam-Reza Madadi Manager of Representatives Affairs and Abbas Eslami Manager of Life and Investment Affairs, the Public Relations Dept. of the company reported.

In the beginning of this inaugural ceremony, Arash

Kamyab Head of Tabriz Branch of MA Insurance Company welcomed participants and expounded on the performance of the branch, the rate of portfolio, number of customers, representatives of sales network, etc.

Amir-Hossein Qorbanian Technical Deputy Chief Executive of the company was the next speaker who described customer-orientation analysis and risk management for the representatives and personnel of the branch.

Also, Hojjat Baharifar Member of Board of Directors expounded on the way of selling insurance services, the necessity of gaining customers' satisfaction and the way of using up-to-date information of representatives

in selling insurance policy.

In the end, Eng. Safdari Chief Executive of MA Insurance Company pointed to paying due attention to the marketing principles, the way of negotiating according to the latest standards and observing rights of customers as well as using new techniques of selling insurance and said: "With the coordination made in this regard, the company will take giant strides in the current year in order to materialize most of its objectives."

It should be noted that top and exemplary representatives of MA Insurance Company's branch office in East Azarbaijan Province were honored.

## Can offshore fish farming feed a hungry world?

Harvesting fish and shellfish from offshore farms could help provide essential protein to a global population set to expand a third to 10 billion by mid-century, researchers said Monday.



Suitable open-sea zones have the potential to yield 15 billion tons of fish every year, more than 100 times current worldwide seafood consumption, they reported in the journal Nature Ecology & Evolution.

Coastal and inland aquaculture already accounts for more than half of the fish consumed around the world. Many regions, especially in Africa and Asia, depend on fish for protein.

But severe pollution, rising costs, and intense competition for shoreline real estate mean that production in these areas cannot expand indefinitely.

Wild fishery catches, meanwhile, have mostly plateaued or are in decline.

That leaves the deep blue sea, or at least territorial waters up to 200 meters (650 feet) deep -- the practical limit for anchoring commercial farms.

"Oceans represent an immense opportunity for food production, yet the open ocean environment is largely untapped as a farming resource," the authors noted.

To assess that potential, a team of researchers led by Rebecca Gentry, a professor at the University of California Santa Barbara, undertook a series of calculations.

First they divided up the ocean into a grid, excluding areas that were too deep or already given over to oil extraction, marine parks or shipping lanes, for example.

Some 11.4 million square kilometers (4.4 million square miles) of ocean could be developed for fish, and 1.5 million square kilometers for bivalves, such as mussels, the study found.

(Source: [AFP](#))

## Prevailing theories of Earth formation could be wrong

When scientists came up with currently accepted theories about how the Earth formed soon after the sun itself came into being about 4.5 billion years ago, one of the most important factors in their calculations was what is thought to be the composition of our planet's core and mantle. But a new experiment, whose results were shared Sunday at a conference on geochemistry, casts doubt on those theories, suggesting they could be wrong and need revision.

We don't fully understand the interior of the Earth, but it was thought to contain almost no zinc in its core. Researchers from Institut de Physique du Globe de Paris (IPGP) conducted an experiment to simulate the "core-mantle differentiation at the time of the Earth's formation," which they did by melting mixtures of metals rich in iron and compounds of silicate that contained zinc (Zn) and sulfur (S).

"We found that under conditions similar to those estimated when the Earth formed, Zn has a tendency to be distributed between the core and mantle differently than we had thought, i.e. there will be a significant amount of it bound up in the Earth's core. Based on previous models, if we can place more Zn in the core, then by association you place more S in the core as well, much more in fact than most current observations suggest," Brandon Mahan of IPGP explained in a statement Sunday.

(Source: [IBT](#))

## Milky Way houses up to 100m black holes, scientists say

How many black holes are there in the Milky Way? This straightforward question has proven extremely difficult to answer, since black holes are so difficult to directly detect. However, scientists not only have developed indirect methods for locating and even weighing them, we also understand how the Universe forms them: from stars and stellar remnants.

If we can understand the different stars that existed at all different times in our galaxy's history, we should be able to infer exactly how many black holes — and of what mass — exist in our galaxy today.

Thanks to a comprehensive study by a trio of researchers from UC Irvine, the first accurate estimates of the number of black holes found in Milky Way-like galaxy have now been made. Not only is our galaxy filled with hundreds of billions of stars, but we also are home to up to 100 million black holes.

Black holes themselves are not visible, but emissions in the radio and X-ray from matter outside of them can clue us into their locations and physical properties.

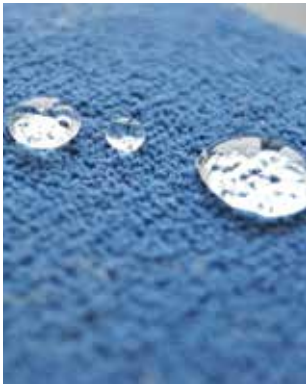
This is all the more remarkable when you consider that it wasn't so long ago — back in the 1980s — that scientists weren't yet certain that black holes existed. The best evidence we had came from X-ray and radio emitting sources that exerted a gravitational influence that exceeded that of neutron stars, and yet had no optical or infrared counterpart. Subsequently, we began measuring the motions of stars at the galactic center using multiwavelength astronomy, revealing that they appeared to orbit a large mass that needed to contain about four million Suns' worth of matter.

(Source: [Forbes](#))



## Iran exporting nano products to 20 countries

**SOCIETY** **TEHRAN** — Iran's nano products are currently exported to 20 countries, the secretary for Iran Nanotechnology Initiative Council affiliated with the vice-presidency for science and technology has said.



"Fortunately, a great advancement has taken place in nanotechnology in the country during recent years," IRIB quoted Saeid Sarkar as saying on Tuesday.

Over 160 Iranian knowledge-based companies are producing nano products, he added.

He referred to Australia, Germany, China, South Korea, Austria, and Russia as some of the target countries.

"Iranian scientists have produced some new nano products which will be unveiled in the near future," he concluded.

## Disabled Egyptians make prosthetic limbs for poor

An Egyptian development organization that manufactures products for the disabled has opened a workshop in Cairo to make prosthetic limbs for the poor, staffed by workers with disabilities who could otherwise struggle to earn a wage.

The Coptic Evangelical Organization for Social Services aims to foster social and cultural development in Egypt and has been given \$91,000 in funding by the Japanese government.

Its prosthetic limbs department, which has been operating for six months, aims to produce 200 limbs this year and increase output in future.

The workshop is part of a program through which the organization aims to help disabled people into work, enabling them to earn an income and contribute more to society, said Michael Saad, who supervises the program.

"By using this program, our main goal is to show that the disabled are proactive individuals in society, that the disabled are in need of some support in order for them to become proactive and productive," Saad added.

The organization also has a factory that produces between 1,000 and 1,500 mobility devices such as wheelchairs and crutches each year. A mobile van service is used to deliver their products free of charge, and to provide routine maintenance for their users.

One worker said being employed at the workshop had renewed his self-belief.

"Disability is psychological not physical," said Raouf Nady Helmy. "When you begin working on your career you will feel like you were dead and that you came back to life."

(Source: reuters.com)

## LEARN ENGLISH

### Daily Life - Cleaning the House

A: Honey, the house is **such a mess!** I need you to help me tidy up a bit. My boss and her husband are coming over for dinner and the house needs to be **spotless!**

B: I'm in the middle of something right now. I'll be there in a second.

A: This can't wait! I need your help now!

B: Alright, alright. I'm coming.

A: Ok, here's a list of **chores** we need to get done. I'll do the dishes and get all the **groceries** for tonight. You can sweep and mop the floors. Oh, and the furniture needs to be dusted.

B: You know what, I have to pick something up at the mall, so why don't you clean the floors and I'll go to the supermarket and get all the groceries.

A: Sure that's fine. Here is the list of all the things you need to get. Don't forget anything! And can you pick up a bottle of orange juice on your way home?

B: Hey, honey I'm back. Wow, the house looks really good!

