



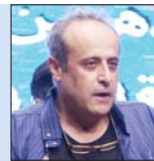
Iran capable of 500,000 bpd oil swap with Caspian Sea states: official **4**



Female bikers promote clean transportation in Tehran **12**



Hamed Haddadi reaches 700 points in Asia **15**



“Subdued” scoops up awards at Celebration of Iranian Cinema Critics and Screenwriters **16**

Defense pick vows stronger missiles



© Tehran Times/ Mahmoud Rahimi

Iran condemns ‘blind terror act’ in Barcelona

POLITICS d e s k **TEHRAN**—After a van rammed into pedestrians in a crowded tourist area of Barcelona, Spain, the Iranian Foreign Ministry issued a statement saying terrorists who have suffered defeats one after another in Iraq and Syria are planning to commit “blind terror acts” in different parts of the world.

“Following extremist terrorists’ repeated defeats in the region [the Middle East region], these criminals have put on agenda to expand terrorist operations across the world and murder of the innocent people is among their objectives,” Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Qassemi said.

The attack claimed by Daesh targeted Barcelona’s most famous street, killing at least 13 people and injuring more than 100.

The ministry spokesman said Daesh have been targeting people from the Middle East to Africa and Europe.

Noting that that terrorism has turned into an international problem, he suggested, “It is the time all the peace-seeking countries, which intend real fight against terrorism, form an international unity against violence, insecurity and terrorism which would prioritize eradicating terrorists with a firm determination.” **→2**

64 years since CIA coup in Iran

By Mohammad Homaeifar

TEHRAN — Sixty-four years ago, a foreign-backed coup d’état - known in Iran as the 28 Mordad coup - was staged in Iran which saw the overthrow of the democratically elected government of Prime Minister Mohammad Mosaddegh on 19 August 1953 in favor of strengthening the monarchical rule of Mohammad Reza Pahlavi.

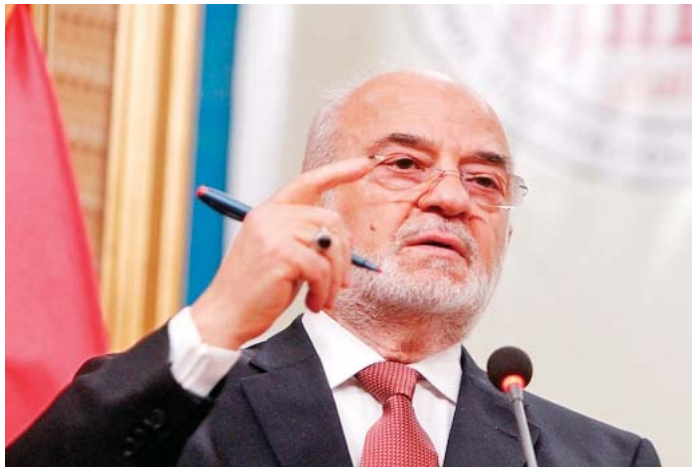
Known as Operation Ajax, the coup was carried out after an earlier coup attempt failed to overthrow Mosaddegh and install General Fazlollah Zahedi, the shah’s reliable ally, as prime minister. As a result, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, the shah of Iran, had fled to Baghdad.

Days before the first coup attempt, Mosaddegh had dissolved the parliament to get rid of the shah’s close allies, giving himself and his cabinet more power to rule, while effectively stripping the shah of his powers.

With the success of the second coup, Zahedi was installed as prime minister, and the shah returned to Iran and continued to rule more firmly as monarch.

Mosaddegh was then arrested, tried and convicted of treason by the shah’s military court. He was sentenced to death, but on the shah’s personal orders, his sentence was commuted to three years in solitary confinement in a military prison, followed by house arrest until his death. **→2**

Kurdish independence will spread fear across region: Ibrahim al-Jaafari



Iraq’s Kurds are spreading fear across the Middle East in their push for independence and must involve neighboring countries if they wish to secede from Baghdad, the Iraqi foreign minister has told Middle East Eye.

Ibrahim al-Jaafari said that while the Kurds had a right to hold a referendum, a secession process could not take place in isolation and without the involvement of others.

Meanwhile, Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu has warned that a plan by Iraq’s semi-autonomous Kurdistan region to hold an independence referendum late next month will lead to “civil war” in the conflict-stricken Arab country.

“In that country (Iraq), which has been through so many problems, a referendum on independence can make the situation even worse,” Cavusoglu told the state-run TRT Haber television news network on Wednesday.

“God forbid, it could even bring it to civil war,” he added.

His remarks came a day after Turkish Deputy Prime Minister Bekir Bozdag said the referendum for an independent Kurdish state violates Iraq’s constitution and will further destabilize the Middle East.

“Turkey gives importance to Iraq’s territorial and political integrity. It is very important that the stability is achieved in the region and people live in peace and safety. This decision by Iraqi regional government would contribute to instability in the region. It also violates the constitution of Iraq,” he told a news conference after a cabinet meeting in the capital Ankara.

Hoshiyar Zebari, a close adviser to Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) President Massoud Barzani, told Reuters on Saturday that Kurdish authorities were determined to hold the referendum on September 25 irrespective of all objections.

Zebari’s remarks came only two days after US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson asked Barzani in a phone call to delay the referendum.

“On the issue of the postponement of the referendum, the president (Barzani) stated that the people of the Kurdistan region would expect guarantees and alternatives for their future,” a statement issued on Friday by the KRG presidency read after Tillerson’s call.

In June, Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi described as untimely the decision by Barzani to hold the referendum.

“We have a constitution that we’ve voted on, we have a federal parliament and a federal government...The referendum at this time is not opportune,” Abadi said on June 13.

Iran has also expressed opposition to the “unilateral” scheme, underlining the importance of maintaining the integrity and stability of Iraq and insisting that the Kurdistan region is part of the majority Arab state.

(Source: agencies)



EDITORIAL

By Mohammad Ghaderi
Tehran Times editor-in-chief

An Iranian martyr’s message to the world

Mohsen Hojaji was captured on August 7 and martyred in a terrible way two days later in a counterattack by Daesh terrorists. He was martyred when Daesh made a counterattack against a position of the resistant forces in Tanf, an area in Iraq-Syria border. The attack was carried out with the U.S. intelligence.

The Takfiri terrorists had committed such inhuman crimes before, however the world was affected more by this one.

The world was affected by this Iranian youth’s courage in countering the criminal enemy and the epic which could be seen in his eyes.

Following are remarkable points related to this issue which hopefully will teach lesson to the terrorists and their masters who have deprived the innocent people in the region of peace and security:

1-The Islamic Republic of Iran, as a victim of terrorism in the past four decades, counters this evil phenomenon with full force and have made the enemies of peace and security upset. Iran has sent the world this message that the country and the axis of resistance are forerunners in seeking peace by adopting the mentioned policy.

2- The hegemonic system led by the U.S. and the Zionist regime of Israel has been making serious efforts to portray a violent image of Islam and Iran, but the public opinion has become aware that Iran is pursuing a peace-seeking policy based on the rights of people regardless of their ethnicity or religion. This approach debunks the ideology of Takfirism.

3-The new generation has been educated by the divine teachings of Islam and is ready to help the innocent people, something which has put Iran on the peak of the fight against the anti-human nature of the hegemonic system.

Spanish police shoot five suspects dead



© AFP

Spanish police shot dead five would-be attackers after confronting them early on Friday in a town south of Barcelona where hours earlier a suspected militant drove a van into crowds, killing 13 people and wounding scores of others.

ISIL terrorist group claimed responsibility for the deadly rampage along the city’s most famous avenue on Thursday, which was packed with tourists taking an afternoon stroll. The death toll could rise, with more than 100 injured, authorities said.

Iranian official urges full free trade with Syria

An Iranian business official called for efforts to make the most out of a free trade agreement with Syria, voicing Iran’s readiness to satisfy the Arab country’s trade needs.

In a meeting with Syria’s Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade Mohammad Samer al-Khalil in Damascus on Thursday, deputy head of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA), Hossein Selahvarzi, called on the Syrian minister to assign a special envoy to arrange for the “thorough and full implementation of a free trade agreement” between the two countries, according to Tasnim.

Selahvarzi also pledged that ICCIMA would do its utmost to satisfy Syria’s demands if the Damascus government lists its urgent needs and determines the construction or reconstruction projects that require assistance from Iran.

For his part, Khalil expressed the hope that ICCIMA’s experience would contribute to stronger economic cooperation between Iran and Syria and strengthen interaction between the private sectors of the two countries.

The Syrian minister also unveiled plans for a visit to Iran with a big business delegation.

Iran is among the 43 countries that have attended the 59th edition of Damascus International Fair, which kicked off on Thursday after a 5-year hiatus.

Iran has the highest number of companies in the event, with 30 firms in a pavilion with an area of more than 1,000 square meters.

Earlier this month, Syrian Prime Minister Imad Khamis said his country hopes to get assistance from Iran to nurse its ailing economy back to health.

Syria is increasingly restoring its political and military power, but the major challenge it now faces is economic issues, Khamis said in a meeting with Iran’s parliament speaker in Tehran on August 6, adding that Syria relies on Iran to go through the “economic revival and development” stage.

More than six years of war have taken a severe toll on Syria, costing the economy \$226 billion, according to a new World Bank report.

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS



Rouhani congratulates Indonesia on national day

POLITICS **TEHRAN** — President Hassan Rouhani d e s k sent a message to President Joko Widodo to congratulate him on the national day of the Republic of Indonesia.

"I sincerely congratulate the national day of the Republic of Indonesia to your Excellency and the people of your country," Rouhani wrote, his official website reported on Thursday.

"I hope with regard to historic, friendly ties between the two countries and based on ample potentials, we witness growing ties and cooperation," Rouhani added.



'Hojaji showed revolution's third generation still fervent'

POLITICS **TEHRAN** — The bravery of Mohsen d e s k Hojaji, who was brutally beheaded by Daesh recently in Syria, has proven that the third generation of the Islamic Revolution is still fervent, the Friday prayer leader of Tehran told worshippers.

According to Fars, Ayatollah Ahmad Khatami also said the fact that the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps has promised it will take revenge against Daesh is praiseworthy, predicting the expected revenge will be harsh.



French martyr's father visits tomb 30 years later

POLITICS **TEHRAN** — The father of French mar- d e s k tyr Kamal Kourselle who had been killed while fighting for Iran visited his son's tomb this week after nearly 30 years.

Jerume Imanuel Kourselle visited Iran a couple of days ago to visit his son's tomb, Mehr news agency reported on Friday.

Kamal had been studying theology at the Qom Seminary of Islamic Studies before he was martyred in the Iraqi war against Iran in the 1980s.



U.S. shipping firm to pay over \$500,000 for violating Iran sanctions

POLITICS **TEHRAN** — The U.S. shipping firm d e s k Blue Sky Blue Sea has agreed to pay more than half-a-million dollars for violating sanctions against Iran 140 times, the Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control said in a statement on Thursday.

The shipping company appears to have violated the sanctions clause on 140 occasions between April 25, 2010, and June 2, 2012, by transshipping used and junked cars and parts from the United States to Afghanistan via Iran, the OFAC said.



Mehdi Karroubi ends hunger strike, in good health

POLITICS **TEHRAN** — Mehdi Karroubi, a 2009 d e s k presidential candidate who has been under house arrest for claiming vote rigging, has ended his hunger strike.

The 79-year-old cleric stopped eating on Wednesday morning and was taken to hospital on Thursday due to high blood pressure.

Hassan Qazizadeh Hashemi, the health minister and one of the officials who had visited him, said Karroubi was in good health.



Iran will not play into U.S. hands: ex-diplomat

POLITICS **TEHRAN** — Iran will not play into d e s k the hands of the United States in the face of Washington's provocative actions to derail the July 2015 nuclear deal, a former Iranian diplomat has said.

While the Trump administration has from the onset showed that it is trying to provoke Iran to walk out of the deal, Iran's incoming administration will do its best to safeguard the implementation of the deal, Ali Khorram, former ambassador to the European headquarters of the United Nations, told ILNA on Friday.

Defense pick vows stronger missiles

By Ali Kushki

TEHRAN — President Hassan Rouhani's pick for defense minister promised on Thursday to increase the "accuracy and power" of Iran's ballistic and cruise missiles if granted a vote of confidence.

Plans for more accurate and destructive missiles appeared atop a priority list Amir Hatami took to the parliament as he was defending his four-year agenda.

"The missile program is definitely one of the most important priorities of the Defense Ministry in the upcoming four years," IRNA quoted Hatami as saying after the parliamentary hearing.

"While monitoring the enemies' activities in military areas, we have concentrated on upgrading the number and capabilities of our missiles to boost the Islamic Republic's deterrence manifold," he added.

Iran's missile program has been a bone of contention between Tehran and Washington particularly under the Trump administration.

In what appeared to be an early manifestation of U.S. President Donald Trump's promise of a tougher American approach to Iran, in February the Trump administration said it was "officially putting Iran on notice" in reaction to a missile launch test, saying Iran "was playing with fire."

Tehran reacted defiantly and shrugged off the warnings as "hallow bragging."

"Iran unmoved by threats as we derive security from our people. Will never initiate war, but we can only rely on our own means of defense," Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Zarif tweeted.

Washington has tried to tie Iran's missile tests to the international nuclear deal between Tehran and six world powers, including the U.S., claiming that the program violates the UN Security Council resolution 2231 which



© Tehran Times/Mahmoud Rahimi

"The missile program is definitely one of the most important priorities of the Defense Ministry in the upcoming four years," IRNA quoted Hatami as saying after the parliamentary hearing.

endorses the agreement.

One day after the Trump administration

reluctantly confirmed that Tehran was

complying with the nuclear accord in

Turkey, Russia, Iran may launch joint military operation in Syria

By Negar Asadi

TEHRAN — Turkey, Russia and Iran may start a joint military operation in Syria. The exact date for the start of the joint operation is not reported, but Russian troops have already been stationed on the south of Idlib in the Muradah and Halfaya settlements, Azernews reported on Friday.

The Turkish media reported on August 18 that the joint military operation may begin in the Syrian city of Idlib. Russia and Iran are expected to begin operations in the southern part of Idlib, and Turkey will advance from the northern direction.

The Astana talks have brought representatives from the Syrian government and some opposition groups to the negotiating table in order to find a solution to the Syrian conflict.

On May 4, Russia, Iran and Turkey signed a document during the fourth round of Syrian talks in Astana, Kazakhstan, to form four "de-escalation zones" in Syria.

The most significant achievement of a three-pronged diplomatic effort since the beginning of 2017 to reduce bloodshed in a war now in its seventh year, the deal brought together three of consequential actors in the conflict from opposite sides.

Russia and Iran back the Syrian government while Turkey supports some of the armed insurgent groups that seek to topple the government.

The top United Nations envoy dealing with Syria, Staffan de Mistura, hailed the memorandum, which took force on May 6, an "important, promising, positive step



Syrians walk amid destroyed buildings in Aleppo.

in the right direction."

The agreement, which is to last initially for six months, calls for a pause in fighting, including government airstrikes, and for unhindered aid deliveries in and around the four main zones still held by rebels unaffiliated with the Islamic State.

The pact, however, does not apply to militants associated with the Islamic State or a Qaeda-linked group commonly known as the Nusra Front, which were designated as terrorist and hence, left out of the Astana talks.

The de-escalation zones, envisioned as places where

displaced Syrian civilians could voluntarily return and settle, include the northern province of Idlib, the central province of Homs, the East Ghouta region outside Damascus, and southern Syria along the Jordanian border.

Neither the Syrian government nor the rebels signed the document although the Syrian government voiced its support for it. Rebel groups objected, arguing it left too many loopholes for the Syrian military to continue what they called indiscriminate bombings of civilian areas.

While the de-escalation zone initiative was implicitly welcome by Washington, which said it supported any effort "genuinely" aimed at creating "a credible, peaceful resolution," it is unclear how the guarantors will monitor compliance.

Aleksandr Lavrentyev, the Russian negotiator at the talks, told Russian news outlets that Russia could send observers and "work more closely" with countries that back the rebels, including the United States and Saudi Arabia.

In an apparent opposition to the remarks, the Syrian government ruled out the "de-escalation zones" being monitored by other actors, including the United Nations.

"We do not accept a role for the United Nations or international forces to monitor the agreement," Syrian Foreign Minister Walid al-Moallem was quoted as saying at a news conference in Damascus on May 8.

In addition to the compliance issue, the American intervention in the agreed-upon zones is open to question. Russia, Iran and Turkey have to finalize maps of the de-escalation zones. The sixth round of the Astana talks is due to take place in the last week of August.

64 years since CIA coup in Iran

1 → Mosaddegh had also played a key role in the country's 1951 movement that resulted in the nationalization of oil industry, which had been mainly controlled by the British-owned Anglo-Iranian Oil Company (AIOC), also known as BP

Experts say the 1953 coup was aimed at securing the West's oil interests in the country by restoring power to the Shah.

For years, the United States and Britain were blamed for the coup but both governments tried their best to sweep the story under the rug.

In 1989, the U.S. State Department first released coup-related documents, but edited out any reference to American or British involvement. Since then, the omission of CIA's role has been widely

criticized by historians.

Finally, in 2013, the CIA publicly admitted for the first time that it was behind the coup. It also released documents that showed how the British government tried to block the release of information about its own involvement in overthrow of Mosaddegh.

Again, the CIA failed to release all documents. According to Malcolm Byrne, who directs the U.S.-Iran Relations Project at the National Security Archive at George Washington University, the full installment of declassified material was scheduled

to be released in 2013, but might have interfered with the Iran nuclear talks and were delayed again.

"This is going to be an important source for anyone interested in the tortured relationship between Washington and Tehran," said Byrne. "But the fact that it has taken over six decades to declassify and release these records about such a pivotal historical event is mind-boggling."

In June 2017, the CIA declassified more documents, shedding more light on the agency's role in the coup, though numerous original CIA telegrams from that

Finally, in 2013, the CIA publicly admitted for the first time that it was behind the coup.

Iran condemns 'blind terror act' in Barcelona

1 → Qassemi noted that Iran as a victim of terrorism is ready to cooperate with the international community in fighting terrorism.

Iranian Majlis Speaker Ali Larijani issued a message on Friday offering the Senate of Spain and

the Congress of Deputies condolences over the attack.

"Such inhuman actions indicate spread of insecurity, violence and terrorism in the today's world which make it clear that an international consensus to fight terrorism

is essential," he said.

Lebanon's Hezbollah also issued a statement on Friday condemning the terrorist attack.

Iran and Hezbollah are key players of the axis of resistance who are fighting Daesh.

Van plows into crowd in Spain's Barcelona, killing 13

Spain hunts driver, says foils bomb plot

Spain mounted a sweeping anti-terrorism operation on Friday after a suspected militant drove a van into crowds in Barcelona, killing 13 people, in what police suspect was one of a planned wave of attacks.

ISIL terrorist group claimed responsibility for the deadly rampage along the city's most famous avenue on Thursday, which was packed with tourists taking an afternoon stroll. The death toll could rise, with more than 100 injured, authorities said.

As security forces hunted for the van's driver, who was seen escaping on foot, police said they had killed five attackers on Thursday night in Cambrils, a town south of Barcelona, to thwart a separate attack using explosive belts.

Six civilians and a police officer were injured in Cambrils when the attackers ran them over in a car, before police shot them dead and carried out controlled explosions. Police said the Cambrils incident was linked to the van attack in Barcelona.

Before the van plowed into the tree-lined walkway of Las Ramblas, one person was killed in an explosion in a house in a separate town southwest of Barcelona, police said. Residents there were preparing explosives, a police source added.

Police said they had arrested a Moroccan and a man from Spain's north African enclave of Melilla, though neither was the van driver. A third man was arrested in the town of Ripoll on Friday in connection with the attack.

It was still not clear how many people had been involved in the van attack and other incidents on Thursday.

Witnesses to the van attack said the white vehicle had zigzagged at high speed down Las Ramblas, ramming pedestrians and cyclists, sending some hurtling through the air and leaving bodies strewn in its wake.

The injured and dead came from 24 different countries, the Catalan government said on Friday in a statement, ranging from France and Germany to Pakistan and the Philippines. Spanish media said several children were killed.

■ ISIL claim

ISIL's Amaq news agency said: "The perpetrators of the Barcelona attack are soldiers of the ISIL and carried out the operation in response to calls for targeting coalition states" - a reference to a U.S.-led coalition against the Sunni militant group.

Spain has several hundred soldiers in Iraq providing training to local forces in the fight against ISIL, but they are not involved in ground operations.

The ISIL claim could not immediately be verified.

If the involvement of extremist militants is confirmed, it would be the latest in a string of attacks in the past 13



months in which they have used vehicles to bring carnage to the streets of European cities.

That modus operandi - crude, deadly and very hard to prevent - has killed well over 100 people in Nice, Berlin, London and Stockholm.

British tourist Keith Welling, who arrived in Barcelona on Wednesday with his wife and 9-year-old daughter, said they saw the van drive past them down the avenue and took refuge in a restaurant when panic broke out and the crowd started running.

"People were shouting and we heard a bang and someone cried that it was a gunshot ... Me and my family ran into the restaurant along with around 40 other people.

"At first people were going crazy in there, lots of people crying, including a little girl around three years old."

It was the deadliest attack in Spain since March 2004, when militants placed bombs on commuter trains in Madrid, killing 191 people and wounding more than 1,800.

Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy announced three days of official mourning for what he called a "jihadist attack."

The Spanish royal household said on Twitter: "They are murderers, nothing more than criminals who are not going to terrorize us. All of Spain is Barcelona."

U.S. President Donald Trump said: "The United States condemns the terror attack in Barcelona, Spain, and will do whatever is necessary to help."

He added: "Be tough & strong, we love you!"

■ Bodies on the ground

Police said the two men detained

on Thursday had been arrested in two towns, Ripoll and Alcanar, both in the region of Catalonia, of which Barcelona is the capital.

The explosion was also in the town of Alcanar, in the early hours of Thursday. One person died and another was injured in that incident, police said.

Police said they also shot dead on Thursday a man who had driven a car into a police checkpoint in Barcelona, though they had no evidence he was connected with the van attack.

Mobile phone footage showed several bodies strewn along the Ramblas, some motionless. Paramedics and bystanders bent over them, treating them and trying to comfort those still conscious.

Around them, the boulevard was deserted, strewn with rubbish and abandoned objects including hats, flip-flops and a pram.

German television channel ZDF reported that three Germans were among those killed, and Belgium's foreign minister said a Belgian was among the dead.

France said 26 of its citizens were hurt, and 11 of them were in a serious condition. Australia said at least four of its nationals were injured, and Italy three.

Regional head Carles Puigdemont said people had been flocking to hospitals in Barcelona to give blood.

Susana Elvira Carolina, 33, who works at a shop on Las Ramblas, had just entered her building when the van struck.

"We had a window and you could see the bodies lying from there, you could see how people were run over ... We were shutting down the blinds but people kept coming in and we had to keep it

open so they could enter the shop."

■ Tourist draw

The atmosphere on Las Ramblas was subdued on Friday morning, as media crews mingled with tourists. Police tape cordoned off some areas of the avenue.

The incident took place at the height of the tourist season in Barcelona, which is one of Europe's top travel destinations with at least 11 million visitors a year.

French President Emmanuel Macron, whose nation has suffered some of Europe's deadliest militant attacks in recent years, tweeted: "All my thoughts and France's solidarity to the victims of the tragic attack in Barcelona."

Other governments also expressed condemnation and sympathy. Polish Interior Minister Mariusz Blaszczak said the attack showed the European Union's system of migrant relocation was wrong. "It is dangerous. Europe should wake up," he said. "We are dealing here with a clash of civilizations."

Authorities in Vic, a small town outside Barcelona, said a van had been found there in connection with the attack. Spanish media had earlier reported that a second van had been hired as a getaway vehicle.

Barcelona is the capital of the wealthy northeastern region of Catalonia, which plans to hold a popular vote on Oct. 1 on whether it should secede from Spain. The central government says the vote cannot go ahead because it is unconstitutional.

Before Thursday's attack, government data showed that police had arrested 11 suspected extremist in the Barcelona area so far this year, more than anywhere else in Spain. (Source: Reuters)

Elite Israeli soldiers refuse to fight

A day after a deadly attack left a young Israeli officer dead in Jerusalem, the Israel Defense Forces fear copycats will attempt additional attacks in the coming day.

The defense establishment fears the deadly attack will "inspire" Palestinians to attempt a similar one. They say such attacks are usually not planned out and

only take place due to the perceived success of the attack in exacting a cost in life.

In 2014 also Forty-three reservists from Israel's elite army intelligence unit have announced their refusal to serve, accusing the military of "abuses" against Palestinians.

The soldiers and officers from the

elite Unit 8200, which works closely with Israel's security services, declared they no longer wanted to "continue to serve in this system, which harms the rights of millions of people," according to an Israeli newspaper.

Israeli media outlets were criticized for giving scant attention to Palestinian civilian deaths, which according to the

UN made up 70 percent of the death toll of more than 2,100.

The 43 reservists said that they will turn down their yearly call-up to the army, risking arrest and court martial.

All Israeli men do three years of military service after school, and women two years, with an option to stay on. (Source: agencies)

UN Syria envoy hopes for 'serious' negotiation

The United Nations Special Envoy to Syria Staffan de Mistura has hoped for a "serious negotiation" between the Damascus government and the opposition as the world body expects to convene a next round of talks on the crisis in the Arab country in October or November.

De Mistura said Thursday that the time remaining to another round of UN-backed negotiations on Syria would be a "major opportunity for the opposition to take stock of the realities on the ground."

The UN diplomat was clearly referring to intra-Syrian talks between the so-called High Negotiations Committee (HNC), which serves as an umbrella group for militants and opposition groups, and two more moderate opposition alliances. The three have been discussing ways to set aside differences and establish a united front in the next round of negotiations on Syria's future.

A major cause of failure in previous



UN talks has been HNC's insistence on departure of Syria's President Bashar al-Assad from power. The two other opposition camps have pressured the HNC to forgo the condition since it could no

longer work as a bargaining chip in talks due to Syria's continued victories against the militants.

De Mistura told reporters in Geneva that the opposition should "take stock

of their own need to be unified," adding that anti-government forces should finally reach an "inclusive and perhaps even a more pragmatic approach" to the situation in Syria.

De Mistura said there could be a key meeting between opposition forces in the coming weeks in which they would formally reorganize their delegation ahead of face-to-face talks with the Syrian government.

The UN official said he may stage "preparatory" talks in Geneva in September, but insisted that his office "will be focusing on the real agenda for the real substantive talks that we hope will be taking place in October."

The UN has organized seven rounds of almost unsuccessful talks between Syrian government and foreign-backed opposition since a devastating war began in the Arab country in 2011. (Source: SANA)

Top U.S. general reaffirms commitment to Japan amid North Korea tensions

The top U.S. general restated Washington's "ironclad commitment" to the security of its close Asian ally, Japan, on Friday amid regional tensions over North Korea, telling his counterpart in Tokyo that "an attack on one is an attack on both of us".

Fears about North Korea's missile and nuclear weapons programs have grown in recent weeks. Pyongyang has said it was considering plans to fire missiles over Japan towards the U.S. Pacific territory of Guam, although North Korean leader Kim Jong Un appears to have delayed the decision.

U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and their Japanese counterparts agreed at a meeting in Washington on Thursday to work more closely on North Korea.

"The most important thing it (the ministers' meeting) did was reaffirm the primacy of our bilateral relationship here in Asia-Pacific," U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Joseph Dunford said at the start of a meeting with the Chief of Staff of Japan's Self-Defence Forces, Admiral Katsutoshi Kawano.

"This is a very important time for security in the region and of course we are mostly focused on the threat coming out of North Korea," Dunford said. "I think we have made it clear to North Korea and anyone else in the region that an attack on one is an attack on both of us."

Tillerson said in Washington the United States wanted dialogue with Pyongyang, but only if it were meaningful.

"Our effort is to cause them to want to engage in talks but engage in talks with an understanding that these talks will lead to a different conclusion than talks of the past," he said.

In 2005, North Korea reached an agreement with six countries to suspend its nuclear program in return for diplomatic rewards and energy assistance but the deal later collapsed.

Tensions have risen after North Korea conducted two missile tests in July which, like its five atomic bomb tests, were carried out in defiance of international pressure and United Nations resolutions.

U.S. President Donald Trump has vowed not to allow North Korea to develop nuclear missiles that could hit the U.S. mainland but Pyongyang sees its nuclear arsenal as protection against Washington and its partners in Asia.



The new U.S. Ambassador to Japan, William Hagerty, said he had arrived at a difficult time and the United States wanted to work with Japan to "calm the rhetoric" over North Korea.

"Our alliance is rock solid, in fact in my personal view this is the greatest alliance on earth," he said as he met Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Friday.

"Fire and fury"

Dunford said on Thursday the United States and South Korea would go ahead with joint military drills next week despite pressure from North Korea and its main ally, China, to halt the contentious exercises that Pyongyang routinely describes as preparation for war.

North Korea has fired missiles and taken other steps in response to the war games in the past.

Trump warned North Korea last week it would face "fire and fury" if it threatened the United States, prompting North Korea to say it was considering plans to fire missiles towards Guam.

Both sides have since tempered their rhetoric somewhat, but with North Korea's military capabilities growing, Japan has been looking to strengthen its defenses.

The Japanese defense ministry wants to introduce a land-based missile defense system called "Aegis Ashore" to address North Korea's missile threats and has decided to seek funding in the next fiscal year to cover the system design costs, a Japanese defense official told Reuters.

"We will absolutely help and what's most important for ballistic missile defense is that we integrate our capabilities," Dunford said.

Foreign Minister Taro Kono said in Washington Japan would strengthen its defense posture in response to the North Korean threat and provide \$500 million to help boost maritime security in East Asia, where China has been pursuing extensive maritime claims that have angered regional neighbors.

Japan is likely to increase its defense spending at a faster pace in its next five-year plan from April 2019 than the annual 0.8 percent average rise in its current mid-term plan, the Nikkei business daily reported on Friday. Defense officials have said such a rise was desirable but finance ministry officials are cautious because of Tokyo's mammoth public debt.

North Korea has repeatedly threatened to target Japan, which hosts around 54,000 U.S. military personnel, as well as South Korea and the United States with its missiles.

The United Nations approved tough new sanctions against North Korea earlier this month in response to its missile tests, which include a ban on North Korean seafood exports.

China, North Korea's largest trading partner, has vowed to enforce the new sanctions, as it has done with previous imposts, and says it is ready to pay the price.

State-run Chinese newspaper the Global Times said on its website late on Thursday that authorities in the Chinese border city of Hunchun were negotiating with North Korea about the fate of seafood trucks stuck between the two countries' customs ports.

"The seafood that can't enter China is ready to be gradually shipped back to North Korea," a Hunchun official told the paper. (Source: Reuters)

NEWS IN BRIEF



TEDPIX adds 163 points in a week

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Tehran Stock Exchange **d e s k** (TSE)'s main index (TEDPIX) gained 163 points to 81,741 during the five dealing days (Saturday-Wednesday) of the past Iranian week ended on Friday, Tasnim news agency reported.

Some 3.181 billion securities worth 7.816 trillion rials (about \$205.1 million) were traded through 219,000 deals in TSE.

The first market's index rose one point to 57,174 and second market's index added 967 points to 178,720, showing 0.002 percent and 0.54 percent growth, respectively, in the mentioned week.



Iran, Syria to expand economic ties through chambers of commerce

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Iran and Syria's chambers **d e s k** of commerce has put expansion of economic cooperation on the agenda and Iran's private sector is eager for presence in Syria, IRIB reported on Friday quoting a deputy at Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) as saying.

ICCIMA's Deputy Chairman Hossein Salahvarzi made the remarks during a visit with Mohammad Ghassan Al Qallaa, president of the Federation of Syrian Chambers of Commerce, in Syria.



Tehran, Ashgabat mull over road transport cooperation

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — An Iran-Turkmenistan meeting **d e s k** on expansion of road transport cooperation on the deputy transport ministers level was held in Ashgabat during which the two countries explored avenues of mutual cooperation, IRNA reported on Friday.

According to Davoud Keshavarzian, the head of Iran Road Maintenance & Transportation Organization, during this event the two sides stressed the significance of ever more expansion of bilateral transport ties considering the Ashgabat agreement, a multimodal transport agreement between Iran, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Oman and Pakistan for creating an international transport and transit corridor facilitating transportation of goods between Central Asia and the Persian Gulf.

UK exports to the EU surge on weaker pound

Britain's factories benefited from a surge in sales to the EU in the first half of this year as export growth outstripped import growth.

The UK still imports far more than it exports leaving the country with a goods deficit amounting to €53bn (£48bn) for the six months to June in its trade with the EU, but that is down from €57.8bn in the same period of 2016.



Britain is a good customer for EU companies, with a goods trade deficit of €53bn in the first half of the year.

A weaker pound means British-made goods are more competitive abroad, while imports are more expensive to UK companies and consumers.

Britain exports €104bn of goods to the rest of the world, outweighing the €94.7bn of goods it sends to EU customers. But UK imports from the EU amount to €147.7bn, while those from elsewhere come in at €134.7bn.

The UK's total trade deficit has shrunk from €102.2bn in the first half of 2016 to €83.7bn this year.

The annual snapshot of international trade, published by Eurostat, lends weight to arguments that the EU depends heavily on Britain's market for its products but also showed that British business relies on trade with the bloc.

The British trade deficit could give leverage to British Brexit negotiators who travel to Brussels for the third round of talks next month. This week the government published a position paper calling for UK-EU trade to remain as frictionless as possible.

In June Germany exported almost twice as much to Britain as it imported - €6.8bn to €3.6bn - leaving the UK with a €3.2bn deficit in the month.

France, the other member state with the most influence on the Brexit talks, sold €2.9bn-worth of goods to Britain and imported just over €2.7bn, leaving a more modest gap of €178m.

But Britain sold more goods to Ireland (€1.9bn) than it imported (€1.2bn). Preserving the "invisible border" between Northern Ireland and Ireland will be discussed by British and EU Brexit negotiators in the week of August 28.

At the same time the Food and Drinks Federation said exports from Britain soared 8.5pc to a record high of £10.2bn in the first half of the year.

"It is great to see such strong growth in our exports to EU Member States," said the group's director general Ian Wright.

"The EU remains an essential market for UK exports as well as for supplies of key ingredients and raw materials used by our industry. We believe there are significant opportunities to grow our sector's exports further still." *(Source: The Telegraph)*

Iran capable to swap 500,000 bpd oil with Caspian Sea states: official

ENERGY **TEHRAN** — Iran has **d e s k** the capacity to swap 500,000 barrels per day (bpd) of oil with the Caspian Sea littoral states, IRNA reported on Friday quoting Seyed Hamid Hosseini, the director for north part of the country in the Iranian Oil Pipelines and Telecommunication Company (IOPTC), as saying.

Iran's oil swap in the Caspian Sea has resumed following a roughly seven-year suspension, National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) reported on its website on August 12.

Under the swap deals, Iran accepts oil from other Caspian Sea littoral states and it delivers the same amount and quality of crude to its southern oil terminals in the Persian Gulf region for delivery to international customers of Caspian oil suppliers.

Several oil tankers have been offloaded at Neka port on Iran's shore



of the Caspian Sea. The swap consignments will gradually increase in vol-

ume, the report said.

Neka received two batches of Turk-

men oil this month, Hellenic Shipping News reported on Thursday.

The swap arrangement was halted during the tenure of former President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad as authorities questioned its economic merits, according to Press TV.

Their successors, however, decided in 2016 to resume the scheme with Russia, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan — all among the littoral states of the Caspian Sea.

Yet, the plan has got into a slow start, with NIOC repairing and renovating the storage and terminal facilities in Neka.

The average daily swap was 90,000 bpd in 2009, which Iran planned to raise to 300,000 bpd by 2015. Iran also charged the partners with a transit fee which totaled \$880 million between 1997 and 2009, according to the local media.

Supporting farmers to achieve food security on Agriculture Ministry agenda

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — To tighten **d e s k** Iran's food security, supporting farmers stands as the new agriculture ministry's top priority, President Rouhani's ministerial nominee for agriculture Mahmoud Hojjati announced defending his future plans in an open session of Iranian parliament (Majlis) on Thursday.

As Mehr news agency quoted Hojjati saying, at the present time, Iran supplies 90 percent of its need of food domestically and that is the main reason for supporting the agriculture sector more effectively in future.

"In line with supportive risk management in agriculture sector, the Agriculture Ministry paid 120 trillion rials (about

\$3.14 billion) to domestic farmers via Agricultural Insurance Fund in the last Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20, 2017)," the proposed minister said.

Iran has become self-sufficient in production of wheat, he underscored.

Exports of agricultural products constituted for one fifth of the country's total exports last year, he added.



European stocks slide as Spanish attack adds to market unease

European stocks fell, with Spanish shares leading losses, as a terror attack in Barcelona weighed on investor sentiment.

The Stoxx Europe 600 Index dropped 0.8 percent at 8:10 a.m. in London, trimming their weekly advance to 0.4 percent. While stocks around the world declined, financial markets have proven increasingly re-

silient to terror attacks in recent years.

Europe's benchmark has struggled to rebound since a mid-May peak, weighed down by a strengthening euro and geopolitical tension. Also contributing to global market unease this week are worries about U.S. President Donald Trump's administration following last week's violence in Virginia.

(Source: Bloomberg)

Eurozone current account surplus falls in June

The eurozone's current account surplus with the rest of the world shrank again in June.

The current account of the euro area recorded a surplus of €21.2 billion in June, down from €30.1bn in May, in seasonally adjusted terms.

The 12-month cumulative current account to June made a surplus of €336.5bn, or 3.1% of euro

area GDP — down from 3.2 per cent in May.

The eurozone has swung dramatically into a current account surplus since its debt crisis struck in 2012.

The balance has been driven largely by Germany, whose surplus hit a record of 8.6 per cent of GDP in 2016.

(Source: The Financial Times)

Venezuela central bank has \$2b cash to pay 2017 debt

CARACAS (Reuters) — Venezuela's government has around \$2 billion in available cash to make \$1.3 billion in bond payments by the end of the year and to cover the import of food and medicine, according to documents reviewed by Reuters.