A: Great! Can you set the table?

B: Just a sec I'm just gonna vacuum this rug real fast

A: Wait! Don't turn it on...

#### ■ Key Vocabulary

**such a mess:** very dirty, disordered

**tidy up:** put things in place, organize

**spotless:** perfectly clean

**in the middle of something:** busy doing something at the moment

**chores:** common house tasks

**groceries:** food that you buy at a store

#### ■ Supplementary Vocabulary

**immaculate:** perfectly clean, having no dirt at all

**do the laundry:** wash the dirty clothes

**dish detergent:** soap used to wash the plates, knives, forks, bowls, etc.

**trash:** garbage

**rubbish:** garbage

(Source: irlanguage.ir)

Have an idea?  
Be in touch!  
lifestyle.tehrantimes@gmail.com

# New environment chief warns of 'disastrous' water scarcity

**1 →** Chairman of Lake Urmia restoration committee further explained that flawed policies perused in 80s and 90s are now incurring substantial costs; "although some environmental issues such as air pollution can be resolved it's almost impossible to reverse harms inflicted upon exhausted and depleted soil and water resources."

"I cannot improve Iran's environment all by myself, the government and the public should all join hand to help the environment," he suggested.

#### ■ 'We have to be able to say no'

On her valedictory speech, the former chief of the department of environment Masoumeh Ebtekar pointed out that all projects have been assessed environmentally prior to implementation and some 15 to 10 percent of the projects which did not live up to environmental standards could not acquire necessary permits.

"If we seek any improvement we have to be able to say no to some requests, if we can't stand out against such environmentally detrimental projects there would be no environment to protect anymore," she warned.

Partial restoration of the wetlands, namely Lake Urmia, Hamoun, and Hour-al-Azim, boosting international cooperation, empowering NGOs, and teaching environmental courses at the universities



*First vice president Jahangiri (R) is shaking hand with the new chief of environment Kalantari with former environment chief Ebtekar standing in the background.*

were among the accomplishments of the Department of Environment Ebtekar mentioned in her speech.

Ebtekar has been appointed as the vice president for women and family affairs in Rouhani's new administration.

#### ■ 'We are seeking sustainable development'

For his part, the first vice-president Es'haq Jahangiri, said that Iran is a developing country and cannot miss development

speaking and acting. They oversleep and as they get up they feel they haven't got enough sleep. They tend to have a poorer and shorter memory compared to people of other temperaments. They are endlessly patient and calm. They expel fairly large amount of waste matter (urine, sweat, and feces) but the waste matter don't have strong color or odor unless waste materials have built up in their bodies. They don't have much strong pulse, neither do they have prominent veins.

Lifestyle tips that suit people with phlegmatic temperament are outlined below.

#### ■ Lifestyle

Eating food stuff with cold and wet Mizaj is not recommended to people with phlegmatic temperament especially during cold seasons and in cold climate.

In general they had better not to consume watery food such as soup or ash (kind of Iranian soup featuring noodle, beans, and vegetables) and stews. They should also try not to eat too much pasta, potato, and rice which would cause them to gain weight.

They should abstain from dairy products (cheese, yoghurt, or doogh - a savory yogurt-based beverage), sauces, mayonnaise, sour paste or sour food items.

Eating vegetables or fruits with cold Mizaj such as watermelon, cucumber, peach, plum, lettuce, and spinach is of no benefits to them, however, eating sweat fruits such as banana, apple, and quince would be advantageous to them.

Consuming low-volume high calorie food such as salted or roasted almond, pistachio, raisin, and fig is good for them. Taking food stuff such as fig, melon seeds, radish, and thyme that trigger diarrhea or urination which could lessen the wetness in their body and create a feeling of lightness and joy is recommended to this group.

They should cut back on thick food such as barely soup, kalleh pacheh (a dish of boiled cow or sheep's feet and head)

opportunities, however, "we have stated on multiple occasions that the development which endanger Iran's future is not what we want, we want to undergo development and safeguard our forests and environment"

"We have to find a way to both accelerate development and protect the environment and this is what the managers should do," he added.

#### ■ Stop thinking environment is hindering development



*People with cold and wet Mizaj should try not to eat too much pasta, potato, and rice or fruits and vegetables with cold Mizaj such as watermelon, peach and spinach.*

and tripe. Instead, eating high calorie and low-volume food such as Kabab Barg (a Persian style barbecued and marinated lamb dish), Kabab Chenjeh (pure meat and very similar to western steaks usually made from the meat of newly slaughtered sheep, when it's still soft and fresh) egg yolk, and quail.

They had better have mint, chives, tarragon, or mountain vegetables such a thyme or other vegetables grow in local areas as well as onion and garlic with their meals which all have warm Mizaj, suit their temperament and help them fully and easily digest their food.

Adding salt and spices such as pepper, cinnamon, saffron, and ginger into their food is also of benefits to them.

Being in cold and humid places such as bathtub, swimming pool, cold tub, and steam sauna is not good for them, while taking intense exercise such as jogging, running, cycling especially under low sun is recommended to them.

While sleeping they had better use a hard mattress, use blanket, cover their head or sleep near to a heater with their head closer to it.

Sleeping uninterruptedly for long hours would increase wetness in the body so people with phlegmatic temperament had better to get up during the night and then

Meanwhile, in an article published on Monday in Persian language E'temad newspaper, environmental expert Mohammad Darvish outlined some of the expectation surrounding the new administration with regard to the environmental issues.

"The Department of Environment should be authorized to veto projects that might result in environmental harms," Darvish wrote.

The administration should put an end to numerous dam building projects and instead focus on improving water-use efficiency in agriculture sector, recycling water, reconstructing Qanats [old system of water supply from a deep well with a series of vertical access shafts] and in case none worked they can set up desalination plants as a last resort, he explained.

Teaching environmental courses at schools, promoting tourism industry, stopping groundwater resources depletion, developing bicycle lanes, establishing department of environment at all ministries, and adopting animal welfare law are of the demands environmentalist have put forward over the past years, he said.

Darvish finally expressed hope that one day everyone stop thinking that environment is hindering development.

## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

A ↔ ع

## Subway wall collapse leaves 3 dead, 6 injured

Tunnel wall collapse at a subway construction site in the central city of Qom on Thursday morning claimed three lives and left six injured, ISNA news agency reported. The unfortunate incident took place at about 11 a.m. around Vali-Asr square of Qom subway construction site and following the collapse a group of construction crews got trapped under the rubble. Rescue and relief forces along with emergency medical services teams soon attended the scene and started searching through the rubble for survivors.

### ENGLISH PROVERB

#### A watched pot never boils

■ **Explanation:** when you want something to happen, paying attention to it will make the wait feel much longer

■ **For example:** The doctor is never going to call with your test results if you sit by the phone. A watched pot never boils, after all.

### PHRASAL VERB

#### Dive into

■ **Meaning:** to put your hand quickly in your bag, pocket etc. in order to get something out

■ **For example:** He dived into his pocket and produced a packet of cigarettes.

### ENGLISH IDIOM

#### Benefit of the doubt

■ **Explanation:** choose to believe that the person is innocent, honest or telling the truth, because there is no evidence to the contrary

■ **For example:** Although he found it hard to believe Tom's explanation, the teacher decided to give him the benefit of the doubt.

## ۳ کشته و ۶ مصدوم بر اثر ریزش دیواره مترو

به گزارش خبرگزاری ایسنا صبح روز پنجشنبه بر اثر ریزش دیواره ی تونل مترو قم ۶ نفر مصدوم و سه نفر کشته شدند.

این حادثه در ساعت ۱۱ در محل احداث مترو در حوالی خیابان ولی عصر قم به وقوع پیوست که باعث محبوس شدن تعدادی از کارگران در زیر آوار شد.

عوامل اورژانس و نیروهای امدادی به سرعت در محل حادثه حاضر و مشغول آواربرداری برای یافتن کارگران شدند.