The funds that could be used for debt payment include \$1.3 billion in cash and IMF Special Drawing Rights held in central bank reserves, and \$700 million in separate accounts that the central bank lists as "other financial assets," according to a report by local firm Financial Synthesis.

The figures show that Venezuela, which many economists and analysts believe is on the verge of default, has the resources on hand to cover this year's sovereign bond payments.

But making the payments will leave the government of President Nicolas Maduro with minimal hard currency to import basic consumer goods, which may fuel shortages of food and medicine and spur triple-digit inflation.

"The country's financial vulnerability has been exacerbated by the weakness of the central bank's foreign currency assets," wrote economist Tamara Herrera of Financial Synthesis in a research report.

Separately state oil company PDVSA, for the remainder of 2017, faces \$3.0 billion in interest and principal payments. PDVSA typically uses its own funds to make debt payments, while sovereign bond payments usually come from central bank coffers.

Maduro says the country, which is struggling under a deep recession as its socialist economy unravels, is the victim of an economic war. He has promised to make all bond payments.

The central bank did not respond to a request for comment on available funds to make debt payments.

International reserves stood at \$9.9 billion on Thursday, near a 22-year low.

Most of the country's reserves are tied up in gold that cannot be used in financial transactions without going through a certification process in another country, meaning there is little short-term opportunity to use it for debt payments.

The central bank's financial statements also list "other financial assets" of some \$30 billion, which economists say include exotic and illiquid securities that would require complex financial operations to be converted to cash.

First Announcement

IN THE NAME OF GOD

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN BROADCASTING

INTERNATIONAL TENDER NO. 96-05/125

Tender Holder:
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN BROADCASTING (IRIB)

Subject of Two-Stage Tender:
Purchasing four sets of Mobile TV (Broadcasting) Units according to the tender documents

Deadline of Receiving Documents:
As of publishing second announcement of advertisement latest by the business hour on Wednesday **August 23, 2017.**

Place of Receiving Documents:
Secretariat of Tenders' Commission, Technical Purchasing (KALA) Dept., Media Technology and Development Deputy Office, Bldg. No. 2, IRIB, Jam-e Jam St., Vali-e Asr Ave., Tehran

Type and Amount of Guarantee for Participating in Tender:
The amount of **USD 273,388** which should be in the form of extendable bank guarantee (its equivalent of rials guarantee letter with the free rate of 1.2 coefficient)

Time and Place of Delivering Priced Bid:
The sealed A, B & C packages/envelopes should be submitted within one main envelope marked with tender number no later than 15 p.m. on Saturday Sept. 23, 2017 and submitted to the Secretariat of Commission of Tenders.

Time and Place of Opening Envelopes
The date of opening envelopes A&B is at **8:30 a.m.** on **Monday Sept. 25, 2017** in the office of Vice President of IRIB Planning and Financial Resources and opening of envelope C will be after technical evaluation.
It should be noted that bidders should hold license from the authorized bodies.

For more information, please contact the following phone numbers: 0098-21-22166313
It is obvious that cost of publishing two advertisements shall be borne by the winner of tender.
E-mail Address: **offer@irib.ir**

Public Relations Dept. of IRIB

Inpex eyes bid for Iran's Azadegan oil project

Japan's Inpex Corp. might participate in a tender to develop the Azadegan oil field in southwestern Iran and form a consortium with other foreign oil firms to that end, a high-ranking Iranian official says.

If Inpex gets involved in the Azadegan again — after giving up its stake in the development project in 2010 to avoid being placed on a list of companies subject to U.S. sanctions over Iran's nuclear program — it would be a symbolic achievement as Japan tries to resume investment in the country.

"Inpex replied to our invitation letter for international bid, then told us they liked to be our partner in developing Azadegan," Ali Kardor, managing director of the National Iranian Oil Co. and also deputy oil minister of Iran, said in a recent interview.

"We had meetings with executives from Inpex many times. They asked us how they could find a foreign operator, so we advised them to negotiate with major European companies with high technology," Kardor said.

"Azadegan is a huge oil field. We certainly need new technology introduced by foreign firms. Forming a consortium would be better for both sides," he added.

Inpex, Japan's largest oil and gas exploration and production company, signed a memorandum of understanding to conduct studies for Azadegan in June 2016.

In a telephone interview, a spokesperson for Inpex confirmed receiving the invitation letter from NIOC and said, "It is true that we are mulling how we should deal with Azadegan, though we cannot announce details."

"A final decision will be made after we finish evaluating the condition of the international bid, and also the international situation."

Moreover, President Hassan Rouhani, a moderate who called for dialogue with the world community and seeks more foreign investment — began his sec-



ond four-year term earlier this month.

On the other hand, foreign companies regard the administration of U.S. President Donald Trump as a potential risk. He has repeatedly vowed to dismantle or renegotiate the nuclear deal. For Inpex, forming an international consortium is a good option to hedge this political impasse.

According to Kardor, the NIOC will soon provide all necessary data about the Azadegan oil field to interested firms. It will take about six months to gather technical and financial proposals from all applicants

and evaluate them, and the contractor will be finalized by early next year, he said.

Kardor said the number of foreign firms participating in the Azadegan tender will exceed 10.

In addition to Inpex, Total S.A., Royal Dutch Shell PLC, Petroliam Nasional Bhd (Petronas) and China National Petroleum Corp. have already signed memorandums of understanding with NIOC. Several other oil giants, including Eni and BP, have expressed a desire to participate in the tender.

(Source: The Japan Times)

Chinese energy conglomerate begins talk to buy Rosneft shares



A Chinese energy conglomerate is in early talks to buy a stake in Russian energy giant Rosneft, according to exclusive sources who spoke to Reuters.

Senior executives at both firms have begun negotiations regarding a deal, the sources told the news agency. Already, CEFC China Energy chairman Ye Jianmin and Rosneft CEO Igor Sechin have held two meetings regarding future agreement.

Reuters sources did not reveal information on the cost of the deal, but one source suggested Rosneft would be open to selling the Chinese company a portion of its retail business, which includes 150 storage facilities, as well as thousands of filling stations and gasoline tankers. CEFC plans to expand its influ-

ence by becoming an international energy company through its involvement with Russian oil and gas companies.

So far, Rosneft has sold a 19.5 percent stake to Glencore and the Qatar Investment Authority (QIA—a sovereign wealth fund) for \$11.8 billion. Both Glencore and the QIA told The Wall Street Journal that the deal's details did not include a right for Russia to buy back Rosneft shares from the Glencore-QIA consortium they had formed for the deal.

British Petroleum owns 19.75 percent of the company. An additional sale of shares that would reduce the Russian government's ownership to below 50 percent would require a special governmental decree.

(Source: oilprice.com)

Libya gets better at keeping oil flowing as industry stabilizes



Libya's getting better at resolving stoppages in its oil industry, underpinning a growing perception that the OPEC member is closer to becoming a stable producer again.

That's because of the duration of the incidents. While in prior years protests could shutter fields for months and years, now the stoppages are being resolved within days and barely hindering flows. Sharara, Libya's biggest field, had several short disruptions this year, including two this month, after being closed for more than two years. Mustafa Sanalla, chairman of state-run National Oil Corp., was quick to visit Sharara this week to resolve the latest dispute, offering to revise security measures.

"One fundamental change that allows upstream activities to restart

quickly after a disruption is that Sanalla is willing to get on the ground, visit the sites and demonstrate his commitment to local communities," Geoff Porter, founder of New York-based North Africa Risk Consulting, said by email on Wednesday. There is a level of trust that was missing for a long time."

Libya is reviving its oil production and exports in spite of continuing political uncertainty. In July, crude production was at a four-year high and exports were the most in three years, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. While the expansion has helped Libya's oil-dependent economy, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries is trying to cut global supplies. That effort has been undermined by recovering output at OPEC members Libya and Nigeria.

(Source: Bloomberg)

Oil torn between broader market selloff, signs of tightening supply

Oil prices were largely steady on Friday, torn between a broad-based selloff across markets and signs that crude supplies are gradually tightening.

Brent crude futures, the international benchmark for oil prices, were at \$51.12 per barrel at 0711 GMT, up 9 cents from their last close but still set for a weekly drop of some 2 percent.

U.S. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude futures were at \$47.17 a barrel, up 8 cent but also on track to fall over the week, down over 3 percent.

Oil prices have been weighed down amid a selloff across markets, including U.S. and Asian stocks, where investors voted with their feet amid growing skepticism that U.S. President Donald Trump, embroiled in controversy, would achieve his economic agenda.

The overall softness in financial markets added to the perception that oil supply remains higher than demand despite producer efforts to reduce output. The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), together with non-OPEC producers like Russia, has pledged to restrict output by 1.8 million



barrels per day (bpd) between January this year and March 2018.

"Sentiment in oil markets remains weak," U.S. investment bank Jefferies said.

Oil is declining even amid signs that crude markets are tightening.

The Brent forward curve has moved from contango into backwardation,

where prices for immediate delivery are higher than those later on, for the three months of futures. A so-called backwardated market is considered a bullish sign for prices since it indicates that demand is outpacing supply.

Signs of supply tightness are also appearing in the United States, the world's biggest oil consumer. Despite a 13 per-

cent jump in production since mid-2016 to 9.5 million bpd, the country's commercial crude inventories have fallen 13 percent from their March records to below 2016 levels.

On the demand side, Asia in particular could see some stronger crude orders going into the second-half of the year.

Driven by the start-up of a refinery in Yunnan province in southern China and the completed expansion of a fuel processing facility at Huizhou, Chinese crude oil imports are expected to pick up.

"We expect Chinese crude imports to increase by 700,000 bpd year-on-year on average in 2H 2017," said energy consultancy FGE.

New oil demand is also coming from Vietnam, which will see record crude oil imports in August as it readies its second refinery for start-up.

"As domestic crude production continues to fall, Vietnam's historical surplus in crude oil will come to an end by 2019, turning the country into a net importer," said Peter Lee, oil analyst at BMI Research.

(Source: Reuters)

Pertamina eyes development of 2 oilfields in Iran

Indonesia's State-owned oil and gas company Pertamina CEO Elia Massa Manik is confident that the company can explore and develop two oilfields in Iran. The oilfields are Mansouri and Ab Teymour.

"Two oilfields; the process has been long. We had asked through the Coordinating Minister [for Economic Affairs Darmin Nasution], to accelerate [exploration]," Massa said on August 16 at Pertamina building.

Massa said that Pertamina will focus on one oilfield first and foremost. The second one will be developed later after the exploration of the first one is completed.

Indonesia needs to explore the oilfields to increase oil supply, according to Massa. He reasoned that the two oilfields can produce 250,000 barrels per day. "But we should not rely on it," he said.

Massa added that the government is open to new partners to add to the existing ones. He said that Indonesia will take part in more oil exploration projects abroad in the future.

"Negotiation process is ongoing," said the Pertamina CEO. "We will have to partner with a local company [in Iran]. We are open to partnership."

(Source: tempo.co)

What comes of solar power when the sun's eclipsed

The last time a total eclipse cast a shadow across the entirety of the U.S., from West Coast to East, was 99 years ago. Back then, the modern power grid was just getting started, and harnessing the sun's energy on a widespread scale was little more than a notion in the minds of scientists. On Aug. 21, when the moon will completely obscure the sun across a swath of the U.S., the rare daytime darkness will affect a real -- though still small -- segment of the energy supply.

1. How much will the eclipse affect solar power?

Enough to notice. It will reduce the sunlight that reaches 1,900 solar-power plants in the U.S., according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration. More than 12,000 megawatts of solar generation may be forced off line during the

roughly four-hour event, equivalent to the power of about 12 nuclear reactors. Though few power plants are within the narrow band of land that will see a total eclipse, some reduction in sunlight will be experienced everywhere in the U.S.

2. How is this different from when the sun goes down each day?

At night, when solar panels produce no energy, most people are sleeping and demand for power is low. This eclipse, by contrast, will coincide with the ramping up of the American workday, with the so-called path of totality starting at 9:05 a.m. local time near Lincoln City, Oregon, and leaving the U.S. at 4:09 p.m. East Coast time.

3. Doesn't the sun go in and out on a typical day?

Sure. And where it's overcast along the eclipse's path on Aug. 21, giant solar farms will already be operating at reduced capacity, and homes and businesses equipped with rooftop panels will be relying more on the power grid for electricity. Still, it's the very rare cloudy day when the sun gets completely blacked out, even for a short time.

4. How dependent is the U.S. on solar power?

It's still a very small part of the U.S. electricity mix, lagging behind even other renewable sources of energy. Solar power accounted for 2.6 percent of U.S. power generation in May, compared with 6.9 percent for wind power and 10 percent for hydroelectric sources. By contrast, traditional gas-fired plants produced 30 percent.

5. Where will the eclipse have its biggest effect on power?

California is by far the leading U.S. state when it comes to generating solar energy, and the moon will block roughly 70 percent of its sunlight during peak eclipse around 10:20 a.m. local time. North Carolina, the No. 2 state in solar-power capacity, will see its sunlight reduced by more than 90 percent, and the impact there might be greater, since the eclipse will happen in mid-afternoon, the time of day when electricity demand is at its highest.

6. What will compensate for the reduction in solar power?

Power grid operators and utilities say they'll tap natural-gas-fired power plants, keep more electricity supplies in reserve and encourage conservation to make up for the loss of solar energy. (The California Public Utilities Commission urged companies and residents to pledge to "do one small thing to reduce energy usage" during the eclipse.) Utilities will be using new technologies such as smart thermostats to control customer demand. The eclipse is happening at a good time for California, where hydropower supplies are plentiful because of melting snow.

7. Might there be service disruptions?

That's highly unlikely, says the North American Electric Reliability Council Corp., noting that transmission operators have had months to prepare.

8. Will there be any change in power prices?

It's possible that the sudden ramp-down in the solar power supply will cause wholesale electricity prices to spike. California's grid operator expects to see solar generation fall off at a rate of 70 megawatts a minute over an 82-minute period. Taking that power offline so quickly threatens to create bottlenecks along the grid. Keeping a healthy margin of reserves on hand will help transmission operators avoid these choke points. In fact, prices may end up falling as people venture outside to watch the eclipse and the moon's shade curbs the demand for air conditioning. Prices may also slump when the sun reemerges and panels start producing electricity again.

(Source: Bloomberg)



North Korea and America could stumble into a Nuclear War

By Matthew Bunn

People from Los Angeles and San Francisco are calling me and asking: “Should we be getting our families out of the city? Are we about to be nuked?” The short answer is no. Despite North Korean missile tests and President Donald Trump’s warnings about “fire and fury,” the missiles are not about to fly. All parties have overwhelming interests in avoiding an actual shooting war. That said, there are



steps that can and should be taken to reduce the danger of deadly accidents.

North Korea’s leader, Kim Jong-un, knows very well that he and his regime would not survive a large-scale war, because of the overwhelming power of the U.S. and South Korean militaries. Secretary of Defense James Mattis’ sober threat that any North Korean attack would “lead to the end of its regime and the

destruction of its people” was intended to underscore the point. Kim’s fiery threats are intended to deter the United States from launching such an attack, to play to domestic audiences and to browbeat North Korea’s neighbors.

The United States and South Korea, similarly, know very well how “catastrophic,” as Mattis put it, a war on the Korean peninsula would be for the United States and its allies. Even a conventional war could kill tens of thousands of American soldiers and hundreds of thousands of South Koreans; North Korea has well over 10,000 artillery tubes and rocket launchers within range of Seoul. Nuclear strikes could pull the death toll into the millions. The reverberating global effects would likely provoke a downturn worse than the Great Recession. President Trump does not want such a nightmare on his watch.

■ A dangerous fantasy

Some analysts argue the United States could carry out precision strikes on North Korea’s nuclear and missile arsenals, and then deter North Korea from striking back, avoiding a large-scale war. That is a dangerous fantasy, on several counts. First, the U.S. government doesn’t know for sure where all North Korea’s missiles and nuclear weapons are: even the U.S. military can’t hit what it can’t find. Second, given that the Kim regime’s legitimacy is based on its claim to protect the country from foreign attack, Kim Jong-un would likely feel he had to retaliate. Secretary Mattis and Gen. Joseph Dunford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, understand completely both the dangers and the limited value of any such a strike.

Don’t take my word that we’re not about to go to war — listen to the people whose money and lives are on the line. The crisis of the last couple of weeks has led the South Korean stock market to decline a few percent, but that means back to where it was in May. Last I checked, trending topics on South Korean social media included a hip-hop artist, the latest lottery prizes, a nude bed and breakfast and a corruption scandal. In other words: life goes on.

There is still a danger that the sides could blunder over the brink inadvertently — a danger that will tick up a notch as major U.S. and South Korean military exercises begin this month. North Korea regularly carries out provocations against the South. South Korea is fed up, and has said that next time it will hit back twice as hard. Kim Jong-un would likely feel obliged to retaliate in turn. And with hatred, misperception and cyber attacks on all sides, the potential for escalation to full-scale conflict seems clear. In a large-scale war, the U.S. and South Korean forces would try to destroy the North Korean regime and take out every missile they could find — which would give North Korea the incentive to use them before they lose them, with horrifying consequences.

Major U.S. and South Korean military exercises this month could increase the tensions.

What to do? First, we need to accept reality. North Korea is not going to give up its nuclear weapons as long as the Kim regime remains in power. Denuclearization should remain the long-term goal, but it cannot be the immediate focus of U.S. policy. Second, the United States and its allies need to focus on deterring, containing and defending against North Korea —while keeping up the sanctions pressure for Kim’s regime to change course. (The tough recent UN sanctions resolution against North Korea, which both China and Russia voted for, represents one of the Trump administration’s biggest diplomatic successes so far.) Making sure South Korea and Japan see U.S. protection as ironclad — and do not view the United States as unnecessarily risking war — is crucial to quieting the voices calling for those countries to develop their own nuclear weapons (something President Trump didn’t help when he encouraged them to do so during the campaign).

Third, we need to get going on the negotiation track. The focus should be to reduce the risk of inadvertent conflict through a variety of confidence-building measures — from more lines for political and military crisis communication to preventing incidents at sea — and to get North Korea to freeze further nuclear and missile testing and production. That means putting substantial offers on the table, including a step-by-step path out of sanctions.

After the Cuban Missile Crisis, President Kennedy said the greatest lesson he drew was to always leave the adversary a face-saving way to back down. It’s time for all sides in the Korean crisis to heed that lesson.

(Source: The National Interest)

By Elaine C. Kamarck

At some point in 2019 (if not sooner) a Republican Senator may walk into the Oval Office and say to President Trump: “Mr. President, we don’t have the votes,” at which point the Trump presidency will end in a resignation or a conviction in the Senate.

This scenario actually occurred forty-three years ago this summer when Republican Senator Barry Goldwater walked into the Oval Office and told Republican President Richard Nixon that they didn’t have the votes in the Senate to save his presidency.

Following impeachment in the House, a trial takes place in the Senate. Conviction requires two-thirds of the Senate and by my count there are already twelve senators who have shown a willingness to take on the president when they believe he is in the wrong.

If you add that to the forty-eight Democrats in the Senate (who have shown no inclination to work with this President), Donald Trump could be six votes away from conviction in the Senate.

Of course this assumes that the forces now in motion continue on their same trajectory and result in an impeachment vote. They are: the investigations into the Trump campaign; evidence of weakness in the Republican base ; historical trends indicating a possible Democratic takeover in the House; and, last but not least, defiance in the Senate.

This last trend should be particularly worrisome for the president. Article I of the Constitution gives them the last word on the presidency. And yet instead of making friends in the Senate, Trump has done exactly the opposite.

■ The Senate failed

After the Senate failed to pass his Obamacare replacement, Trump took to Twitter to denounce them as “fools” and “total quitters.” That could not have gone over well with the senators who opposed him along the way. One of them, Senator Susan Collins (R-Maine), arrived home to an impromptu gathering of supporters at the Portland airport who applauded her vote against the president’s replacement of Obamacare.

Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) was defiant after being called out by the president, saying “ No second thoughts at all. None,” after her vote against the president on health care. Senator Mike Lee (R-Utah) has been none too pleased with the efforts to repeal Obamacare, insisting that it “ does not go far enough in lowering premiums for middle-class families.”

But perhaps the most high profile op-



Senator Jeff Flake, (R-Ariz.) wrote an entire book accusing President Trump of abandoning conservative Republican principles.

position to the president came from Senator John McCain (R-Ariz.), who returned to Washington from his hospital bed to cast the dramatic and final vote killing the Republican replacement for Obamacare. After Trump, during the presidential campaign, ridiculed McCain’s seven years in a prison camp in Hanoi, the Arizona senator showed he is clearly not afraid to take on the president.

Another Republican senator from the west, Dean Heller (R-Nev.) also felt free to criticize the President and vote against him on several key issues. Senators Rob Portman (R-Ohio) and Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.Va.) have been vocal in their opposition to the president’s budget — especially the proposed cuts in drug treatment programs.

Capito threatened to lead “a bipartisan group of my colleagues on the Appropriations Committee and in the Senate to reject those proposed cuts.” They are part of the 18 Republican senators who voted against the Trump budget.

■ Major setback

A second major setback for the president in the Senate was passage of a Russia sanctions bill that curtailed the president’s

freedom of action in adjusting sanctions — a clear signal that an overwhelming number of senators don’t trust the president on Russia issues.

As a further reflection of that inter-branch distrust, there are two bipartisan bills in the Senate which would check the president’s ability to fire the special prosecutor Robert Mueller looking into the Russia issue.

One is sponsored by Senator Thom Tillis (R. N.C.) and Senator Christopher Coons, (D-Del.) and the other by Senator Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) and Senator Cory Booker (D-N.J.). Senator Graham has gone so far as to warn the president that firing Mueller would mark “the beginning of the end of the Trump Administration.”

And then there is the man who used to be the president’s closest friend in the Senate, Jeff Sessions, who endorsed Trump when no one else would and became his Attorney General only to suffer weeks of embarrassing insults from the President.

Senators such as Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) have defended Sessions against the president, warning that if Sessions is fired there will not be a confirmation hearing for another attorney general this year.

Senator Rand Paul (R-Ky.) has been a

consistent thorn in President Trump’s side, repeatedly questioning his foreign policy appointments and insisting in an op-ed, “Make no mistake, no matter who is president or what their party is, it is my firm belief that the president needs congressional authorization for military action, as required by the Constitution.”

Finally, Senator Jeff Flake, (R-Ariz.) wrote an entire book accusing President Trump of abandoning conservative Republican principles. Flake is facing a tough re-election race, and his book Conscience of a Conservative (the same title used by his hero Senator Barry Goldwater 57 years ago), is either a Hail Mary play, a genuine attack on what Trump has done to his party, or both. In it he writes, “Never has a party so quickly or easily abandoned its core principles as my party did in the course of the 2016 campaign.”

These 12 Republicans have no fear of the president. You could probably add Senator Cory Gardner (R-Colo.), who is up for re-election in 2020 and whose state also voted for Clinton in 2016. The president needs to start making friends in the United States Senate.

(Source: Newsweek)

Nature of Las Ramblas attack provides harsh lessons in fight against terror

The apparent terrorist attack in Barcelona underlines three harsh lessons learned by security services – and the general public – over recent months and years.

The first is that the use of vehicles as weapons is now an established tactic by extremists, one of the dozen or so employed in the last two decades that should be considered a standard part of the terrorist arsenal. In the last 13 months there have been similar attacks in France, Germany, Sweden and the UK.

A woman was killed by a car driven at speed by a rightwing extremist in the U.S. last week in slightly different circumstances.

The precise motivation and the identity of the Barcelona attackers will become clear in the next few hours. Islamic State [ISIS] has claimed responsibility on its Amaq news agency, though in recent months such claims have become highly unreliable.

Individuals close to ISIS and active on social media have been celebrating the attack, but this does not necessarily indicate a direct connection between the attacker or attackers and the group.

Tactics spread among militants when they are seen to work. There is no skill needed to drive a vehicle into a crowd, nor any difficulty involved in obtaining one. This makes a car, van or lorry an ideal weapon for today’s terrorists, who are often inspired by a group but are not actually part of it, and for the most part, lack the training and means necessary for more complex attacks.

The second lesson is that there is now little discrimination in targeting. This means tourists are very much in the line of fire. A decade or so ago, ISIS sought to send specific messages through their violence. Random attacks against unarmed civilians were seen as ineffective, and even counter-productive in terms of garnering public support in the Muslim world. The 9/11 attack was launched against targets seen by al-Qaida as symbols of U.S. economic, political and military power.

In 2004, Spain was the target of the bloodiest terrorist attack on European soil when commuter trains were bombed by al-Qaida sympathizers in Madrid. One aim was to undermine Spanish support for military intervention in Iraq, and influence an election. Spain was also a particular target because of the historic resonance for militants of the Islamic kingdom of Andalusia, lost to Christendom 900 years ago.



The attack on tourists in Barcelona followed a now familiar pattern and shows the indiscriminate nature of today’s terrorists.

■ Public spaces

This has changed. ISIS has led a broader shift towards attacking anyone, anywhere, anyhow. Public spaces, always inherently vulnerable, are now more at risk than ever. Music fans in Manchester, summer revelers in Nice, pub-goers in London, and of course tourists, whether taking pictures on Westminster Bridge, on a beach in Tunisia, or on an airplane returning to Russia from Egypt.

Western holidaymakers overseas were targeted long ago. In 1997 there was a bloody attack in Luxor by Egyptian militants. But tourists were never a principle focus of violence. Now, they appear to be. Anyone driving a van on to the central pedestrianized concourse in Las Ramblas, one of the most crowded tourist zones in the world, was trying to kill foreign travelers.

Spanish authorities were aware of the threat, and at Christmas sought to reinforce the protection of public spaces. One plot to use a truck against pedestrians was thwarted in November. Bollards, concrete blocks and other defenses were considered. Intelligence gathering was increased.

But there is little that can be done in a hugely popular Mediterranean port city to guard against such an attack, and the third lesson is that good policing can keep you safe only for so long.

French intelligence services, in part due to their experience of fighting terrorists in the 1990s, were well ahead of their UK or U.S. counterparts for a decade or so. But by 2012, French spies, under-resourced and undermined by poor national and Europe-wide intelligence sharing, were struggling to contain the threat. They were ill-equipped to face the offensive launched in 2014 by ISIS against their country from its newly won enclaves in Syria and Iraq.

The same may be true for Spanish services, which are much admired for their professionalism in the counter-terrorism world. Spain invested heavily in intelligence agencies after the 2004 attacks, building up a formidable capability for gathering information and acting on it. This has kept the country safe from terrorism for 13 years. Major plots were broken up in 2008. Last year Spain foiled at least 10 separate conspiracies. This year two more networks have been uncovered, including at least one with connections to ISIS-led attackers elsewhere in Europe.

As Britons discovered this year, just because there are no successful attacks does not mean there’s no terrorists. So the final harsh lesson is that something, or someone, will get through eventually.

(Source: The Guardian)

The story of Charlottesville was written in blood in the Ukraine

By Ajamu Baraka

What is the character of racist right-wing politics today? Is it the crazed white supremacist who plows into an anti-fascist demonstration in Charlottesville, Virginia, or can it also be the assurance by Lindsay Graham that an attack against North Korea would result in thousands of lives lost.... but those lives will be "over there"?

What about the recent unanimous resolution by both Houses of Congress in support of Israel and criticism of the United Nations for its alleged anti-Israeli bias? Would that qualify as racist and right-wing, since it appears that the on-going suffering of the Palestinians is of no concern? And what about the vote by the U.S. House of Representatives to go even beyond the obscene proposal of the Trump administration to increase the military budget by \$54 billion dollars and instead add a whopping \$74 billion to the Pentagon budget?

What I find interesting about the current discussion around what many are referring to as the emboldening of the radical white supremacist right is how easy it is to mobilize opposition against the crude and overt white supremacists we saw in Charlottesville. So easy, in fact, that it's really a distraction from the more difficult and dangerous work that needs to be done to confront the real right-wing power brokers.

The white supremacy that some of us see as more insidious is not reflected in the simple, stereotypical images of the angry, Nazi-saluting alt-righter or even Donald Trump. Instead, it is the normalized and thus invisible white supremacist ideology inculcated into cultural and educational institutions and the policies that stem from those ideas. That process doesn't just produce the storm troopers of the armed and crazed radical right but also such covert true believers as Robert Ruben from Goldman Sachs, Hillary Clinton, Barack Obama, Tony Blair and Nancy Pelosi — "decent" individuals who have never questioned for a moment the superiority of Western civilization, who believe completely in the White West's right and responsibility to determine which nations should have sovereignty and

who should be the leaders of "lesser" nations. And who believe that there is no alternative to the wonders of global capitalism even if it means that billions of human beings are consigned permanently to what Fanon called the "zone of non-being."

"The political impact of the right gaining power in Ukraine could not be isolated from the growing power of the right elsewhere."

This is the white supremacy that I am concerned with. And while I recognize the danger of the violent right-wing movement, I am more concerned with the right-wing policies that are being enacted into law and policy by both Democrats and Republicans at every level of government.

More than two years ago I wrote that:

"The brutal repression and dehumanization witnessed across Europe in the 1930s has not found generalized expression in the U.S. and Europe, at least not yet. Nevertheless, large sectors of the U.S. and European left appear to be unable to recognize that the U.S./NATO/EU axis that is committed to maintaining the hegemony of Western capital is resulting in dangerous collaborations with rightist forces both inside

"While I recognize the danger of the violent right-wing movement, I am more concerned with the right-wing policies that are being enacted into law and policy by both Democrats and Republicans."

and outside of governments."

The impetus of that article was to critique the inherent danger of the Obama Administration's cynical manipulation of right-wing elements in Ukraine to overthrow the democratically elected government of Viktor Yanukovich. Not only was it dangerous and predictably disastrous for the Ukrainian people, but because U.S. support for a neo-fascist movement in Ukraine took place within a context in which the political right was gaining legitimacy and strength across Europe. The political impact of the right gaining power in Ukraine could not be isolated from the growing power of the right elsewhere. Which meant that



the Obama Administration's selfish, short-term objective to undermine Russia in Ukraine had the effect of empowering the right and shifting the balance of forces toward the right throughout Europe.

But because Obama was incorrectly seen as a liberal, he was able to avoid most criticism of his policies in Ukraine, in Europe and domestically. In fact, liberals and the left both in the U.S. and in Europe generally supported his Ukraine policies.

"The U.S. has become a dangerous

right-wing society as a result of a steady shift to the right over the past four decades."

However, playing footsie with right-wing elements in the Ukraine and underestimating the growing power of the right has resulted in powerful and dangerous right-wing movements on both sides of the Atlantic who have effectively exploited endemic white racism and the contradictions of neoliberal capitalist globalization. The ascendancy of Donald Trump cannot be decontextualized from the racial, class and gender politics of this moment here and abroad.

The alt-right that showed up in Charlottesville this past weekend was mimicking the tactics of the frontline neo-fascist soldiers who orchestrated the coup in the Ukraine, yet everyone is saying this is a result of Trump. The objective fact is that the U.S. has become a dangerous right-wing society as a result of a steady shift to the right over the past four decades. The idea that Trump's election somehow "created" the right cannot be taken seriously and cannot be reduced to the crude expressions of the alt-right.

The structures of white power, that is the structures and institutions that provide the material base for Euro-American white supremacy and its ideological reproduction, should be the focus of radical opposition. But the capitalist

order and its institutions — the World Trade Organization, IMF, World Bank, and global Westernized higher education that serves as the material basis for hegemonic white supremacist power — escape critical scrutiny because popular attention is directed against a David Duke and a Donald Trump.

Trump and the alt-right have become useful diversions for white supremacist liberals and leftists who would rather fight against those superficial caricatures of racism than engage in more difficult ideological work involving real self-sacrifice — purging themselves of all racial sentimentality associated with the mythology of the place of white people, white civilization and whiteness in the world in order to pursue a course for justice that will result in the loss of white material privilege.

"The many manifestations of an entrenched right-wing ideology that cannot be conveniently and opportunistically reduced to Trump and the Republicans."

Looking at white supremacy from this wider-angle lens, it is clear that support for the Israeli state, war on North Korea, mass black and brown incarceration, a grotesque military budget, urban gentrification, the subversion of Venezuela, the state war on black and brown people of all genders, and the war on reproductive rights are among the many manifestations of an entrenched right-wing ideology that cannot be conveniently and opportunistically reduced to Trump and the Republicans.

And when we understand that white supremacy is not just what is in someone's head but is also a global structure with ongoing, devastating impacts on the people of the world, we will understand better why some of us have said that in order for the world to live, the 525-year-old white supremacist Pan-European, colonial/capitalist patriarchy must die.

Your choice will be clear: Either you join us as gravediggers or you surrender to class and racial privilege and join the cross-class white united front. The alt-right is waiting, and they are taking recruits from the left who are tired of "identity politics."

(Source: Black Agenda Report)



Will Charlottesville be a pretext for toughening police state laws?

By Stephen Lendman

The aftermath of 9/11 transformed America into a police state. Obama continued what Bush/Cheney began — cracking down hard on fundamental freedoms, subverting constitutionally protected rights.

Will Charlottesville be used as a pretext for more of the same? Violence last weekend was reprehensible. Responsible parties should be held fully accountable — federal, state and local laws adequate to handle things.

Attorney General Jeff Sessions opened an investigation into possible hate crime charges. Bipartisan leadership in Congress urged hate crime and terrorist charges against James Fields, accused of mowing down counter-demonstrators, causing one death and numerous injuries.

Federal hate crimes legislation was first enacted in 1968 — defined as threatening to use force "to willfully interfere with any person because of race, color, religion, or national origin and because the person is participating in a federally protected activity, such as public education, employment, jury service, travel, or the enjoyment of public accommodations, or helping another person to do so," according to the Justice Department.

Additional hate crimes legislation followed in 1988, 1996 and 2009 — expanding the federal definition of this crime.

As of mid-July 2016, the Justice Department charged 258 individuals with hate crimes — since 2009 alone.

The so-called Shepard Byrd Act (October 2009) made it a federal crime "to willfully cause bodily injury, or attempt to do so using a dangerous weapon, because of the victim's actual or perceived race, color, religion, or national origin," according to the DOJ.

It expanded previous hate crimes legislation. Is fur-

ther expansion likely post-Charlottesville? Did Fields commit a hate crime and/or terrorism, or was he solely ideologically motivated against anyone opposed to his point of view?

He already faces murder and other charges. No evidence suggests he targeted individuals for their race, religion, national origin or other factors hate crimes legislation specifies.

The 1968 Civil Rights Act criminalizes use of force to injure or intimidate anyone "participating lawfully in speech or peaceful assembly."

It usually targets voting rights violations, not incidents like Charlottesville, though it's appropriate using it to press charges against individuals responsible for violence last weekend.

AG Jeff Sessions called the deadly car ramming attack "domestic terrorism," saying

"we will charge and advance the investigation toward the most serious charges that can be brought..."

So far, Fields is charged with second-degree murder, malicious wounding, and failure to stop at the scene of an accident resulting in a death — under Virginia law.

Will federal hate crime and terrorism charges follow? Will current federal laws be expanded to be harsher?

Will civil liberties suffer another body blow? Will tyranny advance further toward becoming full-blown?

US history is littered with repressive laws — Constitutional protections targeted since the 1798 Alien and Sedition Acts restricted First Amendment freedoms.

Police state harshness defines US policy, civil liberties grievously harmed. Anything goes in the name of national security is OK.

For the first time in US history, Patriot Act provisions created the crime of domestic terrorism. Section 802 applies to anyone allegedly engaged in "dangerous to



human life" actions.

US citizens and permanent residents are vulnerable to accusations of violating federal, state, or local laws if they:

- intimidate or coerce a civilian population;
- influence government policy by intimidation or coercion; and/or
- affect government conduct by mass destruction, assassination or kidnapping.

The devil is in the definition. Peaceful demonstrators can be targeted like violent ones. The First Amendment doesn't discriminate against points of view hostile to government practices.

Academic, media and speech freedoms are fundamental in all free and open societies.

Using Charlottesville or similar violent incidents elsewhere as pretexts to compromise constitutional rights is what tyranny is all about.

Israel Authors a neo-Balfour Declaration for The Kurds

By Adam Garrie

One of the most controversial documents of modern history is also one of the shortest. This was the Balfour Declaration issued on 2 November 1917. This document pledged the British Empire's support for the establishment of a Jewish state in Palestine which in 1917 was the sovereign territory of Ottoman Turkey.

The text of the document, drafted as a letter, reads as follows:

"Dear Lord Rothschild,

I have much pleasure in conveying to you, on behalf of His Majesty's Government, the following declaration of sympathy with Jewish Zionist aspirations which has been submitted to, and approved by, the Cabinet

His Majesty's Government view with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of this object, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country.

I should be grateful if you would bring this declaration to the knowledge of the Zionist Federation.

Yours,

Arthur James Balfour"

This document continues to haunt the Middle East as Israel remains a state whose borders were not only forged during a time of foreign colonisation of the Middle East but far more importantly, it is the only state in the Middle East that permits the de-facto settlement of contemporary colonials to land which rightfully belongs to its indigenous inhabitants, the Palestinians of all religious faiths.

One would think that with global popular opinion turning against the Israel project, that its leaders would know a thing or two about being discrete about neo-colonial rhetoric, but this is not the case.

Recently, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu stated that he is positively in favour of the establishment of a Kurdish state in the Middle East and further called Kurds "brave, pro-Western people who share our values".

The gushing language used by Netanyahu is eerily similar to that used by Balfour in 1917. What's more is that both statements totally disregard the fact that the only people who can legally allow for Kurdish autonomy, let alone a Kurdish state are those who are the legal sovereigns of the territory that Kurds seek to annex. These countries are in no particular order, Iraq, Syria, Iran and Turkey.

Each of these states is firmly opposed to Kurdish annexation of their territory just as Palestinians were firmly opposed to the British and later UN annexation of Palestine in order to make a state for foreign Jews who were overwhelmingly European.

The thinking behind Netanyahu's statement is clearly similar to that behind the British elites of the early 20th century. Just as the British Empire was a colonial regime facing decline, so too is Israel a colonial regime whose plans to annex its neighbours have been met with fierce resistance, most recently when in 2006, Hezbollah liberated southern Lebanon from the last vestiges of Israeli occupation.

In 1982, the Zionist publication Kivunim revealed the Yinnon Plan, a long term goal for geo-strategic expansion of the Israeli state to cover territories of Egypt, Lebanon, Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Syria.