# Report details Saudi kidnapping of defecting royals

New details have emerged of Saudi Arabia's kidnapping of three members of its royal family from Europe and the United States in order to silence their opposition to the ruling regime.

The BBC is to air a documentary titled "Kidnapped: Saudi Arabia's Missing Princes" on Tuesday, offering details on the kidnapping of the princes, who have not been heard of since their disappearance.

The Guardian had originally broke the story about the kidnappings back in March 2016.

## ■ Prince Sultan bin Turki

But a report on the BBC's website used information from the documentary to provide more details.

According to the report, Prince Sultan bin Turki, the most senior of the three princes, was invited back in 2003 to a palace in Geneva, where a fellow royal urged him to return to the kingdom so they could resolve the dispute arising from his anti-regime criticism.

Upon his refusal, those in the room with Sultan left and masked men entered, injecting Turki with anesthetizing substance. The prince was then taken to an aircraft and flown to Riyadh. He spent time between prison and house arrest in



Saudi Arabia but was allowed to leave again in 2010 to seek medical treatment in the United States.

He worked from the US to file complaints with Swiss courts over the assault back in Geneva, once again alarming Saudi officials.

In 2016, he boarded an aircraft presuming it was headed for Cairo, but mid-

way, flight attendants took out weapons, subduing him and taking him to Riyadh.

A number of people, including foreign nationals, who were unwittingly accompanying Sultan had taken images before the assault on board the plane. They had had their phones seized and images erased, save one picture (seen above). They were then held for three

days before being sent back to their countries of origin.

Turki had been critical of the country's human rights record and corruption among princes and officials and had called for a series of reforms.

## ■ Prince Turki bin Bandar

A former official tasked with policing the royals, Prince Turki bin Bandar was another royal abducted, while trying to leave for France in Morocco. He was then imprisoned and returned forcibly to Riyadh.

He had posted videos on YouTube, calling for reform in Saudi Arabia.

## ■ Saud bin Saif al-Nasr

A bon vivant, Saud bin Saif al-Nasr was the least prominent of the three. He had openly called for a popular uprising against the Saudi ruling regime and urged the prosecution of the Saudi officials who had backed the overthrow of Egypt's only democratically-elected President Mohammed Morsi in 2013.

He had also endorsed two letters in which an anonymous Saudi prince had called for a coup to remove King Salman.

In 2015, he was flown to what he thought was a planned business meeting in Milan, but has not been heard of ever since.

(Source: The Guardian)

## Russia says foiled ISIL-led suicide bomb attacks in Moscow

Russia's FSB security service said that it had captured a gang planning major attacks on Moscow transport networks and shopping centers, directed by members of the ISIL terrorist group from Syria.

Security officers detained members of the group outside Moscow as they plotted "a series of terrorist attacks in crowded public places including on public transport and in major shopping centers in Moscow using suicide bombers and powerful explosive devices," the FSB said.

It said that four people were captured, three from Central Asia and one a Russian citizen.

Three of the men, all from Tajikistan, appeared in court, which placed them in custody for two months on charges of planning an attack as a group, punishable by up to 20 years in jail, as well as weapons offences.

Two of the men made confessions of guilt in court, TASS state news agency reported. Russian television showed the men led into the court bent over with arms handcuffed behind their backs. One had blood stains on his shirt front.

Russian television reported that the Russian national who did not appear in court was the group's leader.

The FSB said it had determined that the attacks were being organized by ISIL warlords and emissaries who are in Syria, which it identified as T.M. Nazarov and A.M.



Shirindzhonov.

Media outlets in Tajikistan reported this month that a man named Todzhiddin Nazarov, also known as Abu Osama Noraka, had appeared in ISIL video statements from Syria posted on pro-terrorist sites.

## ■ 'Mother of Satan' -

The FSB said officers raided a bomb-making laboratory outside Moscow and captured the group's coordinator, an ISIL emissary in Russia, as well as an explosives expert and two potential suicide bombers.

Russian television showed FSB footage of the raid on a house in which plainclothes officers are seen pinning

two young men wearing black rucksacks to the floor and handcuffing them. It also showed what it said was equipment used to mix chemicals and several semi-automatic weapons.

An FSB officer told RIA Novosti news agency that tests had shown the group had mixed acetone peroxide, an explosive that can be made from easily available household chemicals but is nicknamed "Mother of Satan" because of its dangerous volatility.

Russia regularly announces that it has foiled major terrorist attacks, and recently has emphasized the threat from former Soviet countries in Central Asia, where large numbers of the Muslim-majority populations have gone to fight alongside ISIL.

The FSB said in July that it had detained seven nationals from Central Asia who were "preparing terrorist attacks" in Saint Petersburg, where 15 were killed in a metro bombing in April.

The alleged perpetrator who died in that attack was born in Kyrgyzstan and later acquired Russian citizenship.

The bombing was claimed by a little-known group, the Imam Shamil Battalion, which experts say is linked to Al-Qaeda.

(Source: AFP)

## Kashmiris cast doubt on Indian PM Modi's 'warm' words

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi said force will not resolve the situation in Kashmir in a speech marking 70 years of Indian independence.

His comments on Tuesday come amid an upturn in fighting between Indian soldiers and rebels in the Himalayan region and angry protests against Indian rule.

"Abuse and bullets will not solve the Kashmir issue," Modi said, adding "embracing Kashmiris will".

Just two days earlier in south Kashmir's Shopian area, three local fighters, two soldiers, and two civilians were killed in a gunfight that led to street protests that wounded more than a dozen people.

The situation in Kashmir continues to be tense, particularly in its southern areas.

Indian forces have launched a major operation that has resulted in the deaths of more than 130 fighters and civilians, officials say.

## ■ 'Different reality'

Kashmiri political analyst Sheikh Showkat Hussain said statements such as Modi's about Kashmir rarely lead to improvements for its residents.

"Experts on the ground say the situation speaks of a grim reality and the government has been dealing with the civilian population with an 'iron fist'," Hussain said.

"This is not the first time that such statement is being made on Kashmir.

What we see practically is more oppression and humiliation. These statements never get translated on the ground."

Hussain said young men are regularly killed in Kashmir in "fake encounters", or incidents where security forces shoot unarmed protesters and later claim they were armed attackers.

"Young boys who have joined militancy just for 10 days or a week are being killed. Modi gives these soft statements just for the media coverage and to wash away his past sins," Hussain said.

Parvez Imroz, a leading rights activist in Kashmir, told Al Jazeera said the government in Kashmir has turned more offensive in recent years and they are adopting what he described as "Israeli tactics".

"The reality on the ground is totally different to what Modi said today," he said.

"They are pushing Kashmiris to the wall; they are using these tactics for the upcoming 2019 elections. They are more inspired by the Israeli way... The Modi government doesn't care about its image or the international community," said Imroz.

"They just want to show that their government is strong. They are bringing more troops to Kashmir and have turned it into an open garrison. They are just provoking Kashmiris."

The former chief minister of Kashmir, Omar Abdullah, wrote on Twitter, "PM



Modi's words for Kashmir have been very well received by people here, but everyone here is weary of yet more talk and no concrete action."

"The proof of the pudding is in the eating. We look forward to being embraced in the warm grip of understanding, acceptance and respect."

The moderate separatist leader Mirwaiz Umar Farooq said the resolution of Kashmir will become reality when "abuses and bullets are replaced with humanity and justice".

## ■ Rival claims

Nuclear-armed rivals India and Pakistan each administer part of Kashmir, but both claim the Himalayan territory in its entirety.

Rebel groups have been fighting since 1989 for the Indian-administered portion

to become independent or merge with Pakistan.

Nearly 70,000 people have been killed in the uprising and the ensuing Indian military crackdown.

India maintains roughly 500,000 soldiers in the territory.

Anti-India sentiment runs deep among Kashmir's mostly Muslim population and most support the rebels' against Indian rule.

India has accused Pakistan of arming and training the rebels, which Islamabad denies.

Rebel groups have largely been suppressed by Indian forces in recent years, and public opposition to Indian rule is now primarily expressed through street protests.