The only analogous plan in modern history is the comparatively recent plan for Greater Albania, a plan which would see the existing Albanian regime in Tirana annex parts of Serbia, Montenegro, Macedonia and Greece.

Like many colonial powers preferring divide and rule techniques to outright conquest, it would appear that Israel has decided to do with the Kurds what the British once did with the Zionists: support their claims to someone else's land. The main difference being that Kurds are settled residents in Middle Eastern nations whereas the European Jewry who made up Israel's early population had no real connection to Palestine other than those justified by pseudo-scientific Zionist ideology.

It boils down to Israel having no allies in the region and increasingly beyond and therefore advocating for the creation of a state that could reasonably amount to a client state just as Israel remains dependant greatly on money and immigration for Europe and North America to sustain its military and economy.

But just as many colonial plans backfire, so too could this. A would-be Kurdish state in the Middle East would have Israel as a lone regional ally (with the speculative possibility of Saudi Arabia as a kind of semi-ally) and it would likely have an ally in the United States. Russia's position would most likely evolve into one of agnostic acceptance, but again this depends a great deal on how Turkey's burgeoning alliance with Russia pans out. At the end of the day, no one in Russia would trade Turkey for a Kurdistan, even in spite of an historical record which might point to the contrary but which bears no relationship to present economic and geo-strategic realities.

Because of this, it is wise to remember that although America is the world's number one supporter of Israel, not all American Presidents have friendly relations with Israel leaders. Nixon, Clinton and Obama often had a great deal of difficulty working with intractable Israeli leaders.

And this is where a Kurdish state might work to Israel's disadvantage. If a would-be Kurdistan and Israel remained America's two satellites in the Middle East, America would have the distinct advantage of being able to pick a 'flavour of the month' or even year.

All it would take is a difficult Israeli leader to appear less attractive to moderates in Washington vis-à-vis a Kurdish leader desperate for US aid to make Kurdistan America's number one friend in the region.

With all things colonial, it is well advised to be careful what you wish for. The law of unintended consequences which exists in all geo-political relations is always magnified when the powers that be start to re-draw the geo-political map.

What Kenyan voters got for the \$500m spent on elections

By Nanjala Nyabola

Raila Odinga, leader of the National Super Alliance and Kenya's opposition is petitioning the Supreme Court for a review of the results of the 2017 election, easing the political pressure that has kept the country in suspended animation for the last week.

On the morning of August 9th, about 12 hours after results started trickling on the Independent Election and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) results transmission website, leader of the largest opposition coalition Raila Odinga claimed that the website had been hacked to under-represent his share of the vote. On Friday, at 10:30 P.M., the chairman of the IEBC, Wafula Chebukati, declared Uhuru Kenyatta the winner triggering a flurry of protests in Nairobi and Kisumu. According to the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights at least 24 people have died.

Kenya's elections generally have three phases. First, there is a jittery pre-election phase peppered with accusations of malpractice; second, a peaceful and even joyous voting phase; and third, an anxious wait for final results and the

inevitable fallout.

The contrast in mood between the voting phase and the pre- and post-election phases is always stark: a 24-hour window of euphoria sandwiched between interminable anxiety. The recent elections were no different - on Monday, there was tension over a litany of unresolved issues, on Tuesday voting was smooth and turnout impressive, but by Wednesday there was tension in the air and this elections' counting dispute began.

The tension stems from a lack of trust: Kenyans don't trust elections because our elections are untrustworthy. Successive iterations of electoral commissions have delivered suspect results. In 1992, then President Daniel Toroitich arap Moi was declared winner over Kenneth Matiba in an election that established a link between violence and voting (PDF) in Kenya. Arguably, Matiba won that election, but Moi was declared winner. This pattern was repeated in 1997, in a violent election that saw Moi defeat Mwai Kibaki under questionable circumstances.

■ Multiparty era

To date, the only election in Kenya's multi-party era

that has not faced validity challenges was the 2002 election, as the patterns of 1992 and 1997 repeated in 2007 and 2013. The 2007 election especially soured voters on electoral commissions, as a hurried result was announced in the shadow of grave allegations of fraud made on live television. Instead of assuaging the public's fears by having a transparent recount, the president was quickly sworn in at night and a major trust deficit was born that has never been fully addressed.

But the lack of trust between voters and the electoral commission isn't even the most significant. There are plenty of other institutions in Kenya that operate with a trust deficit, but that do not trigger violence.

Elections week in Kenya is a flurry of accusations, obscure legislation and new found importance of faraway places that most Kenyans can't find on a map, resulting in general unease even though few voters can articulate why.

In fact, it is the lack of trust between various political actors that is Kenya's biggest problem, and Kenya's politicians don't trust each other because they are cut from the same cloth. The main political figures in Kenya haven't changed

much since 1990.

Uhuru Kenyatta and William Ruto on one hand, and Raila Odinga and Kalonzo Musyoka on the other, all served in Moi's government. Each of the "four principals", as they are known in Kenya, has been active in government during a rigged election. As political alignments have shifted over the last 25 years, protecting oneself against the scheming of the other side has become the main election strategy, rather than talking about the issues, for instance.

The more these individuals find perceived gaps in the election architecture, the more law is grafted on to the system to make it appear airtight. Each check and balance is given a check and balance, but it makes little sense as a collective unit.

What's the point of insisting that a result is only based on forms 34A if nearly a week after the result was announced the commission still can't produce all the forms as required by law?

Why insist that only the announcement by the commission would be final and prohibit media from declaring any result before the final one only to provide a glitchy website with a running tally? ➔13

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Survival of premature babies more likely now than in mid-1990s, study shows

Premature babies born in recent years are more likely to survive and less likely to have severe disabilities than those born in the mid-1990s, research has revealed.

According to the World Health Organisation, around 15 million babies worldwide are born before the 37th week of pregnancy every year, with premature babies at higher risk of severe disabilities, such as cerebral palsy, as well as a greater chance of delayed development of language and motor skills.

But experts say the new research offers good news, at least for children in developed countries.

"Not only has survival [of premature babies] improved, but survival without these [severe] disabilities," said Pierre-Yves Ancel, professor of public health at the French National Institute of Health and Medical Research and co-author of the research.

The latest study sought to probe not only the later health of babies born extremely prematurely – below 26 weeks of gestation – but also those born on a less dramatic time-frame at 27-34 weeks, that have been studied less often.

"When you go up to the higher gestations you start to include more and more children that are born prematurely," said Andrei Morgan, another author of the research.

Published in the British Medical Journal by a team from a number of French institutions, the research drew on the results of a study known as Epi-page 2. This study collected data from across France for babies born between 22 and 34 weeks of gestation during 2011 –with a total of 5,567 live births noted.

Based on medical questionnaires from 3,599 of the children assessed at around two years old (an age relating to their due date, rather than their birth date) the results reveal that 6.9% of children born at 24-26 weeks had cerebral palsy. The figure fell to 4.3% for those born at 27-31 weeks and to 1% for those born at 32-34 weeks. Fewer than 1% of the children overall were found to have severe visual impairments or hearing difficulties.

The medical data was also compared to that collected in the original Epi-page study, which tracked the outcomes for premature babies born at



"Data suggests that improvements in care to mother and baby are now having a beneficial impact in terms of survival."

22-34 weeks in nine regions of France during 1997.

The results reveal that since 1997, survival for babies born at 22-31 weeks has increased by 6%, while survival without sensory or neuromotor disabilities increased by just over 7%. No change was seen for less premature babies, with survival – and survival without severe disabilities – high in both studies. More specifically the rate of cerebral palsy among toddlers declined by 3.3% both for those born at 24-31 as well as those born at 32-34 weeks.

"It is not clear what causes cerebral palsy – it is probably a combination of factors," said Morgan, adding that advances in the care of pregnant women, women in labour and newborns are all likely to have contributed to the improved rates, with improvements in screening for various conditions also likely to have increased the rates of survival without severe disabilities.

The latest study also asked parents to complete a questionnaire probing various areas of neurodevelopment, including their toddler's communication abilities and motor skills.

The results from 2,506 children without severe disabilities reveal that just over half of children born at 24-26 weeks were found to have scores markedly below average. Those who spent longer in the womb fared better, with just under 41% and just over 36% of children born at 27-31 weeks and 32-34 weeks respectively falling below the threshold.

That, says Ancel, suggests that while the rates of severe disabilities among premature babies is improving, they remain at risk of developmental delay.

Andrew Shennan, clinical director of Tommy's Prematurity Research Centre in the UK, agreed that the research showed those born preterm were still at risk of delayed development, but added there was good news.

"This data suggests that improvements in care to mother and baby are now having a beneficial impact in terms

of survival," he said.

Dieter Wolke, professor of developmental psychology and individual differences at the University of Warwick who was not involved in the study, agreed, adding that the positive findings mirrored those of other large studies.

But, he said, it was of concern that babies born very preterm were at risk of developmental delay.

"With higher survival of preterm children but no improvement in neurodevelopmental outcome, there will be overall more children with neurodevelopmental problems in the community," he said, adding that many problems are linked to cognitive and social skills.

"More emphasis should be put in follow-up programmes on social and communications skills and include experts in these fields, [such as] psychologists [and] speech therapists, to suggest appropriate interventions," he said.

(Source: The Guardian)

The effects of low-intensity cardio

By Brian Willett

Although exercise methods such as high-intensity interval training and high-impact aerobics may be popular for their calorie-torching potential, low-intensity cardio has remained popular. This tried-and-true method of exercise may not be the most new or exciting way to work out, but it does offer numerous benefits that can make it an important part of anyone's exercise plan. Before you begin a workout program, consult your doctor to make sure you don't include any off-limits exercises in your routine.

■ Defining low-intensity cardio

To reap the benefits of low-intensity cardio, make sure what you're doing actually is low intensity. If you're used to performing sprint workouts or high-intensity cardio, you may slip into your old habits and hinder progress toward your current goals. Low-intensity cardio is performed at between 40 and 60 percent of your maximum heart rate. Calculate your maximum heart rate by subtracting your age from 220. Multiplying that number by 0.4 and 0.6 will give you the end points for your low-intensity cardio range.

■ Calorie burning

Low-intensity cardio can help you drop pounds or maintain your current weight, as many forms of this type of exercise can help you burn calories. For example, walking at just 2.5 miles per hour can burn 257 calories per hour, while bicycling at a leisurely pace can burn 343 calories per hour. These calorie expenditure statistics are based on a weight of 180 pounds; if you weigh more than that amount, you will burn more calories.

■ Muscular endurance

Low-intensity cardiovascular exercise can be an effective method of building muscular endurance. While sprinting and high-intensity exercise can be helpful for building muscle, long sessions of low-intensity cardio are superior for muscular endurance as they provide a high number of repetitions, such as steps or cycle pedal strokes, at low resistance. This type of exercise builds muscular endurance rather than raw strength.

■ Appetite control

Low-intensity cardio can also help you control your appetite. From a psychological standpoint, you may feel less hungry and tired because you haven't exerted yourself to the point of sweating heavily and haven't lifted large amounts of weight. Research from the January 2009 edition of the "American Journal of Physiology: Regulatory, Integrative and Comparative Physiology" indicates that long sessions of low-intensity cardio can also influence hormone activity in a manner that blunts hunger. A study found that a 60-minute session of cardio increased the body's release of an appetite-blunting hormone and decreased the release of a hormone that promotes hunger.

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

What is turmeric good for?

Belonging to the ginger family, turmeric has been used in East India and the Middle East for thousands of years, and is now one of the most highly-prized spices in the world. It's actually unclear whether it was first used for its peppery flavor and the unique kick it lends to foods. Ancient medicinal uses for turmeric began when it was noted as an anti-inflammatory agent, and then to treat a wide variety of conditions, such as jaundice, menstrual problems, blood in the urine, hemorrhaging, toothaches, bruises, chest pain, flatulence, and colic.

The name "turmeric" is derived from the Persian word for «saffron», the neon yellow-orange hue used to make curry and yellow mustard. A domesticated plant rather than wild, India remains one of the most prominent producers of turmeric, along with Indonesia, the Philippines, China, Taiwan, Jamaica, and Haiti.

■ Health benefits of turmeric

Basic nutritional aspects of turmeric include a 26% daily value in manganese and 16% in iron. It's also an excellent source of fiber, vitamin B6, potassium, and healthy amounts of vitamin C and magnesium.

While it's improbable that someone would ingest an entire ounce of turmeric in one sitting (although it would be completely safe), the nutritional aspects listed above can be seen more easily in this amount than in a teaspoon, which accounts for zero amount of anything. But one tablespoon, being a more reasonable serving, does communicate excellent phytonutrients. In fact, turmeric is effective even in very small quantities, such as one serving of a turmeric-spiced dish.

The health benefits of turmeric include an improved ability to digest fats, reducing gas and bloating, decreased congestion, and improved skin conditions such as eczema, psoriasis, and acne.

Turmeric has been used as a powerful anti-inflammatory in Chinese and Indian medicine for millennia. Curcumin, the primary pharmacological agent in this spice, contains proven effects in this area that are comparable to over-the-counter anti-inflammatory agents as well as some prescription medications. But curcumin doesn't produce the toxic effect that synthetic drugs sometimes do, such as ulcer formation, internal bleeding, and even a lowered white blood cell count.

More reported health benefits of turmeric include relief from joint pain, such as rheumatoid arthritis, reduced joint swelling, and greater range of motion when used regularly. It's another case of the spice alone having similar effects to that of a prescription medication, but with fewer symptomatic downsides.

Research also suggests that turmeric may be helpful in treating inflammatory bowel diseases, lowering cholesterol counts, protecting the heart, relieving indigestion, improving liver function, and even preventing Alzheimer's disease. Cancer prevention and inhibited cancer cell growth –specifically cancer of the breast, colon, prostate, and lung, and childhood leukemia – are also on the list of possible benefits.

(Source: [foodfacts.mercola.com](#))

What to eat for... Healthy joints

How these ingredients and others promote healthy joints...

■ Nuts and seeds

Full of omega-3, these healthy fats hold anti-inflammatory properties. We've used chia seeds in our porridge because they're one of the richest seed sources of omega-3. Oily fish like salmon, mackerel, sardines and trout also contain a potent form of omega-3, which dampens inflammation and relieves stiffness. Aim for two or more portions of fish per week and use gentle methods of cooking such as poaching and baking to protect their beneficial oils.

- Colorful fruit & veg

Eating a rainbow of fresh, dried and/or frozen fruit and veg will mean your diet is full of potent antioxidant vitamins, which fight free radicals and reduce the damage caused by inflammation. Stars of the show include kale and broccoli, which research has shown may protect joints from damage, thanks to a compound called sulforaphane.

- Ginger and turmeric

Both of these warming spices contain potent anti-inflammatory compounds – use liberally in your cooking.

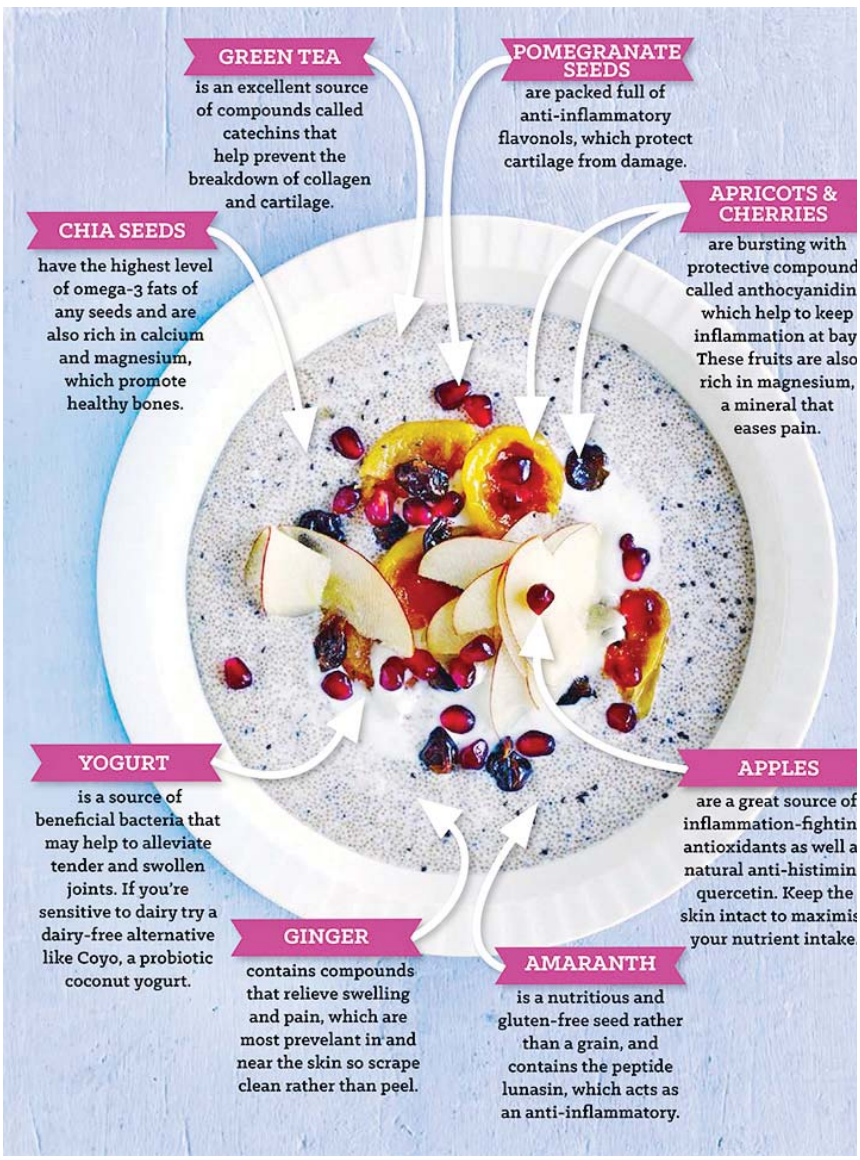
- Lean protein

Protein is key for building healthy connective tissue and inadequate intakes may lead to loss of muscle mass and diminished strength. Poultry, fish and plant-based proteins such as beans and pulses are great options.

- Optimize your nutrient intake

Amaranth

Certain medications interfere with the metabolism of vitamins and minerals like folate, vitamin B6, zinc and magnesium. Low levels of nutrients like B vitamins (which includes folate and B12) can increase your risk of joint degeneration, so include dark green leafy veg as well as gluten-free whole-grains like rice, buckwheat and amaranth. We've soaked the amaranth for our



Low levels of the 'sunshine' vitamin are associated with osteoarthritis.

porridge overnight as this speeds up the cooking time and reduces levels of naturally occurring phytic acid, which means you absorb more of amaranth's nutritious goodness.

■ Is there anything I should avoid?

Some arthritis sufferers have reported that omitting certain foods has helped to alleviate their symptoms. Foods commonly cited include oranges, tomatoes and peppers as well as dairy foods and wheat. Because there is no scientific evidence yet to support these claims it may be worth keeping a food diary to see what works for you. Don't omit any major food groups from your diet without seeking the advice of your GP or dietician first.

■ What else can I do to protect my joints?

- Maintain a healthy weight – for every extra pound you lose, you can reduce the load on your joints three-fold.
- Get active – aim for 30 minutes of gentle exercise most days – try joint-supportive activities such as swimming.
- Rest your joints regularly – listen to your body and know when you need to take time out.
- Stop smoking – those who smoke are twice as likely to develop cartilage loss.
- Boost your vitamin D levels – the action of sunlight on your skin promotes the production of vitamin D. Low levels of the 'sunshine' vitamin are associated with osteoarthritis, so head outside in the morning or late afternoon when the sun is less intense without sunscreen for 15 minutes. Don't forget vitamin D-rich foods such as oily fish, eggs and fortified spreads.
- Medicate mindfully – take painkillers with or after your meals to prevent gut discomfort – ask your GP for advice.

(Source: [bbc.goodfood.com](#))

10 hot titles of IT world

By Alireza Khorasani

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

1 Google CEO Sundar Pichai on Thursday denounced the recent violence by extremists in both Charlottesville and Barcelona, calling the incidents in both cities “terrorism [that] is designed to divide us.” “Terrorism is terrorism and it takes many forms,” Pichai said in an email sent to employees, which he also posted on Twitter.

2 Instagram Direct now lets you reply with a photo or video. Starting with Instagram version 10.34, you can reply with a photo or video to specific photos, videos, and reshared posts in Direct.

3 Cisco posted a seventh consecutive quarter of declining revenue. The computer networking company avoided any big downgrades from Wall Street analysts after reporting a 4% decline for its fiscal fourth quarter revenue.

4 Facebook shut down an anonymous group used by its Trump-supporting employees after people started harassing one another. The group was abruptly shut down by Facebook in December 2016. CEO Mark Zuckerberg later told employees that the group had been used to harass others.

5 The Ukrainian central bank said on Friday it had warned state-owned and private lenders of the appearance of new malware as security services said Ukraine faced cyber attacks like those that knocked out global systems in June. The June 27 attack, dubbed NotPetya, took down many Ukrainian government agencies and businesses.

6 The ousted chief executive of Uber Technologies Inc rejected a lawsuit filed against him by one of the company's top investors as a “public and personal attack” without merit, according to court documents filed late on Thursday.

7 Cybersecurity firm UpGuard has discovered that personal information from over 1.8 million Chicago residents was unintentionally exposed by voting machine supplier Election Systems & Software (ES&S). The backup files of voter data were found on an Amazon Web Services device and weren't protected with a password.

8 Skype is making a preview version of its new desktop design available for users to try out. Skype says the changes are made with the larger screen of desktop in mind. Chats are getting a notification panel and you'll be able to see conversations that @ mentioned you while you were away. There's also a new media gallery in chat that helps you find images, links or documents that were shared with you through the feature.

9 In a bid to promote “authentic communication,” Facebook will now demote clickbait stories that present static images as video along with images with fake playback buttons in them. While the former practice just ends up confusing users, the latter actually tricks people into clicking through to a website.

10 The new high-end smartphone from the co-creator of Android is finally available to order. Essential says the device, called the Essential Phone, is available at Sprint, Best Buy, and its website and it costs \$699.

Obama’s anti-racism tweet after Charlottesville is most liked ever on Twitter

A tweet by Barack Obama condemning racism in the aftermath of a far-right rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, has become the most liked tweet ever, with more than 3 million social media users so far endorsing the sentiment.

The tweet, quoting the late South African president Nelson Mandela, read: “No one is born hating another person because of the color of his skin or his background or his religion.”



Far-right protesters opposing the removal of a statue of Confederate General Robert E Lee from Emancipation Park rallied in Charlottesville on Saturday. Many waved burning torches and wore Nazi or other white supremacist regalia. They were met with counter-protests from antifascist campaigners, who were targeted by a man who drove a car into a group, killing civil rights activist Heather Heyer and injuring several more.

In the wake of Heyer’s death, many in the US and across the world criticised a terse response from President Donald Trump on Twitter, followed by a press conference in which he failed to condemn white supremacists.

Many on social media pointed out the difference in tone between US presidents 44 and 45.

Six of the 10 most liked tweets of all time are by Obama, from his personal @BarackObama account and as @POTUS44.

(Source: WashingtonPost)

Cloud is the ignored dimension of security

By Asha McLean

When it comes to enterprise security, the cloud is the ignored dimension, a report from networking vendor Cisco has found.

According to the Cisco 2017 Mid-year Cybersecurity Report, the cloud is a whole new frontier for hackers, and they are increasingly exploring its potential as an attack vector as often cloud systems are “mission-critical” for organisations.

Hackers, the report explains, also recognise that they can infiltrate connected systems faster by breaching cloud systems.

Since the end of 2016, Cisco said it observed an increase in activity targeting cloud systems, with attacks ranging in sophistication.

In January 2017, the company's researchers caught attackers hunting for valid breached corporate identities using brute-force attacks. The hackers were creating a library of verified corporate user credentials, which saw them attempt to log into multiple corporate cloud deployments using servers on 20 suspicious IP addresses, Cisco said.

The report says that open authorisation (OAuth) -- which allows an end user's account information to be used by third-party services, such as Facebook, without exposing the user's password -- is in fact creating risk, in addition to its intended purpose of powering the cloud.

“OAuth risk and poor management of single privileged user accounts create security gaps that adversaries can easily exploit,” the report states. “Malicious hackers have already moved to the cloud and are working relentlessly to breach corporate cloud environments.”

According to Cisco, some of the larg-



est breaches to date began with the compromise and misuse of a single privileged user account.

“Gaining access to a privileged account can provide hackers with the virtual ‘keys to the kingdom’ and the ability to carry out widespread theft and inflict significant damage,” the report explains. “However, most organisations aren't paying enough attention to this risk.”

The average enterprise today has more than 1,000 unique apps in its environment and more than 20,000 different installations of those apps.

Cisco said its threat researchers examined 4,410 privileged user accounts at 495 organisations and found that six in every 100 end users per cloud platform have privileged user accounts, with many organisations having an average of two privileged users that carry out most of the

administrative tasks.

As part of good practice, Cisco recommends administrators pay close attention to the IP addresses used to log in, with the average two users generally accessing the platform via the same handful of IP addresses.

“Activity outside those normal patterns should be investigated,” Cisco said.

Another action Cisco recommends is to have administrators log out once they have completed their required tasks, as open sessions make it easier for unauthorised users to gain access and to do so undetected.

The recent phishing campaign that targeted Gmail users and attempted to abuse the OAuth infrastructure underscored the OAuth security risk, Cisco said.

The bogus Docs app used Google's OAuth implementation to request access

to the Gmail accounts of targets. If users granted the app access, it sent the same phishing email to the user's contacts.

Google reported that about 0.1 per cent of its 1 billion users were affected by the campaign, with Cisco “conservatively” estimating that more than 300,000 corporations were infected by the worm.

As companies look to expand their use of the cloud, Cisco urges them to understand their role in ensuring cloud security, noting that cloud service providers are responsible for the physical, legal, operational, and infrastructure security of the technology they sell, but businesses are responsible for securing the use of underlying cloud services.

“Applying the same best practices that they use to ensure security in on-premises environments can go a long way toward preventing unauthorised access of cloud systems,” Cisco explained.

The company's midyear report covers multiple threat types across many vectors, with Cisco noting its security experts are becoming increasingly concerned about the accelerating pace of change and sophistication in the overall global cyber threat landscape.

Revenue generation is still the top objective of most threat actors, Cisco said, noting however that increasing is the malicious inclination to lock systems and destroy data as part of their attack process -- simply because they can.

“The breadth and depth of recent ransomware attacks alone demonstrate how adept adversaries are at exploiting security gaps and vulnerabilities across devices and networks for maximum impact,” the report says.

(Source: zdnet)

Nokia 8 hopes to beat Apple and Samsung with ‘bothie’

Nokia has launched the most important new handset in its attempts to revitalise the once world-beating brand for the modern smartphone era dominated by Samsung, Apple and China's Huawei.

The Nokia 8 marks the culmination of efforts to bring the Finnish telecoms brand back to the mainstream handset market, which kicked off six months ago with the nostalgia-inducing remake of the classic Nokia 3310 feature phone.

The Android flagship smartphone, designed to compete with the likes of the iPhone 7 and Samsung's Galaxy S8, features a polished aluminium body, Carl Zeiss cameras, spatial audio pulled from Nokia's high-end 360-degree camera and a high-resolution 5.3-inch screen.

Nokia handsets are being revived by HMD Global, a private equity-backed firm led by former employees of the Finnish company.

The company is pushing what it calls the “bothie” as the next evolution of the selfie, using Nokia's Dual Sight technology to fire up both the rear and front-facing cameras at the same time, shooting video or photos of a subject and the smartphone operator simultaneously, which can be shared live directly to



Facebook or YouTube.

“We know that fans are creating and sharing live content more than ever before, with millions of photos and videos shared every minute on social media,” said Juho Sarvikas, HMD chief product officer. “People are inspired by the content they consume and are looking for new ways to create their own.”

The 7.9 mm-thick smartphone has similar specifications to other top-end rivals, but lacks the super-slim bezel designs of the best devices from 2017, with large panels above and below the screen, which have been

eliminated by rivals.

Nokia's rekindled partnership with Zeiss has produced dual 13-megapixel cameras for the back of the phone. The new so-called computational photography technique is similar to that employed by Apple, Google, Huawei and LG in their latest smartphones.

The new phone has spatial audio technology that was previously used in Nokia's high-end OZO 360 camera, which can play back sound in multiple directions, imitating how it was captured during recording.

Ben Wood, chief of research at CCS Insight, said: “The Nokia 8 has some innovative features including the dual-sight function on the camera and the 360-degree audio recording but it's not yet clear whether these are game-changing features that will lure consumers away from established rivals such as Apple and Samsung.”

Coming off the back of the launches of the Nokia 3, 5 and 6 smartphones aimed at the low-end smartphone market, HMD said the Nokia 8 will cost €599 (£546) and will go on sale in early September, placing it in the middle of the launch season for new smartphones from both Samsung and Apple.

(Source: Guardian)

Samsung Galaxy S8 is the best-selling Android phone in Q2 2017



The only real competitor for Samsung's flagships are Apple's iPhones, so there will be no surprise if the Galaxy S8 will be the best-selling Android smartphone in 2017.

The latest research from Strategy Analytics suggests Samsung Galaxy S8 and S8+ smartphones shipped 19 million units worldwide.

Apple's iPhone 7 remains world's most popular smartphone model overall with no less than 16.9 million units shipped, while its bigger brother, the iPhone 7 Plus ended Q2 with 15.1 million units shipped. Apple's iPhone 7 models account for 8.9% of the global smartphone market share, while Samsung's Galaxy S8 and S8+ captured only 5.3%.

(Source: StrategyAnalytics)

Lenovo posts Q1 loss due to higher costs, slowing PC demand



Chinese personal computer maker Lenovo Group Ltd. posted a first-quarter loss on Friday citing higher costs and slower growth in the personal computer market, and said the outlook was challenging due to supply constraints. Lenovo, which lost its position as the world's largest PC maker to HP Inc. in the quarter through June, lost \$72 million compared with a profit of \$173 million for the same period last year.

Revenue was flat at \$10.01 billion, in line with an estimate of \$10 billion. Lenovo has suffered from a global decline in PC demand as consumers turn to smartphones and tablets, particularly in its home market of China.

(Source: indianexpress)

Technology companies denounce neo-Nazis



Technology companies join together to condemn white supremacists and President Trump in aftermath Charlottesville rally.

Apple, LinkedIn, Spotify and Twitter have joined a growing chorus of technology companies to hit out at the far right and Donald Trump's attempt to put white supremacists and leftwing counter-demonstrators at Saturday's Charlottesville protest on the same moral plane.

Following the lead of Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg, Google, Go Daddy and others, Apple CEO Tim Cook pledged \$1m donations to the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) and the Anti-Defamation League and sent a strongly worded memo to staff, quoting Martin Luther King, about the violence in Charlottesville on Saturday.

(Source: Reuters)

GitHub’s CEO is stepping down for the second time

GitHub CEO Chris Wanstrath will step down from his role as soon as he finds a replacement.

Wanstrath, one of three founders of the popular development platform for computer programmers, announced his plan at an all-hands meeting in San Francisco, where the company was celebrating hitting a new financial milestone, according to Forbes, which first reported the news.

Wanstrath will become executive chairman once a replacement is found.



The move will mark the second time that Wanstrath has stepped down from the CEO role. He was the company's first CEO, but was replaced in 2012 by fellow co-founder Tom Preston-Werner. When Preston-Werner resigned in 2014 following an investigation into gender based harassment, Wanstrath returned to the CEO role (the company later said the investigation found no evidence of illegal practices, according to the New York Times).

(Source: Businessinsider)

The sun's corona, a fiery halo, is still a mystery to scientists

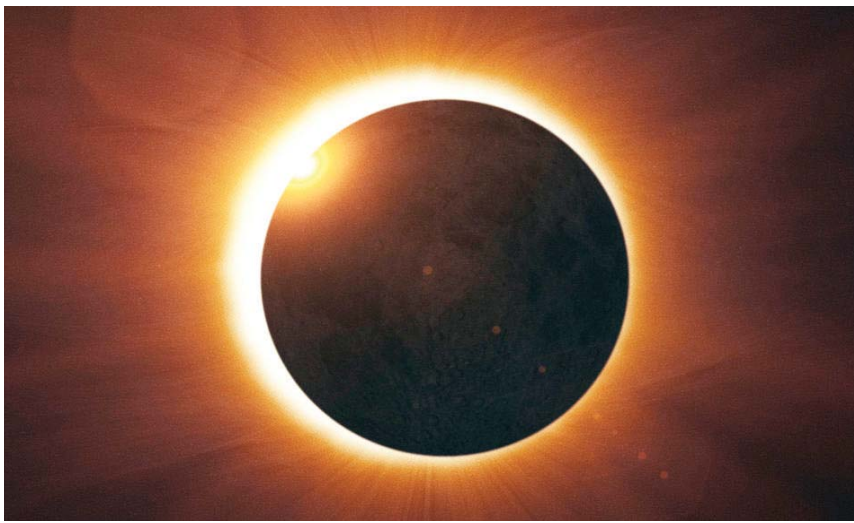
There are many things we don't understand in this universe — and some of those things sit right in our own backyard. Not our literal backyard, of course, but in one case, at the very heart of our solar system: the sun itself. Total solar eclipses offer a crucial chance to learn more about this star's unusual outer atmosphere.

Over the past century, scientists have puzzled out the process of nuclear fusion that has powered the sun for billions of years, detected neutrinos emanating from those fiery reactions in the core, modeled the process of energy transfer via conduction and predicted the fate of the sun as a white dwarf billions of years from now.

But the corona is something else. The thin, tenuous outer atmosphere of the sun extends millions of kilometers past the photosphere, what we usually think of as the sun's visible "surface." That makes the corona thicker than the main body of the sun itself, for those of you keeping track.

■ Solar eclipse

The corona is so dim that it's usually totally overwhelms by the light emitted from the photosphere. But during a total solar eclipse, that light is conveniently blocked, giving us the spectacle of



a moon embraced by a fiery halo. The corona is finally allowed its moment to shine. For those of you lucky enough to find yourselves on the path of totality on Aug. 21 (boldly assuming it won't be cloudy that day), you'll get to see this rare

sight with your own eyes.

Did I mention that the corona has a temperature of over a million Kelvin? That seems like an important detail. That's roughly the same temperature as the sun's cacophonous nuclear core, and it's

High temperatures mean that a single particle will slam into you like a bullet, but if there are hardly any particles around to begin with, you'll barely feel a warm breeze.

way, way hotter than the bulky mass of the rest of the sun.

Of course, you wouldn't feel that heat if you swam through it. The corona is incredibly thin, and its temperature is a measure of the average speed of the particles that comprise it.

■ High temperature

High temperatures mean that a single particle will slam into you like a bullet, but if there are hardly any particles around to begin with, you'll barely feel a warm breeze.

So how does the corona get so hot, despite extending far beyond the surface of the sun? Well, scientists are not exactly sure. It might have something to do with magnetic fields, though. We know that as a spinning ball of charged particles, the sun carries some pretty hefty magnetic energy.

It's this cycle of twisting-and-releasing magnetic field lines that scientists think is responsible for sunspot cycles and solar weather like flares and coronal mass ejections.

Does this process of releasing stored magnetic energy feed the flames of the corona? Its intensity does seem to be linked to the sunspot cycle, which is an important clue.

(Source: space.com)

Scientists solve birds' ability to navigate longitude

Migratory birds successfully navigate thousands of miles because they are able to sense the difference between true and magnetic north, scientists have discovered.

For centuries, human exploration was stymied by the problem of accurately locating longitudinal position.

But whereas the challenge was eventually solved through complicated mathematical calculations, new research reveals that birds naturally develop an east-west understanding, enabling them to build a mental "world map" which they remember for the rest of their lives.

It seems that a bird as unassuming as the reed warbler, may have a geographic map or memory that enables it to identify its longitudinal position on the globe.

■ Common reed warbler

Experiments using the common reed warbler showed they were sensitive to the difference between true north, the geographic North Pole, and magnetic north, a separate location in the Arctic Circle.

In Europe, the difference increases from east to west, and the new study indicates warblers are able to sense this variation to determine where they are.

The international team of researchers, including sci-

entists from Bangor University, predict that this sensitivity is shared by many other species.

It has long been believed that birds rely on the Earth's magnetic fields to navigate their epic migrations, but precisely how they solve the longitudinal riddle has, until now, remained a mystery.

"It seems that a bird as unassuming as the reed warbler, may have a geographic map or memory that enables it to identify its longitudinal position on the globe, only by detecting the magnetic north pole and its variance from true north," said Dr. Richard Holland, of Bangor University, who took part in the research.

■ Combined with external cues

"This, combined with other external cues, which may include the strength of the magnetic field, star positions or smells enables it to locate its current position and orient itself during a long migration."

Holding the birds in small funnel shaped cages that record their orientation tendencies, the team recorded the birds' tendency to orient towards their migratory route from Europe to North Africa, before changing the magnetic field around the aviaries to represent an 8.5 degree variance from true north.



The mature birds re-orientated themselves, but the younger ones became confused, suggesting the magnetic map is learnt by experience.

For humans, determining latitude, or the north-south position, has always been relatively easy as it can be found using the altitude of the sun at noon.

But for longitude, early sailors had to rely on dead reckoning, calculating a current position based on estimated speeds over a certain time from a previously determined position.

(Source: The Telegraph)

Vegetarian, raptor-like dinosaur could be 'missing link' between t-rex family and herbivores

When archaeologists discovered the fossilized remains of Chilesaurus diegouarezi in southern Chile, they were perplexed.

The dinosaur had a unique mix of features, some of which belonged to the theropod group of dinosaur v -- mostly carnivorous beasts that included Tyrannosaurus rex — but also other characteristics that placed it outside that classification, such as flat, leaf-shaped teeth that indicated a vegetarian diet.

Researchers decided in 2015 that Chilesaurus should be classified as an unusual form of theropod. But now, a new study suggests that the dinosaur was actually an early member of a completely

different group, known as ornithischia. And, the researchers say, this species could be the missing link between herbivorous dinosaurs and their meat-eating counterparts.

■ Basic categories

Dinosaurs first appeared around 230 million years ago and have long been divided into two basic categories based on their hip structure.