(Source: Al Jazeera)

## U.S. sanctions hit Russian hopes of a 'Trump bump' for investment

New U.S. sanctions on Moscow have forced Russian business chiefs to accept that Donald Trump's rise to power is not about to produce a "Trump Bump" in foreign investment.

After Trump became U.S. president, some investors said they would be prepared to contemplate new deals with Russian firms if they saw signs that U.S.-Russian ties were improving and U.S. restrictions on business with Russia were being relaxed.

But the new sanctions, signed onto law by Trump on Aug. 2, add new measures and codify six orders signed by President Barack Obama, making them harder for Trump to revoke.

For the business community in Moscow, the message is clear -- there is no immediate prospect of Washington softening its stance towards Moscow.

"Russia faces the codification of sanctions which suggests they will be hellishly difficult to take off and are likely to remain in place for the very long term," said Tim Ash, a strategist at BlueBay asset management in London.

"The mere fact that the U.S. and Western governments ... saw fit to levy sanctions on Russia sends at the least an amber light to Western business -- be careful in your dealings with Russia."

The United States initially imposed financial and travel restrictions on Russia in 2014, after Russia annexed the Crimea region from Ukraine following the fall of a pro-Moscow president in Kiev.

The latest measures allow Congress to block any effort by the president to ease or lift the existing sanctions, tightens some of those sanctions, and imposes new restrictions in some sectors.

Executives in Russian banks and energy companies, the main targets of the U.S. sanctions, told Reuters their compliance departments were still going through the fine print of the new law to understand the practical impact.

Already clear, though, was the message about the duration of the sanctions.

"This is obviously for a long time," said a source in a major Russian oil company, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he is not authorized to speak to the media.

Moody's rating agency said in a note to clients that the new sanctions on Russia "are likely to further deter investment there."

The sanctions in place since 2014 directly restrict a narrow range of business dealings. Their biggest effect, according to investment bankers and corporate lawyers in Moscow, is that they create the risk of more sanctions being added.

Under that scenario, a deal signed outside the scope of the sanctions could quickly fall under sanctions. If that happened, investors would be likely to lose money and few want to take that risk.

On the other hand, if investors believe the sanctions will not be expanded, they can conclude deals with some confidence, even while existing measures remain in place.

## ■ Ship hasn't sailed

Trump's election triumph last November led many in the Russian business community to believe that the worst of the sanctions was over.

It was at this time that a long-planned deal to privatize a stake in Sovcomflot, a state-owned shipping company with a fleet of modern vessels and lucrative energy sector contracts, was put back on the government's agenda.

The fate of the partial privatization since then reflects the importance of the new sanctions to investor sentiment.

No one involved in the Sovcomflot deal has publicly committed to a date for the sale but two financial market sources told Reuters late in May that the deal was expected in early June.

The plan later changed again because of deteriorating market conditions, a source familiar with the situation said in June -- the same week that the Russian stock index slipped on concerns that Washington would impose new sanctions on Moscow.

Later in June, a senior Russian government official told Reuters the deal might happen in July. But after the new U.S. sanctions, Moscow's tone on the deal became more cautious though officials declined to say whether the new sanctions would alter the government's decision about when the sale happens.

"It's clear that the USAs toughening of the sanctions regime right now will hardly make the investment climate for this asset more attractive on international financial markets," Transport Minister Maxim Sokolov told reporters on Aug. 3.

Anton Tabakh, a Russian economist, said the main problem the new sanctions posed for Russian investment was that they increase uncertainty about what happens next.

The new measures "guarantee that the risk of the sanctions expanding will remain for a long time," he wrote in a commentary for Carnegie Moscow Center, a think tank.

(Source: Reuters)

## 'Make America Great Again' slogan has made hate acceptable in American vocabulary: professor

➡ public figures and a segment of the populace without any shame or compunction.

■ How will be the U.S. after Trump? Will it be more powerful or weaker?

A: It depends on how one measures power. If one views power in terms of amassing more military hardware, inflating war budget, and acting like acting belliciously in the international arena, then the U.S. will be "more powerful" under Trump than it was under Obama. However, power is a complex and multifaceted phenomenon and does not depend only on military bullying. Some analysts have compared Trump's America to Great Britain in its waning imperial era. As the British empire was crumbling, politicians and even many ordinary British citizens had their heads buried in the sand and pretended that the country's military hardware would save their crumbling empire.

## Saudi Arabia and Iraq to re-open border crossing after 27 years

Saudi Arabia and Iraq plan to open the Arar border crossing for trade for the first time since 1990, when it was closed after the countries cut ties following Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait, Saudi local media reported on Tuesday.

Saudi and Iraqi officials toured the site on Monday and spoke with Iraqi religious pilgrims, who for the past 27 years had access to the crossing only once annually during the haj season, the Mecca newspaper reported.

The governor of Iraq's southwestern Anbar province, whose staff was on hand for the ceremonies, said the Iraqi government had deployed troops to protect the desert route leading to Arar and called its opening a

"significant move" to boost ties.

"This is a great start for further future cooperation between Iraq and Saudia Arabia," said Sohaib al-Rawi.

The announcement follows a decision by the Saudi cabinet on Monday to establish a joint trade commission with Iraq.

Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates are both wooing their northern neighbor in an effort to halt the growing regional influence of arch-foe Iran.

The Sunni-led Persian Gulf Arab countries have hosted Iraqi Shia cleric Moqtada al-Sadr for talks with their crown princes in recent weeks, rare visits after years of troubled relations.

Sadr's office said his meeting with Saudi Crown

Prince Mohammed bin Salman resulted in an agreement for Saudi Arabia to donate \$10 million in aid to the Iraqi government and study possible investments in Shia regions of southern Iraq.

The opening of border crossings for trade was also on a list of goals for the talks published by Sadr's office.

The Saudi-Iraqi rapprochement extends back to 2015, when Saudi Arabia reopened its embassy in Baghdad following a 25-year break.

Saudi Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeiri visited Baghdad in February, and the two countries announced in June they would set up a coordination council to upgrade ties.

(Source: AP)



## Bolt to play for Man United in legends game

Usain Bolt is switching gears and has signed to Manchester United — to play a charity football match against Barcelona.

The football fan is to make his first appearance since retiring from athletics and line up alongside Ryan Giggs and Paul Scholes at Old Trafford on September 2.

But after pulling his hamstring in his final race at the World Championships in London last week, the 30-year-old athlete might not be fit.

According to The Sun, a source said: "This has been his dream for many years. He's desperate to do it as long as he can get over the injury."

The Jamaican sprinter will also train with German club Borussia Dortmund. He said: "I've always said I wanted to play football. It's something I'll be good at."

(Source: Goal)

## Coutinho exit would be awful for Liverpool, admits Firmino

Liverpool forward Roberto Firmino admits it would be "awful" if team-mate Philippe Coutinho was sold to Barcelona.

Coutinho's future at Anfield is far from certain, with the 25-year-old said to have submitted a transfer request just hours after Liverpool owner Fenway Sports Group stated publicly that it would not entertain any transfer offers.

Manager Jurgen Klopp has conceded that the final decision over the Brazil star's future is out of his hands, with Barca said to be pushing hard to finalise a deal this week.

Firmino is trying not to be distracted by the talk surrounding his compatriot, who is sidelined with a back injury, but he would be hugely disappointed to see him leave.

"I prefer to not think of this because it would be awful," he said, as quoted by The Liverpool Echo. "He's a great player, but also a great friend to me."

"It is normal that great teams are interested in his football, but my concentration is now on the team."

"My objective is to win cups with Liverpool so I can enter the history of this club."

(Source: Soccerway)

## More than 2,000 mascot applications received for Tokyo

A total of 2,042 mascot designs have been received for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics after a competition launched earlier this month invited Japanese residents to submit their proposals, Games organizers said on Tuesday.

According to the Tokyo 2020 organizing committee, a quarter of the total applicants were in their teens or 20s, while almost half of the submissions were received from people aged 30 to 49.

There were 1,774 individual submissions and 268 group submissions, while several entries were created as a part of elementary school club projects.

"Given the difficult conditions attached to the submissions, the number received was a satisfactory figure," the organizers said in a statement.

"The judging process will begin on Aug. 22, with the process going until the field is narrowed down to three or four final candidates."

"Elementary school classes nationwide will vote on the final candidates from Dec. 11 to Jan. 19, with the final mascot selection expected to be announced at the beginning of February."

(Source: Reuters)

## Premier League set to shut transfer window before start of season

Premier League clubs are pushing for the transfer window to be shut before the start of the season, according to reports.

National newspapers say the issue is set to be discussed at a shareholders' meeting in September, with a majority of clubs in favor of shortening the window, which this year closes on August 31.

The move comes amid uncertainty over the future of a number of players, including Liverpool's Philippe Coutinho, Everton's Ross Barkley and Swansea midfielder Gylfi Sigurdsson.

Liverpool boss Jurgen Klopp appeared to lend his support to the idea at a press conference ahead of his side's UEFA Champions League match in Hoffenheim, saying:

"It would have helped us this year (if the window had shut early). It makes sense that when the season is starting, planning for the team is over."

His Swansea counterpart Paul Clement, who faces losing Sigurdsson to Everton, has also indicated that Premier League bosses broadly back the change.

"At our managers' meeting at the Premier League last week, we spoke about it," Clement said over the weekend. "The majority of clubs are in favour but maybe all have to be for it to go through. It could happen next year."

(Source: PA Sport)

# Nadal delighted at return to No 1, sorry Federer out



spot after so many years.

"If you don't have doubts, it's because you are very arrogant and I'm not very arrogant," Nadal said. "There's a young generation up and coming. It's very tough to come back and be number one."

Nadal knows that while he will claim the upper hand no matter how he fares this week, the year's final Grand Slam event starting in New York on August 28 will have a major role to play in the fight with Federer for number one.

"Roger and I are having great seasons," Nadal said. "One of us will have

the chance to have that position for more weeks. I'm going to try and do my best this week and see what happens."

Federer, a seven-time champion on the Cincinnati hardcourts, apologised but said he needed to rest with the US Open so near.

"I am very sorry to pull out of the Western and Southern Open as I always enjoy playing," Federer said. "Cincinnati has some of the best fans in the world and I am sorry I will miss them."

"Unfortunately, I tweaked my back in Montreal and I need to rest this week."

Federer was replaced in the draw by

Rafael Nadal was thrilled to learn he would return to world number one for the first time in three years but sorry it came because Roger Federer withdrew from this week's ATP Cincinnati Masters tournament.

Third-ranked Federer said he injured his back in Montreal, where he lost in Sunday's final to Germany's Alexander Zverev in a key hardcourt tuneup for the US Open.

Federer, this year's Wimbledon and Australian Open champion, was the only player who could have denied second-ranked French Open champion Nadal the top spot in next Monday's rankings.

"For me to be in that position is something very special," Nadal said. "I have the passion and love for the game. That's why I'm able to be back in that position again."

It's the first time Nadal has been number one since July of 2014.

The 31-year-old Spaniard, who won his 15th Grand Slam title this year at Roland Garros, will overtake Britain's top-ranked Andy Murray, who withdrew from Montreal and Cincinnati with a hip injury.

Nadal, who has spent 141 total weeks in the top spot, has struggled with knee injuries since first becoming world number one in August 2008 after a Cincinnati semi-final run. He admitted doubting he could ever regain the top

## Tiger Woods 'had five different drugs in system' when he was arrested



The former world No1 golfer Tiger Woods had five different drugs in his system when he was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence in May, according to an ESPN report on Monday.

ESPN, which cited a copy of the toxicology report, said Woods had hydrocodone, the generic form of a painkiller branded as Vicodin; hydromorphone, a painkiller known as Dilaudid; alprazolam, a mood and sleep drug known as Xanax; zolpidem, a sleep drug known as Ambien; and delta-9 carboxy THC, the active ingredient in marijuana, in his system. It is not known if Woods had prescriptions for all of the medications. Medical marijuana is legal in Florida.

A request made by Reuters to the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office for a copy of the toxicology report was not returned.

Woods, who is second on the all-time list with 14 major titles, checked into a clinic in June for treatment to help deal with prescription drugs.

He said last month he had completed treatment.

"As I previously said, I received professional help to manage my medications," Woods said in a statement. "Recently, I had been trying on my own to treat my back pain and a sleep disorder, including

insomnia, but I realize now it was a mistake to do this without medical assistance.

"I am continuing to work with my doctors, and they feel I've made significant progress. I remain grateful for the amazing support that I continue to receive and for the family and friends that are assisting me."

Police found Woods stopped on the side of a Palm Beach-area road in his Mercedes-Benz at about 3am on 29 May.

He had "extremely slow and slurred speech" after being awakened by a police officer but was cooperative and told officers he takes several prescriptions, including Xanax, according to a police report.

Woods, who had been heading away from his home, could not remember where he was going and told police he was returning from Los Angeles.

A blood test showed he had the painkiller Vicodin and the antidepressant Xanax in his system but no alcohol. He was charged with driving under the influence and improperly stopping his vehicle.

In a statement after his arrest, Woods apologised to fans and blamed the incident on prescription medication he was taking to manage pain from a recent back surgery.

(Source: Guardian)

## Something is up - Real Madrid boss Zidane questions Ronaldo ban



Zinedine Zidane has not completely given up hope of Cristiano Ronaldo taking to the field when Real Madrid host Barcelona in the second leg of the Supercopa de Espana.

Ronaldo was hit with a five-match ban by the Royal Spanish Football Federation (RFEF) after he pushed referee Ricardo de Burgos in the aftermath of being sent off in Sunday's opening leg.

Madrid will present their appeal case to the governing body on Wednesday morning, with Barca visiting the Santiago Bernabeu in the hope of overturning a 3-1 deficit that evening.

Zidane has studiously avoided being dragged into El Clasico politics since succeeding Rafael Benitez as Madrid boss but told a pre-match news conference "something is up" with the punishment meted out to Ronaldo, who was booked for removing his shirt in celebration of a stunning goal and dismissed for simulation.

"What we're going to do is wait for tomorrow. The committee is going to meet in the morning. After that we will see what we're going to do," Zidane said.

"I'm disappointed. All of us are disappointed. As always, I'm not going to get involved with the referees but, when

Italian 85th-ranked lucky loser Thomas Fabbiano, who will enjoy a first-round bye.

Nadal said he was sorry to see Federer join the list of players absent this week, which includes Murray, Serbia's Novak Djokovic, Japan's Kei Nishikori and Swiss Stan Wawrinka.

"It's bad news for Roger he's not playing," Nadal said. "I'm sorry for all of them. I hope they have good recovery. We need to see them back for the sport."

Nadal has been forced to alter training and event schedules more as he has gotten older.

"Of course we're not 20 years old any more. We're not playing all the weeks. That's part of the sport. I skip many more events than the rest of my competitors."

■ Zverev 'unbelievable'

Nadal, ousted in the third round last week at Montreal, praised Zverev, who won his fifth ATP title at Montreal on Sunday and swapped spots with Austrian Dominic Thiem to reach a career-high seventh in this week's rankings.

"You are talking about an unbelievable player. And Dominic is right there too," Nadal said, declining to offer either advice.

"Better not. I cannot give many advices. Everybody has to learn from their own mistakes. You need to do your own way and experience it for yourself"

(Source: AFP)

## Chelsea fine Diego Costa two weeks' wages for not training - reports



Conte informed Costa via text message in June that he would not be in Chelsea's plans for the new campaign, though the club's position is that their striker and his representatives were informed in January — when he was dropped following a training-ground row and lucrative offer from Chinese Super League club Tianjin Quanjian — that his time at Stamford Bridge was coming to an end.

Costa is adamant that he will only consider a move back to former club Atletico, who are banned by FIFA

from registering new players until January 2018.