Ornithischians — a Greek term meaning "bird-hipped" — have a four-pronged pelvic structure with a pubic bone that points downwards and are the ancestors of modern birds. Saurischians, or "lizard-hipped," have a three-pronged pelvis

with the pubic bone pointing upwards and are the forebears of modern reptiles like crocodiles. Theropods like

Tyrannosaurus and Velociraptor are a subdivision of saurischia.

In the new study, published in Biology Letters, paleontologists from the University of Cambridge, in the UK, and the Natural History Museum in London analyzed more than 450 anatomical features of early dinosaurs in order to classify the Chilesaurus, which lived during the Late Jurassic period around 150 million years ago. They determined that the dinosaur likely belonged to a "transitional" group that marked the early evolution of ornith-

ischian dinosaurs.

"Chilesaurus almost looks like it was stitched together from different animals, which is why it baffled everybody," said Matthew Baron, a postdoctoral student at the University of Cambridge and the paper's joint first author.

■ Fossilized remains

A Chilean family discovered the first fossilized remains of Chilesaurus in 2004; the species was named after the seven-year-old boy, Diego Suarez, who stumbled upon a fossil at the Black Hill site near General Carrera Lake in southern Chile, the Guardian reported.

(Source: Newsweek)

KSC CEO: Iran Exports Steel to Brazil and Canada

Khuzestan Steel Company (KSC) exported quality steel to Brazil and Canada, Public Relations Dept. of the company announced.

Promotion of nonoil exports is one of the main priorities of the respected government, the issue of which has been taken into serious consideration in recent years particularly.

For his part, Mohammad-Reza Mo-

dares Khyabani Chief Executive of Khuzestan Steel Company said: "KSC has managed to increase its exports to the target markets especially in recent years."

Once major problems such as financing projects and guarantees needed to receive foreign finance are settled, it can be expected that the company can be turned into leading exporter of steel in



the region, he maintained.

Effective steps have been taken to export 1,900,000 tons of quality steel to the foreign markets, he said, adding: "Relying upon the assistance of the Almighty God, the management of Khuzestan Steel Company intends to materialize most economic objectives of this industrial unit in the coming years."

Interaction of Government Economic Team to Strengthen Ties with China

Cooperation, coordination and interaction of government's economic team will strengthen relationship with China.

Chief Executive of Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO) Mehdi Karbasian announced the above statement and said: "With the coordination made in this regard, more cooperation of government's economic team under President Rouhani will strengthen our relations with China."

In his meeting with the Deputy Director General of China Export and Credit Insurance Guarantee Fund (Sinosure) Gou Xinsuang, CEO of IMIDRO said: "Considering the cooperation and interaction between new proposed ministers of Economy and Industry and also governor of Central Bank of Iran for the development of ties with countries such as China, it is predicted that Iran will witness a deeper relationship between Iran and China in the next four years."



He reiterated: "In the first round of President Rouhani Administration, approx. €20 billion worth of Iran's economic projects were financed by Chinese government, €3 billion of which is related to the mine and mining projects covered by IMIDRO."

Elsewhere in his remarks, he added: "In the last three years, Chinese companies held several negotiations

with the Iranian sides in the aluminum, alumina, copper and steel sectors and have promised to make huge investment in these areas but actually, nothing special has thus far been happened."

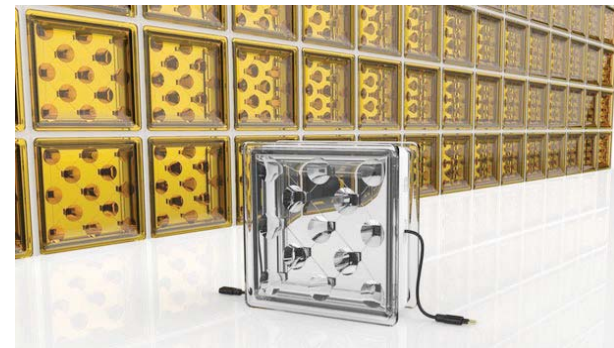
He pointed to the problem related to the fast change of Chinese banking rules and regulations and emphasized: "A company such as NFC in China can uphold several projects in Iran."

He further pointed out that a new Letter of Credit (L/C) will be opened by China for the development of Tabas New Coal Project and said: "Currently, we are waiting vehemently for guarantee of Chinese company as winner of tender."

For his part, Deputy Director General of China Export and Credit Insurance Guarantee Fund (Sinosure) Gou Xinsua emphasized that Chinese companies are ready to expand and develop their economic ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

New glass blocks may be a clear choice for solar power

Buildings have a lot of surface area that's exposed to sunlight, so why just stop at rooftop solar panels? We've already seen solar energy-harvesting windows, and of course Tesla's solar roof. Thanks to research being carried out at the University of Exeter, we may soon also have the option of replacing opaque exterior walls with solar glass blocks.



Known as Solar Squared, the transparent blocks contain multiple optical elements that each focus incoming sunlight onto an individual solar cell.

All of the cells within each block are linked together, and the blocks themselves can in turn be wired to one another, ultimately feeding into the building's electrical grid or a battery.

Although much of the sunlight passes right through the blocks to illuminate the building's interior, tinting can be added on their inside surface to keep rooms from overheating.

As a side benefit, they're claimed to offer better thermal insulation than traditional glass blocks.

The technology is being developed by spinoff company Build Solar, which is currently looking for partners to help carry out commercial testing. It is hoped that a finished product will be available by sometime next year. There's currently no word on cost or efficiency.

(Source: New Atlas)

Boron nitride foam soaks up carbon dioxide

Rice University materials scientists have created a light foam from two-dimensional sheets of hexagonal-boron nitride (h-BN) that absorbs carbon dioxide.

They discovered freeze-drying h-BN turned it into a macro-scale foam that disintegrates in liquids. But adding a bit of polyvinyl alcohol (PVA) into the mix transformed it into a far more robust and useful material.

The foam is highly porous and its properties can be tuned for use in air filters and as gas absorption materials, according to researchers in the Rice lab of materials scientist Pulickel Ajayan.

The polyvinyl alcohol serves as a glue. Mixed into a solution with flakes of h-BN, it binds the junctions as the microscopic sheets arrange themselves into a lattice when freeze-dried. The one-step process is scalable, the researchers said.

"Even a very small amount of PVA works," said co-author and Rice postdoctoral researcher Chandra Sekhar Tiwary. "It helps make the foam stiff by gluing the interconnects between the h-BN sheets - and at the same time, it hardly changes the surface area at all."

In molecular dynamics simulations, the foam adsorbed 340 percent of its own weight in carbon dioxide. The greenhouse gas can be evaporated out of the material, which can be reused repeatedly, Tiwary said.

Compression tests showed the foam got stiffer through 2,000 cycles as well.

And when coated with PDMS, another polymer, the foam becomes an effective shield from lasers that could be used in biomedical, electronics and other applications, he said.

Ultimately, the researchers want to gain control over the size of the material's pores for specific applications, like separating oil from water.

(Source: EurekAlert)

Mars rover to focus on alien life

An American mission to Mars will focus on three key areas where alien life may once have thrived and gather samples to be returned to Earth, scientists have been told.

The Mars 2020 mission will launch a rover to the Red Planet in three years' time to look for chemical relics of Martian bugs.

ExoMars Rover, a European mission also launching in 2020, will use similar techniques to search for life biosignatures.

However the NASA craft will also collect 30 to 40 rock samples and seal them in titanium tubes on the Martian surface for future retrieval.

Deputy project scientist Dr. Ken Williford was speaking at the Goldschmidt Conference geochemistry meeting in Paris, France.

He said: 'Mars 2020 represents a crucial first step towards a possible Mars sample return.'

'Our objective is to collect a diverse set of samples from our landing site with the best potential to preserve records of the evolution of Mars - including the presence of life if it was there.'

'We'll use our onboard instruments to provide the critical field context that future scientists would need to understand the measurements made back on Earth.'

One site at Columbia Hills in Gusev crater was previously visited by the NASA Spirit rover and features silica deposits thought to be evidence of hydrothermal springs, which on Earth are havens for life.

The two other sites are located close together on the edge of Isidis Planitia, one of the largest and oldest impact craters in the Solar System.

(Source: skynews.com)

Female bikers promote clean transportation in Tehran

SOCIETY **TEHRAN** — A group of female cyclists in western Tehran has established an NGO on the belief that bicycle provides affordable and clean transportation.



The bikers are members of the Shahrbanoo Sports and Cultural Complex, a venue of District 21 of Tehran Municipality.

The project, part of a national campaign dubbed “It Starts with Us”, is primarily aimed to enhance the culture of cycling, respect for traffic laws, car pool, cleaner air, as well as pedestrian rights.

The campaign, organized by the Tehran Municipality’s department of transportation in cooperation with street theater performers, was launched back in February.

Yazd ranks first in providing accessibility for the disabled

SOCIETY **TEHRAN** — In terms of access facilities, Yazd Province ranks first in observing the Comprehensive Law on Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, an official in Iran’s Welfare Organization says.

Kurdistan Province is the runner-up and Tehran Province comes third, Ebrahim Kazemi Momensaraie announced.



The accessibility for people with disabilities in Yazd province has risen 54%, in Kurdistan 41% and in Tehran 21%, he said.

According to the law, the organizations and municipalities shall find solutions to mobility and accessibility challenges in order to create more facilities for the physically challenged.

The law enforce accessibility improvements for handicapped and wheelchair-bound citizens navigating sidewalks with providing sidewalk installations, repairs and curb cut-ins and handicapped parking availability for proximity to a building’s entrance, space for loading and unloading wheelchair equipment.

LEARN ENGLISH

The Office - What Do You Do?

A: Oh, look, there’s Veronica and her fiancée. She’s always **going on about** him at the office. Oh, great, they saw us. They’re coming this way.

B: Oh, man...

C: Jessica! Arthur! Hi! I’d like you to meet my fiancée Greg, he’s the V. P. of quality and safety for a top **Fortune 500** food company.

A: Nice to meet you. This is my husband, Arthur.

B: Hey, how’s it going?

D: Hello.

A: Veronica talks about you all the time. I guess you must be pretty busy at work.

D: Well, yeah, a V.P. position is not easy, you know! I **implement** policies and procedures **nationwide**. of various departments, as well as train junior managers in FDA and EPA regulations. I also have to **oversee** daily ope

B: Wow, yeah... that sounds exciting.

D: And what about you, Arthur? What do you do for a living?

B: Oh, I’m a Top Gun pilot!

■ **Key Vocabulary**
go on about: talk about something a lot
Fortune 500: top 500 companies, rated by revenue
implement: begin to do something, put into action
nationwide Adjective in the whole country
oversee: watch and direct to make sure a job is done correctly

■ **Supplementary Vocabulary**
develop relationships: make good relationships
handle complaints: look after or take care of complaints: write official documents

coordinate: make arrangements or plans with a group of people

monitor: watch and check

supervise: be in charge of something , watch and direct

ensure: make sure

(Source: irlanguage.com)



Rangers, locals join hands to save hundreds of flamingo chicks

ENVIRONMENT **TEHRAN** — Flamingo chicks which were stranded in the briny shallow waters of Bakhtegan Lake in Fars province have been saved by the help of rangers and the local people.

The chicks were doomed to face a tragic death if they were left helpless.

In a collaborative effort the villagers and the rangers prevented death of 1,000 flamingo chicks which were stuck in the extremely shallow briny leftover water of the lake.

Bakhtegan Lake was a salt lake in Fars Province, southern Iran. With a surface area of 3,500 square kilometers it was once Iran’s second-largest lake. It was fed by the Kor River. Several dams on the river had significantly reduced water flow into the lake, increasing its salinity and endangering the lake’s populations of flamingos and other migratory birds.

Lake Bakhtegan is now completely dry. Taking more water out of the salt lake watershed than is flowing into it, diverting the river water (which would normally fill the lake) and using it for farming, industry,



and human consumption, digging numerous wells, etc. have completely depleted the lake.

However, a rather high precipitation in the mid-spring had filled the lake to some extent and attracted flamingos. The birds started to nest and lay eggs, but a rise in temperature and evaporation allowed salts and minerals to concentrate in the

lake and flamingo chicks, unable to fly, get stuck in the lake.

Nabiollah Moradi, the caretaker of the department of environment in Fars province, said rangers soon spotted that flamingo chicks, unable to fly, were dying one after another.

“So we decided to save the chicks by removing them from the lake, washing

them and releasing them in the western parts of the lake where there is enough water for them to survive, however, we feared that their parents would never show up again to feed the chick and that they die,” Moradi explained.

“So we decided to purchase water from the villagers and transfer it to the lake to buy some time for the chick to fly away” and fortunately the villagers themselves offered to help, he added.

Some 40 to 50 villagers helped dig canals during the nights, as it was very hot during the day, and in two weeks the lake was filled with enough water for the baby flamingos to wash themselves and escape death, he stated.

Moradi further regretted the fact that some 40 to 50 baby flamingos died, however some 1,000 were saved from certain death.

“What happened to Bakhtegan Lake is the result of flawed policies in 1980s and 1990s which have produced such adverse outcomes that can’t be reversed anymore,” he lamented.

In a like event in 2007 some 3,000 flamingo chicks died in Bakhtegan Lake.

Ways to keep a sleep routine during school holidays

For parents one of the best things about holidays is catching up on much-needed rest.

But for children, going to bed late and then sleeping in for hours on end can be really disruptive to the sleep routine that you’ve worked all year to get right.

■ Have a regular wakeup time

Undoubtedly one of the best things is not needing to set an alarm, but this can be troublesome for children.

Vicki Dawson, CEO of The Children’s Sleep Charity, said: “Make sure that they get up at the same time each day, even at the weekends. Having a regular wake up time is important in order to strengthen your child’s body clock.”

This doesn’t have to be as early as it is during term-time, but making sure it is consistent is key here.

■ Keep the routine familiar, even away from home

Keeping a familiar routine also applies if you’re going away on holiday, as unfamiliar environments can make it more difficult for children to settle at night.

Freegard said: “Keep to the same routine you follow outside of summer - bath, story and so on. [Your] children take their cue from you.”

■ Have a wind-down period before bed (without screens)

If you are struggling to keep your child’s routine fairly consistent, despite them seeming tired, make sure you aren’t allowing them to do more activities or have screen-time later than you normally would do.



“Plan wind-down time in the hour leading up to bedtime. Hand-to-eye co-ordination activities are helpful such as jigsaws, colouring and craft activities. Avoid screens in the hour before bedtime, they interfere with the production of the sleep hormone melatonin making it harder to nod off,” said Dawson.

■ Make sure they are not overheating during the night

If you manage to get them down on time but struggling to keep them there through the night (both at home during a heatwave or abroad), you might want to check that they aren’t getting too hot.

Freegard said: “If the heat is so intense your child needs to nap in the day then go to bed a little later, let them. Hotter countries follow this sleep pattern.”

■ Keep the bedroom as dark as possible

Just as heat is a factor to consider during the summer holidays, your child may also be confused because the sun is up much later and rises much earlier. Even for adults this requires a period of adjustment.

Dawson said: “Black out blinds can help your child to get a good night’s sleep in the summer months. Having consistent lighting in a room is important and the early morning sunshine can wake some children.”

They also keep the room cooler, says Freegard.

■ If the routine is completely gone, start again slowly

For those whose routine has completely gone, don’t force yourself to adopt overnight, have a gradual plan of action.

Dawson recommends planning over the last couple of weeks of the holiday to gradually move bedtime back by fifteen minutes every three nights, she said: “[Do this] until your child is going to sleep at their regular bedtime by the time school start.”

■ Don’t get too worried about it

It’s a pain to have to re-do all the hard work but ultimately, your child will get back into their routine (it might just involve a few tears first).

Siobhan said: “Remember to follow nature. Animals and birds sleep for fewer hours in summer so if your children want to too, don’t worry. The key is not to stress and to ensure you’re getting enough sleep too so you can cope.”

(Source: huffingtonpost.com)

Factory farming in Asia creating global health risks, report warns

The use of antibiotics in factory farms in Asia is set to more than double in just over a decade, with potentially damaging effects on antibiotic resistance around the world.

Factory farming of poultry in Asia is also increasing the threat of bird flu spreading beyond the region, with more deadly strains taking hold, according to a new report from a network of financial investors.

Use of antibiotics in poultry and pig farms will increase by more than 120% in Asia by 2030, based on current trends. Half of all antibiotics globally are now

consumed in China alone. The Chinese meat and animal feed producers New Hope Group and Wen’s Group are now among the 10 biggest animal feed manufacturers in the world.

The growth of Asian meat production in intensive units is also producing a rise in greenhouse gas emissions from the food chain, with emissions likely to rise by more than 360m tons, the equivalent of running 100 coal-fired power plants for a year. There are knock-on impacts such as deforestation, as China’s need for animal feed is responsible for more than a third of Brazil’s soybean production.

The report, Factory Farming in Asia: Assessing Investment Risks, comes three years after a meat scandal in China, in which suppliers to McDonalds, KFC and others were found to be using dirty meat and products past their sell-by date. It also comes in the midst of a growing food scandal in Europe, which has required the recall of millions of eggs tainted with harmful chemicals, and as concerns have been aired over the impact of Brexit on imports of farm products to the UK.

Asian food companies have rapidly expanded their meat production in response to growing populations and the

tastes of the rising middle class, but this expansion has come to the detriment of food safety.

Jeremy Collier, of Collier Capital, said: “Investors have a big appetite for the animal protein sector in Asia. But the growth is driven by a boom in factory farming that creates problems like emissions and epidemics, abuse of antibiotics and abuse of labor. Investors must improve the management of sustainability issues in the Asian meat and dairy industries if they want to avoid a nasty bout of financial food poisoning.”

(Source: The Gaurdian)

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

A ↔ ع

Welfare organization empowers breadwinner women

Some 180,000 breadwinner women across the country are currently supported by the State Welfare Organization, said Habibollah Masoudi-Farid, the deputy director of the organization.

The women and their children receive allowances, and benefit from health, insurance, and job creation services, as well as down payment for housing, IRNA quoted Masoudi-Farid as saying.

Currently, there are around 2.5 million breadwinner women in the country, he said, adding a number of 180,000 families, making up 500,000 people, are receiving financial aids from the organization. About 71 percent of breadwinner women have taken the responsibility of their families due to loss of their husbands, he stated.

ENGLISH PROVERB

A tree is known by its fruit

■ Explanation: A person is judged by their actions

■ **For example:** The politician may say she believes in more spending on child care, but the tree is known by its fruit; she hasn’t voted for a single measure that would help.

PHRASAL VERB

word up

■ Meaning: give someone information, advice

■ **For example:** The solicitor worded her up client before the police interview, so they go very little out of him.

ENGLISH IDIOM

waiting game

■ Explanation: A person delays taking any action or making any decision because they prefer to wait and see how things develop, usually in the hope that this will put them in a stronger position.

■ **For example:** Our competitors are not reacting. They’re playing a waiting game.

Syrian conflict nearing its end: Adviser to President Assad

“U.S. plans decades-long military presence in northern Syria”

The political and media adviser to Syrian President Bashar al-Assad says the six-year militancy in her country is nearly over as foreign states cut their backing for Takfiri terrorist groups, vowing that government troops would fight against any “illegitimate” forces, whether Turkish or American.

Speaking in an exclusive interview with Lebanon-based Arabic-language al-Mayadeen television news network on Friday, Bouthaina Shaaban said the inauguration of Damascus International Fair and regional participation proves a “U-turn was achieved” in the foreign-sponsored crisis.