The Spain international was granted an extra few days off when the rest of the Chelsea squad gathered at Cobham for preseason training in early July, but he has not come back since and claimed on Sunday that the Premier League champions have asked him to return and train away from his teammates.

It is reported that Chelsea, who have been wary of commenting on the situation publicly or privately in recent days due to the spectre of legal proceedings threatened by Costa's lawyer Ricardo Cardoso, have fined the striker around £300,000 — or two weeks' wages — for his refusal to return to England. When contacted by ESPN FC, the Premier League champions said they did not want to comment on disciplinary matters.

Costa says he is prepared to live out the next year of his contract — which runs until June 2019 — in Brazil if Chelsea do not agree to sell him back to Atletico, where he was a key figure in his final two seasons as Diego Simeone's team won the Copa del Rey, La Liga and reached the 2014 Champions League final.

(Source: Soccermet)



# Iran prodigy Sharifi hotly anticipating Goa return

Figures tend to play an important role in football, but for Mohammad Sharifi, one number stands out above all the rest: 16. That is the number that brought him a significant amount of luck in 2016, which ended up being an exceptional year for the young Iranian.

One month before making his first senior appearance for Esteghlal Khuzestan in an Iranian League match against Mashhad, the then 16-year-old helped Iran to reach the final of the AFC U-16 Championship in India, securing a berth at the FIFA U-17 World Cup – which will also be held in India – in the process.

“For any player, making your professional debut is a huge moment,” he said in an exclusive interview with FIFA.com. “I’ll never forget that day. I was so happy that the coach placed his trust in me. When I first started playing football, I set myself some major targets, and they’re still there in my mind. I’ve had to work really hard to gain this success.”

A few months later, Sharifi was again in the headlines, when he became the youngest Iranian footballer to participate in an AFC Champions League match, coming off the substitutes’ bench during his club’s 1-1 draw with Qatari side Lekhwiya, just nine days before his 17th birthday.

“It was great to become the youngest Iranian to play in that tournament,” said the precocious midfielder. “For me, though, continuity, development and the right skills are more important than numbers.”

Memories and ambitions

Sharifi will have another chance to make a name for himself in October, when he and his compatriots will return to India to defend the colours of Iran at the U-17 World Cup, in what will be his nation’s fourth appearance at the tournament.

“The AFC U-16 Championship went very well for us in India,” he explained. “We ended up second and qualified for the U-17 World Cup. And from a personal point of view, I played really well there.”

Not only will Sharifi and Co be returning to India, but they will be staying in the same town (Margao, in the state of Goa) and playing in the same arena (Fatorda Stadium) as last year. Their opponents will be different, of course: this time around, they will face Germany, Costa Rica and Guinea.

“The fact that we’re going back to India, and Goa in particular, is really good news for us,” continued



Sharifi. “It brings back a lot of great memories. We’re happy to be representing Asia at the tournament, which is itself being held in an Asian country.”

“It’s great that we’re returning to a stadium that we’re familiar with, but we have to rely on the quality of our players, rather than blind luck. That said, I hope that the venue does bring us a bit of good fortune and that we get the results we need to advance.”

With two months to go until the prestigious tournament kicks off, Sharifi, who is known for accurately

placing penalty kicks in a manner similar to Steven Gerrard, was keen to reiterate his side’s aims. “It’s important that we succeed as a team and perform as best we can. I’m happy because India 2017 represents a great opportunity for me and all the other players to stand out and catch the eye of European teams.”

If Sharifi manages to emerge from the competition with a winners’ medal around his neck, then 17 may well replace 16 as his favorite number.

(Source: FIFA)

## Iran handball team suffer narrow defeat to S. Korea at Seoul Cup



**S P O R T S** Iran suffered second defeat in a row at the 12th Seoul Cup Handball at SK Olympic Handball Gymnasium.

The tournament brought South Korea, Iran and Tunisia together in Seoul, capital of South Korea.

Iran suffered a 30-23 loss to Tunisia in the first match and lost to the Korean team 23-22 on Monday.

Tunisia, the second-best African nation, claimed the title followed by South Korea and Iran.

The Seoul Cup Handball was created in 1993 to commemorate the South

Korean women’s team’s Olympic gold medals in 1988 and 1992.

The tournament only featured the women’s teams and expanded to include the men’s teams in 2015.

Tunisia was the top-ranked team in the competition at No. 17, followed by South Korea at No. 19 and Iran at No. 50.

Though Iran is behind South Korea in the world rankings, it has outperformed South Korea at the two most recent Asian Men’s Handball Championships. Iran was third in 2014 and fifth in 2016, while South Korea finished fifth in 2014 and sixth in 2016.

## Volleyball Boys’ U19 World Championship: Iran arrives in Manama



**S P O R T S** Iran arrived in Manama, capital of Bahrain, for the 2017 FIVB Volleyball Boys’ U19 World Championship.

The Iranian team have been grouped along with Italy, Czech Republic, Mexico and China in Pool D.

Iran will face Italy on Aug. 19 in their opener.

The 2017 FIVB Volleyball Boys’ U19 World Championship will be the fifteenth edition of the international volleyball tournament and the world championship for men’s national teams under the age of

19, organized by the sport’s world governing body, FIVB.

The tournament will be hosted by Bahrain in the cities of Riffa and Isa Town from 18 to 27 August 2017.

Host Bahrain were placed in Pool A, with the USA, Puerto Rico, Egypt and Tunisia. Pool B consists of Poland, Brazil, Cuba, Japan and France. Argentina, silver medalists in 2015 have been drawn in Pool C, along with Russia, China, Korea and Turkey. Pool D features Iran, European heavyweights Italy, Mexico, China and the Czech Republic.

## NFL player sits out national anthem to protest Virginia violence

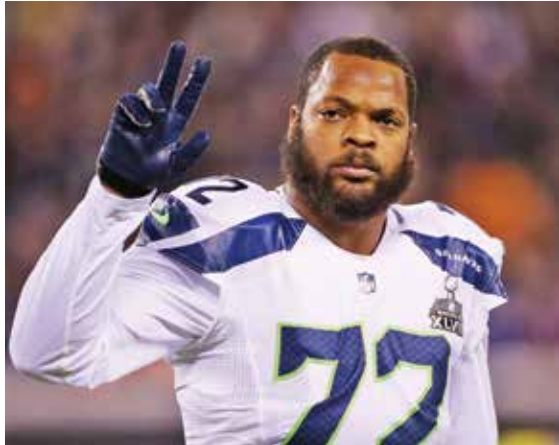
Seattle Seahawks player Michael Bennett remained seated during the playing of the U.S. national anthem before a pre-season National Football League game to protest deadly violence at a white supremacist rally in Virginia over the weekend, his team said.

With his gesture on Sunday, the 31-year-old defensive end became the latest NFL player to use the playing of the Star Spangled Banner anthem as a protest forum.

Last season, San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick grabbed the media spotlight when he refused to stand for the anthem, saying he was protesting police brutality and social inequality. Kaepernick opted out of his contract in March and has not been signed by another team.

Bennett remained on the bench with a towel over his head before Sunday’s game with the Los Angeles Chargers at Southern California’s StubHub Stadium, the pre-season opener for both teams. He said he would keep up the protest all season.

“With everything that’s been going on the last couple of months, and especially after the last couple of days seeing what’s going on in Virginia, and earlier today in Seattle, I just wanted to be able to use my platform to



be able to continuously speak on injustice,” Bennett said in a story on the Seahawks’ website.

In Charlottesville, Virginia, on Saturday, a woman was killed and 19 hurt when a car plowed into counter-protesters near a white nationalist rally. James Fields, 20, who had Nazi sympathies as a teenager, according to acquaintances, has been charged with second-de-

gree murder in the incident.

The violence sparked protests and vigils in cities across the United States on Sunday, including Seattle, where clashes occurred between supporters and opponents of President Donald Trump.

The president raised a furor when he initially failed to explicitly single out the white supremacists widely seen as sparking the melee, saying “many sides” were involved, although he was more explicit in his criticism in a statement on Monday.

Bennett said he was not anti-military or anti-American but opposed intolerance and injustice. He said he expected to face criticism over his decision, adding, “This is bigger than football.”

A spokesman for the team did not respond to a request for comment.

On Saturday, Oakland Raiders running back Marshawn Lynch also sat during the national anthem before a game against the Arizona Cardinals. But Oakland’s head coach, Jack del Rio, quoted Lynch at a postgame news conference as saying sitting out the anthem had no significance in his case and was simply something he had done for the past 11 years.

(Source: Reuters)

## Karim Ansarifard set to return to Panionios: Report

Olympiacos striker Karim Ansarifard could be set for a return to Panionios, Greek site SDNA reported.

The 27-year-old Iranian joined Olympiacos from Panionios back in January and made some solid performances with their shirt at the domestic competitions and Europa League during the second part of 2016-17 season.

He started his playing career at Iran’s Saipa in 2007 and joined Persepolis after five years.

He left Persepolis for Tractor Sazi in the following year and signed a two-year deal with Segunda División’s CA Osasuna in 2014.

Ansarifard had also caught the eye of English Championship side Nottingham Forest.

On 13 January 2017, Ansarifard signed a 3.5-year contract with Greek giants Olympiacos for a transfer fee of €400,000.

(Source: Tasnim)

## Australian Olympic champion Wooldridge dies

**MELBOURNE (Reuters)** — Australian cyclist Stephen Wooldridge, a former Olympic and world champion, has died at the age of 39.

Wooldridge won a team pursuit gold at the 2004 Athens Olympics and four world titles in the same discipline from 2002-06. Wooldridge’s death came as a shock to Australia’s cycling community and triggered a flood of tributes on social media.

“Our thoughts are with Stephen’s family and friends during this very difficult time,” Cycling Australia CEO Nick Green said in a statement.

“Steve will be remembered by so many for not only his success in competition, but also for the contributions he made across so many roles in the sport.”

After his track career wound down, Sydney-born Wooldridge held a number of administrative roles in cycling and education.

He was survived by a son and a daughter, state broadcaster ABC said. Wooldridge was remembered as an infectious, generous man but friends and colleagues spoke of a private mental health battle.

“Tragically today he gave his life away leaving behind a son and daughter, family and friends just short of his 40th birthday,” Phil Bates, the general manager of St George Cycling Club in Sydney and a former mentor to the rider, wrote on cycling media portal Ride Media (ridemediamedia.com.au).

“Terribly sad to hear we’ve lost you Stephen Wooldridge. RIP” Australian cycling great Anna Meares tweeted.

(Source: Reuters)



## Shenhua give Tevez permission to return to Argentina for treatment

Shanghai Shenhua have granted Carlos Tevez permission to return to Argentina for treatment on a calf injury after receiving a written guarantee he will return before the end of the month, according to the South China Morning Post.

Tevez has played just 11 games and scored only twice since joining Shenhua at the start of the Chinese Super League season from Boca Juniors in a two-year deal for a transfer fee of €11 million.

The 33-year-old former Manchester City and Juventus striker has struggled for fitness since suffering the injury in April, and he has requested the club allow him to travel to his homeland for additional treatment.

“According to the request from Carlos Tevez to our club, after discussion, we now approve his request,” Shenhua are reported to have said in the agreement with Tevez.

“He’s permitted to go back to Argentina and receive treatment at the Clinica Jorge Bombicino and he must rejoin the team on Aug. 30 and participate in training.”

(Source: Soccermet)

## Iran defeat Hong Kong at Asian Women’s Volleyball Championship

Iran bucked a slow start to wallop Hong Kong, 21-25, 25-19, 25-18, 25-15 and keep their dream of occupying a more decent placing alive at the SMM 19th Asian Senior Women’s Volleyball Championship.

Coming off a deflating loss to Australia, heavy hitter Mahsa Saberi vent her ire to Hong Kong after unloading 24 points off 18 kills, 4 aces, and 2 blocks at the Muntinlupa Sports Complex.

Neda Chamlanian and Soudabeh Bagherpour also came big for Iran as they registered 12 and 11 markers, respectively as the Iranians completely took over after a shaky start.

Yeung Sau Mei scored 11 points in a losing effort for Hong Kong, which has to settle for the 11th-12th classification match.

Iran, meanwhile, now await the winners of Oceania show-down of Australia and New Zealand, which is in play as of press time, to determine what nation will take the 9th place.

(Source: asianvolleyball)





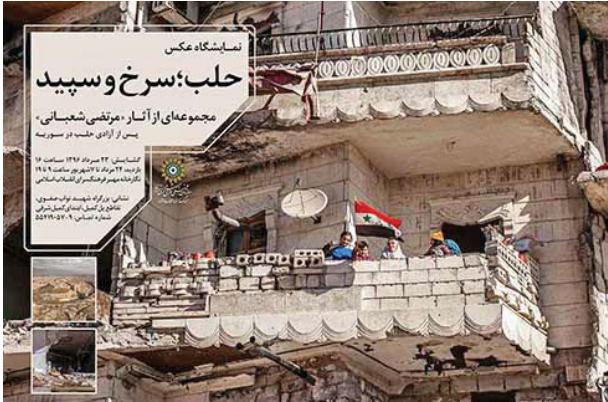
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Photo exhibit explores war wounds in Aleppo

**A R T** **TEHRAN** — An exhibition of photos depicting daily life and the war wounds in Aleppo after years of bombing and urban warfare is currently underway at the Mehr Gallery of Tehran's Enqelab Cultural Center.



A poster for Iranian photographer Morteza Shabani's exhibition of photos at the Enqelab Cultural Center in Tehran

The photos, which have been taken by Iranian photographer Morteza Shabani, will be on display at the exhibition titled "Aleppo: Red and White" until August 29.

The center is located on Komeil Street off Navwab Highway.

Earlier in April, Shabani also organized an exhibition of photos on the liberation of the Syrian city of Aleppo at the Iranian Photographers Center in Tehran.

The Syrian city of Aleppo was completely liberated from the ISIS terrorists this year in April.

NEWS IN BRIEF

**"Not One of Us" appears at Iranian bookstores**

**CULTURE** **TEHRAN** — "Not One of Us", a biography of Iranian-born former commander in London's Metropolitan Police Service Ali Dizaei has recently been published in Persian in Tehran.

The book, which was co-written by Dizaei and Tim Philips in 2007, reviews how Dizaei as a Muslim police officer struggled for two and a half years to clear his name after he was taken to court by his own employers.

Negar Karimi is the translator of the book that was published by Morvarid Publications.

"Grey's Anatomy" creator Shonda Rhimes leaves ABC for Netflix

**NEW YORK (Reuters)** — "Grey's Anatomy" creator Shonda Rhimes is taking her Shondaland production house away from Walt Disney Co's ABC network to Netflix Inc to produce new content, the video streaming company said on Sunday.



Producer Shonda Rhimes arrives for the Essence Black Women in Hollywood luncheon in Beverly Hills, February 25, 2016. (Reuters/Carlo Allegri)

Rhimes's move to Netflix comes a week after Disney, the world's largest entertainment company, announced plans to launch its own streaming service and pull Disney and Pixar films from Netflix, starting with releases in 2019.

Rhimes is signing Shondaland to Netflix in a multi-year contract. Betsy Beers, Rhimes's producing partner at Shondaland, is also moving to Netflix.

Netflix said "Grey's Anatomy", "Scandal" and "How to Get Away with Murder" — ABC shows created under the Shondaland banner — will continue to air in the U.S. on ABC.

Netflix has been spending billions of dollars on content to win new subscribers in a quest to become the world's top movie and TV streaming service.

Tehran art bazaar opens

**A R T** **TEHRAN** — The 2nd edition of Iran's Bazaar of Art, offering a variety of artworks at the fixed price of 7.5 million rials (about \$200), opened at the Iranian Artists Forum in Tehran on Monday.

Center for Visual Arts director Majid Mollanoruzi, Iranian Artists Forum director Majid Rajabi-Memar, and director of the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art Ali-Mohammad Zare' attended an opening ceremony of the art show.

"We have chosen works based on the taste of the customers with a fixed price," art expert Jamshid Haqiqatshenas who is also a member of the selecting board of the bazaar said in a press release on Tuesday.

"A collection of about 700 works have been put on show. The displayed works enjoy high quality and the exact price of each item is much higher than the offered price at the market," he remarked.

Zare' said that people can buy and give the artworks as gifts to friends while the officials can purchase works from the market for their office rooms.

"Our walls are part of our life and this market can help decorate our walls with beautiful artworks," Mollanoruzi added.

A committee composed of art experts Jamshid Haqiqatshenas, Ali Shirazi and



Art enthusiasts visit the 2nd Iran's Bazaar of Art in the Iranian Artists Forum in Tehran on August 15, 2017. (Honaronline/Sara Sasani)

Abdorrahim Siahkarzadeh have chosen the artworks.

Organized by the Institute for Art, the bazaar will be running until August 20.

Action on Film Festival to spotlight Iranian cinema

**A R T** **TEHRAN** — A lineup of Iranian feature and short movies will go on screen at the Action on Film Festival (AOF), which will open in the U.S. city of Las Vegas on Thursday.

The lineup has been arranged for the World Cinema section, which will also screen films from Poland, the organizers announced.

"A Long Day" directed by Babak Bahrambeigi, "A Missed Call" by Shahab Abroshan, "The Sis" by Marjan Ashrafizadeh, "A Moon in Vane" by Ali Drerakhshandeh, "Ani's Apartment" by Tofiq Amani, "Apricot Groves" by Puria Heidari, and "Another House" by Behnush Sadeqi are among the films.

The lineup also includes "Being Awake in Fantasy" by Saeid Rezaei, "By Its Little Wings" by Kaveh Marhamati, "Cold Breath" by Abbas Raziji and



Golab Adineh acts in a scene from "The Sis"

"Day Off" by Aidin Pedari.

The festival will come to an end on August 26.

"Once Hamoun" to compete in Portugal Cine'Eco



**A** scene from "Once Hamoun" by Mohammad Ehsani

**A R T** **TEHRAN** — Iranian filmmaker Mohammad Ehsani documentary "Once Hamoun" will go on screen at the Cine'Eco, an international environmental film festival in Portugal.

The festival will take place at the Municipal House of Culture in Seia from October 14 to 21 with over 600

documentaries from more than 30 countries, the organizers announced.

The documentary reviews the numerous environmental and social problems caused by the shrinkage of Lake Hamoun in the southeastern Iranian province of Sistan-Baluchestan.

"Once Hamoun" will be screened in the short films competition.

Abbas Kiarostami's house embellished with Eternal Tile

**A R T** **TEHRAN** — World-renowned auteur Abbas Kiarostami's house in Tehran was decorated an Eternal Tile on Monday.

The tile was embedded on the wall of his house during a ceremony attended by his nephew, Hamid Qaderi, the Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts (CHTHO) announced on Monday.

"He was a great filmmaker and cinema is deeply indebted to him," Qaderi said at the ceremony.

Kiarostami lived at the house located in the Chizar neighborhood from 1976 until his death in July 2016.

The CHTHO also installed two other Eternal Tiles on the houses of actor and writer Sirus Ebrahimzadeh, folk



This photo shows an Eternal Tile installed on the wall of late filmmaker Abbas Kiarostami's house in Tehran.

art scholar Hadi Seif, artist Manuchehr Tariqi, and writer Ebrahim Yunesi.

The idea to install tile works on the houses of contemporary artists, literati and religious figures was initiated by the CHTHO Office for Inscription of Properties and Revitalization of Intangible and Natural Heritage this year in May to preserve the houses were used by the figures.

The tile bears the name and titles of a celebrity. It also carries the year the artist began to live in the house.

Kiarostami was the seventh artist who received the tile. The first tile was presented to surrealist painter Iran Darrudi in May.

Glen Campbell album sales soar 13,000 percent after singer's death

**LOS ANGELES (Reuters)** — Sales of Glen Campbell's music soared after the death of the "Rhinstone Cowboy" singer after a public struggle with Alzheimer's disease.

Analytics company BuzzAngle Music said Campbell's digital album sales rose more than 13,000 percent on Tuesday after news of the musician's passing at the age of 81.

Most of the sales came for Campbell's greatest hits albums, but streaming and sales of his hit songs were also up more than 6,000 percent, BuzzAngle Music reported on Wednesday.

Campbell's death in Nashville, following a nationwide farewell tour in 2012 following his Alzheimer's announcement, brought emotional tributes from country music stars and fans alike.

Jimmy Webb, who wrote many of Campbell's biggest hits including "Wichita Lineman" and "Galveston," called



American country music artist Glen Campbell performs during the Country Music Association (CMA) Music Festival in Nashville, Tennessee June 7, 2012. (Reuters/Harrison McClary/File Photo)

Campbell "the American Beatle, the secret link between so many artists and records that we can only marvel."

Country singer Brad Paisley told Variety it was "a mind-blowing thing just being around him," and Dolly Parton tweeted that he "was one of the greatest voices of all time."

Kendrick Lamar holds off Brett Eldredge for Billboard top spot

**LOS ANGELES (Reuters)** — Rapper Kendrick Lamar reclaimed the top spot of the weekly U.S. Billboard 200 album chart on Monday, fending off country music star Brett Eldredge.

Lamar's "Damn," climbed from No. 2 to No. 1 with 47,000 album units sold, according to figures from Nielsen SoundScan. Streaming accounted for much of the sales activity, with more than 46 million streams in the past week.

Eldredge's self-titled album debuted at No. 2 with 45,000 album units sold.

The Billboard 200 chart tallies units from album sales, song sales (10 songs equal one album) and streaming activity (1,500 streams equal one album).

The only other new entry in the top 10 of the Billboard 200 chart this week was the "Now 63" compilation of current pop hits at No. 5.



Kendrick Lamar performs at the Global Citizen Festival at Central Park in Manhattan, New York, U.S., September 24, 2016. (Reuters/Andrew Kelly)

Last week's chart-topper, Arcade Fire's "Everything Now," dropped to No. 38 this week.

On the Digital Songs chart, which measures online single sales, Puerto Rican singer Luis Fonsi's catchy hit "Despacito," featuring Justin Bieber, showed no signs off moving from No. 1, with another 82,000 copies sold.

Van Gogh "Sunflowers" reunited online

**LONDON (AP)** — Five versions of a Vincent van Gogh masterpiece are being reunited for the first time Monday in a "virtual exhibition."

Van Gogh painted his "Sunflowers" series in the south of France in 1888 and 1889. Five versions of the work reside in five different museums on three continents.

On Monday, they all will be streamed to a global audience in a Facebook Live broadcast.

The 1 hour and 35 minute broadcast begins in London's National Gallery at 1650GMT (12:50 p.m. EDT) It then continues at Amsterdam's Van Gogh Museum, the Neue Pinakothek

in Munich, the Philadelphia Museum of Art and Tokyo's Seiji Togo Memorial Museum of Art.

A curator from each museum will describe, in 15-minute segments, what makes their version unique.

The museums launched a virtual-reality experience last week that shows viewers all five "Sunflowers" in one room. The paintings are so treasured and such big draws it would be difficult to bring them together in real life.

"We're at a moment in time where new kinds of experience are becoming possible for art galleries and museums all around the world," Chris Michaels, the National Gallery's digital

director, said.

London's version of "Sunflowers" is one of the museum's most popular paintings.

It's famous for its blue and yellow swirls, textured surface and rare glimpse into the happy times of Van Gogh's life in Arles, France.

More than 50,000 viewers watched a preview for Monday's event online.

Michaels is hopeful his team will bring more of the National Gallery's famous pieces to online audiences. It's an added attraction and a way to connect with other galleries.