She added the war has reached its “penultimate stage” as foreign powers that backed militant outfits are changing their policies.

“The exhibition is a defeat for their project, but it does not mean that we have won the war completely. We are just at the beginning of the road towards reconstruction and rebuilding Syria,” Shaaban commented.

The senior Syrian official later criticized Turkey for sponsoring terrorists, arguing that Ankara government says one thing but does another.

Shaaban accused Turkey of playing with all parties in order to win a major regional role through destruction of Syria.

“The presence of Turkish troops is an attack that we will address in a timely manner,” she said, adding that Damascus rejects Ankara’s role in de-escalation zones as Ankara tries to legitimize its presence.

“Just as we defeated terrorism, we will



fight any illegitimate presence on our land, whether it’s the United States or Turkey,” Shaaban said.

Shaaban stressed that the United States will not be able to implement any plan to partition Syria.

The remarks came on the same day that Syria’s official news agency SANA reported that army troops, backed by allied fighters from popular defense groups, have made territorial gains against ISIL (Daesh) extremists in the western-central province of Hama, and almost entirely surrounded them in Uqayribat town.

■ U.S. plans decades-long presence in Syria

Meanwhile, a U.S.-backed militia group in northern Syria says American

forces plan to remain in the Arab state “for decades to come” after the fall of Daesh, adding that Washington is not providing support to anti-Damascus militants “for free.”

In a Thursday report by Reuters, Talal Silo, the spokesman for the U.S.-backed Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), an alliance of militias dominated by the Kurdish People’s Protection Units (YPG), said the SDF believes that Washington has “strategic interests here after the end of Daesh.”

“They have a strategy policy for decades to come. There will be military, economic and political agreements in the long term between the leadership of the northern areas (of Syria)... and the U.S. administration,” Silo said.

The Kurdish-dominated SDF holds 400-kilometer (250-mile) stretch of the Syrian-Turkish border. The U.S. has deployed forces at several locations in northern Syria, providing support to the SDF with air strikes, artillery and special forces on the ground.

The SDF is involved in an operation against Daesh terrorists in Raqqah Province.

In July, the head of the YPG said the U.S. had established seven military bases in northern Syria, including a major air base near the border town of Kobani.

“They (recently) referred to the possibility of securing an area to prepare for a military airport. These are the beginnings – they are not giving support just to leave. America is not providing all this support for free,” Silo said.

He suggested that the U.S. could turn northern Syria into a new base for its forces in the region, adding, “Maybe there could be an alternative to their [Incirlik] base in Turkey.”

Turkey has been on a collision course with the U.S. in Syria, with Ankara sharply criticizing Washington over its support for the YPG, which it views as a terror organization linked to the homegrown Kurdistan Workers’ Party (PKK).

Ties between the NATO powers have further soared in recent months after U.S.-backed YPG militants made a series of gains against Daesh at the Turkish doorstep.

(Source: SANA)

Trump encourages gross violence against Muslims after Barcelona attack

U.S. President Donald Trump has suggested that some Muslims should be executed with bullets dipped in pig’s blood, hours after a deadly terror attack in Barcelona, Spain.

“Study what General Pershing of the United States did to terrorists when caught,” Trump tweeted Thursday afternoon. “There was no more Radical Islamic Terror for 35 years!”

Trump’s tweet referenced a dubious story about U.S. Army General John Pershing’s handling of Muslim prisoners during the Moro Rebellion (1899–1913) in the Philippines. The rebellion was an armed conflict between Muslims and the United States military.

During the 2016 election campaign, Trump frequently told a tale of how Pershing had Moro Muslim prisoners in the Philippines executed with bullets soaked in pig’s blood to quell rebellion against American rule.

Speaking at a rally in Charleston February last year, Trump said General Pershing “took 50 bullets and he dipped them in pig’s blood.”

“And he had his men load his rifles and he lined up the 50 people, and they shot 49 of those people. And the 50th person, he said, ‘You go back to your people and you tell them what happened.’ And for 25 years there wasn’t a problem,” he said.

According to some historians, Trump’s tale is false. They have concluded it would have been “out of character” for Pershing.

But some other historians have suggested that American troops did use pigs or pig’s blood to intimidate Muslims during the Philippine conflict in the early 20th century.

“So yes, there were deliberate efforts to offend Muslim Filipinos’ religious sensibilities,” Christopher Capozzola, a history professor at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, told TIME last year.

“And yes, there was large-scale violence against their communities. But I know of no event like the one that Mr. Trump describes,” he stated.

Muslim advocacy groups have challenged Trump to debate a representative from the American-Muslim community “on the issues” he has “raised about Islam and Muslims.”

Earlier in the day, Trump condemned the attack in Barcelona. At least 13 people were killed and 80 were injured after a van plowed into a crowd in the Spanish city.

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(Source: agencies)

9/11 survivors blast May for rejecting request to release Saudi report

Survivors of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks have lambasted UK Prime Minister Theresa May for “shamefully” rejecting their request to publish a high-profile government report on Saudi Arabia’s funding of terror groups, which they say might hold some clues into the 9/11 as well.

Earlier this summer, a group of 9/11 survivors from the U.S., along with relatives of some of the over 3,000 people killed in the attacks, told May in a letter that her government had “the unique historic opportunity to stop the killing spree of Wahhabism-inspired terrorists” by releasing the report.

May turned down the requests, arguing that the report included “confidential” content.

The answer was supposed to end the ongoing saga over the report, which was commissioned by former UK Prime Minister David Cameron in December 2015. But it only raised questions and prompted more criticism.

■ ‘UK, U.S. inaction killing hopes to curb terror’

Outraged by the response from the government, Sharon Premoli, a 9/11 survivor, told The Independent that London



and Washington were basically allowing Riyadh to commit crimes “with impunity.”

“[The] response did not convey that much would change in the future for one simple reason: the U.S. and the UK continue to protect Saudi Arabia, allowing them to operate freely, with impunity, even supplying them with lethal weapons, as they go about their usual busi-

ness of inspiring intolerance, committing genocide and human rights violations,” she added.

“It’s a shameful day for democracy,” Premoli said, adding that May’s government had thrown away the chance “to make real inroads on the global fight against terror” by “putting the cozy relationship with Saudi Arabia be-

fore the safety of its own citizens.”

Protecting Saudis at Brits’ expense Ellen Sarancini, the widow of a pilot whose plane was hijacked in the attacks, said this was not the first time that the UK government was blocking them to protect the Riyadh regime.

“For 15 years, we have been blocked by our own government who, along with the UK, continue to protect Saudi Arabia at the expense of their citizens,” she said. “The UK report has the potential for ending terrorism by outing those at the center of its funding but refuses to do so.”

Brett Eagleson, whose son John was killed on 9/11, also said the UK was sacrificing its people in order to protect Saudi interests.

Of the 19 hijackers who allegedly carried out the 9/11 attacks, 15 were Saudi nationals and available evidence suggests some of them were linked to high-ranking members of the Saudi royal family.

Saudis have been the largest buyers of UK-made weapons over the past few years, leading some to believe that May is trying to avoid damaging the highly profitable ties by keeping the report a secret.

(Source: press TV)

Syrian army encircles Daesh in central Syria advance

Syria’s army and its allies have encircled a Daesh (ISIL) pocket in central Syria after a series of advances in the desert region, state media, Hezbollah-run media and a war monitor reported on Friday.

President Bashar al-Assad’s military has advanced against Daesh along two prongs towards Deir al-Zor province this year, leaving a large extremist salient stretching back west between them.

Its forces have now cut off part of that salient with a pincer movement, enclosing a large Daesh enclave around the

village of Uqairabat, the state news agency SANA reported.

The military media unit run by Hezbollah said army units pushing southwards from Ithriya and northwards from Jebel Shaer had joined up.

Uqairabat is 37 kilometers east of the town of Salamiya, near the only road through government territory to Aleppo, a route that has sometimes been closed because of fighting. Driving Daesh militants out of that pocket would reduce pressure on the road.

The army has also made advances further east in re-

cent days that could cut off more of the Daesh salient, according to the war monitor, the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

Daesh is on the back foot in Syria, where Kurdish and Arab militias backed by a U.S.-led coalition have captured swathes of its territory in the north and are assaulting its former Syrian “capital” of Raqqah.

The extremist group is now falling back deeper into the Euphrates valley region of eastern Syria.

(Source: AFP)

Erdogan tells Turks in Germany to vote against Merkel and allies

Tayyip Erdogan said on Friday that German Chancellor Angela Merkel’s Christian Democrat Party and its allies were enemies of Turkey, and told Turkish voters in Germany not to vote for them in next month’s election.

“I am calling on all my countrymen in Germany: the Christian Democrats, SDP, the Green Party are all enemies of Turkey. Support those political parties who are not enemies of Turkey,” Erdogan said.

(Source: Reuters)

Paris police evacuate 2,000 migrants

French police moved out around 2,000 migrants from a makeshift camp in an area north of Paris on Friday, the 35th evacuation operation in two years in the capital.

A similar roundup of the mostly Afghan and African migrants around the Porte de la Chapelle area in July saw 2,800 moved from the streets into temporary accommodation.

The new centrist government under President Emmanuel Macron has promised improved procedures and new resources for genuine asylum seekers, but has warned it will take a tougher line on economic migrants.

“It’s a new operation because everyone will undergo an administrative check and will then be sorted based on their situation,” said a senior Paris police officer, Yann Drouet.

Shortly after daybreak, around 30 buses were brought in to move out the migrants, many of whom were ready waiting with small backpacks.

(Source: AP)

What Kenyan voters got for the \$500m spent on elections

8 → Nor are these checks and balances cheap or easy. Even though Kenya only had 19.2 million voters this year against the United States’ 200 million or India’s 814 million, at \$25 per capita Kenya’s 2017 election was probably the most expensive in the world.

Both parties hired foreign IT and political consultants, although the opposition found theirs deported under dubious circumstances a day before the election. The ruling coalition reportedly hired international political consulting firm Cambridge Analytica (which has been credited with President Donald Trump’s electoral victory) and invested heavily in a Central Command System. The opposition is running a parallel tallying system on a server hosted in Tanzania and Germany. And, perhaps the highest cost was human life: IEBC ICT Director Chris Msando was kidnapped, tortured and killed five days before the vote.

The cumbersome process also leads to some absurd complexity. France, with 33.7 million voters announced presidential results in less than eight hours - Kenyans waited four days. An Emirati company was contracted to print ballot papers for the Kenyan election, but as others have wondered, how is it that Kenya can print its own money but not its own ballot papers? Tiny Gambia can use marbles to vote out a 22-year autocracy but the largest economy in East Africa requires close to \$500 million in state costs alone to birth a crisis.

■ Rules of process

If these few days are an indication, hardly anyone has mastered the breadth of process that governs elections in Kenya today, IEBC officials included. None of this procedural complexity is about the voter. That’s why civic education for the August election only began at the end of June, perhaps contributing to over 400,000 rejected votes. It doesn’t matter if the voters understand the rules of the process, as long as enough participate to legitimize the outcome of the power struggle at the top.

This complexity breeds anxiety that comes to a head during counting and tallying. Voters are expected to trust completely a state institution in a country where state institutions have little credibility. The ruling party craves an illusion of modernity, insisting that all the money and law expended built a system that works while papering over legitimate and visible concerns.

The opposition has no power over the process and resorts to extreme measures to gain some measure of control - screaming about hacked systems without revealing how they got into the system themselves.

Elections week in Kenya is a flurry of accusations, obscure legislation and new found importance of faraway places that most Kenyans can’t find on a map, resulting in general unease even though few voters can articulate why.

The threat of violence looms over Kenyan elections in part because of this unease. People use election violence, like other forms of violence, to feel like they’re in control when they’re not. Between 1992 and 2002, the state instigated election violence to retain control after the end of single party rule. In 2007, with Moi out of the picture, opposition politicians - some of whom are in government today - used violence to undermine the state’s complete control over the election process.

The key difference is that before 2002, the state had a relative monopoly on election violence in Kenya but after 2008, violence outside state control became an issue. This is why so few Kenyans associate 1992 or 1997 elections with violence in the way they do the 2007 elections: the concern isn’t violence in general, but violence that isn’t controlled by the state.

And that’s why the killing of 25 people, including a 6-month-old child, by the police isn’t considered election violence.

There are two ways to end the cycle of uncertainty around Kenyan elections. One is to hope for eventual generational change through the ballot, which is happening but at a frighteningly slow pace. The second is for the powers that be to finally build a system for the voter and not for politicians. Give voters a system in which their votes count, and watch the count get better.

(Source: Aljazeera)

Ancelotti banned from smoking at Bayern Munich HQ

Alongside the many changes that come with a new season, Bayern Munich boss Carlo Ancelotti will have to get used to one of his longstanding habits being denied on club premises.

The legendary Italian boss has been told he can no longer smoke inside Bayern's training complex by new sporting director Hasan Salihamidzic.



The newcomer has only been in his new role for around three weeks but is already laying down the law when it comes to club-house etiquette.

The 40-year-old was brought in to help turn Bayern's form around following an unprecedented run of five defeats in six preseason games, and has begun stamping his authority on proceedings in Bavaria.

"I asked Carlo Ancelotti not smoke at the club. Of course he accepts that — he is a true professional," Salihamidzic told Sky Sports.

Things seemed to have picked up however, with Bayern putting their poor pre-season behind them to beat rivals Borussia Dortmund on penalties in the German Super Cup.

Ancelotti's men then went on to humiliate Chemnitz in the first round of the DFB Cup.

When asked about his inability to smoke in the Bayern clubhouses any longer, Ancelotti was upbeat about the situation.

"This is good for my health, my wife is delighted," the legendary boss said.

(Source: Daily Mail)

Russian triple-jumper Pyatykh gets four-year ban - CAS

The Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) has imposed a four-year ban on Russian triple-jumper Anna Pyatykh for violating rules on prohibited substances, the tribunal said on Friday.

The ban takes effect from Dec. 15, 2016, the date her provisional suspension began, it said in a statement.

"The CAS acted as first instance decision-making authority for this matter, substituting for the Russian Athletics Federation, currently suspended by the IAAF," it added.

(Source: Reuters)

Zinedine Zidane heads FIFA coach award shortlist

Real Madrid boss Zinedine Zidane is the leading contender to win FIFA's Men's Coach of the Year award after the shortlist was published on Thursday.

Zidane, who guided Madrid to a Champions League and La Liga double last season, is joined on the list by Chelsea's Premier League-winning boss Antonio Conte and Serie A champion Massimiliano Allegri of Juventus.

Bayern Munich's Carlo Ancelotti, who guided his side to the Bundesliga title, is also on the 12-man shortlist, as are Tottenham's Mauricio Pochettino, Manchester United's Jose Mourinho and Pep Guardiola of Manchester City.

The winner of the award, part of FIFA's The Best series of accolades, will be chosen by national team coaches, captains, selected media representatives and football fans.

The shortlist for the Women's Coach of the Year award includes Netherlands boss Sarina Wiegman, Nigeria's Florence Omagbemi and Chelsea Ladies' Emma Hayes.

Voting close on Sept. 7, with the prizes handed out at a ceremony in London the following month.

(Source: Soccernet)

Juventus boss Allegri sees 'five or six' teams in Scudetto race

Juventus coach Massimiliano Allegri believes five or six teams are in the race to win the Scudetto this season.

Juve are seeking a seventh consecutive Serie A title, but go into the campaign having lost to Lazio in the Supercoppa Italiana.

Allegri's men host Cagliari on Saturday to kick off a new season the Juve boss thinks is wide open, urging his players not to be overconfident.

"If we all work with focus and apply ourselves properly from the first day, yes, we are favorites," said Allegri.

"But we are not favorites if we play our matches with a sense of entitlement about winning things.

"This year it will be a much more balanced championship and there will be five or six teams that will fight for the Scudetto.

"When you win in Italy for six years and do well in Europe, it is difficult to improve, your opponents strengthen themselves and the margin for error decreases.

"It is important to start well because we have a difficult end to the season, with three clashes against direct rivals in our last six games. We have to make sure that by March, we are still in contention in the league and Champions League."

(Source: Goal)

Messi, Ronaldo condemn Barcelona attack



Football icons and longtime rivals Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo joined Spanish sports stars around the world in expressing their grief after Thursday's terror attack in Barcelona left 13 people dead.

Barcelona's most famous street Las Ramblas was packed with tourists when a van drove into the crowds, leaving scenes of carnage.

"I want to send my condolences and all my support to the families and friends of the victims of the terrible attack in our beloved Barcelona, in addition to totally rejecting any act of violence," Barcelona star Messi, 30, wrote on Instagram.

"We are not going to give up, there are many more of us who want to live in a world in peace, without hate and where respect and tolerance are the basis of coexistence," added the Argentine who arrived in the Catalan capital as a teenager 14 years ago.

Real Madrid's Portuguese captain Ronaldo took to social media to express his shock at the attack which also left more than 50 injured.

"Dismayed at the news coming from Barcelona. All the support and solidarity (to) the family and friends of the victims," he wrote on Twitter.

Like Ronaldo and Messi, other athletes took to social network in an outpouring of solidarity with the Catalan capital.

"All my support for the families affected and the city," Spanish tennis ace Rafael Nadal wrote on Twitter, while his great friend, basketball player Pau Gasol, declared himself "devastated by what happened on the Ramblas in Barcelona."

All my support for the victims, wounded and relatives in these difficult times."

All football clubs in the Spanish first and second divisions will observe a minute's silence in memory of the victims when the new La Liga season starts on Friday.

"All clubs will pay homage to the victims and their families after the tragedy in Barcelona," Spanish league officials said in a statement.

Spanish three-time world motorcycling champion Marc Marquez, also a Catalonia native, accompanied his message with an image of a circle formed with the motto "I love Barcelona" surrounding that same expression in Catalan with a big heart.

From Portugal, Porto goalkeeper Iker Casillas wrote: "What sadness, all my solidarity with the victims and their

families. A lot of strength Barcelona."

And from Paris, a city that has also suffered similar terror outrages, Paris Saint-Germain's Spanish coach Unai Emery was "very saddened by the news coming from Barcelona, unfortunately one more black day. All my support for the victims and their families."

"No to terrorism. No to the dictatorship of fear. Stop terrorism," wrote Real Madrid captain Sergio Ramos on Twitter, with the image of a broken heart.

FC Barcelona took to Twitter: "Deeply saddened by the attack on our city. All our thoughts are with the victims, their families and with the people of Barcelona."

Barcelona also said their players would wear black armbands in their home game against Real Betis on Sunday.

Real Madrid issued an official statement expressing "its deepest sorrow regarding the attack which has taken place in the city of Barcelona and the club stands together with the victims, their families and their friends."

"It also hopes for the quickest possible recovery to all those injured in the incident."

Villarreal, meanwhile, decided to suspend the official presentation of Colombian striker Carlos Bacca "as a sign of mourning" for the attack.

From the world of cycling, the general director of the Vuelta, which begins on Saturday in the French city of Nîmes, said: "We are dismayed by the dramatic attack in Barcelona and our condemnation of these events is total."

(Source: AFP)

Durant won't go to White House to visit Trump



If the Golden State Warriors are invited to White House, Kevin Durant said he will not visit with President Donald Trump to celebrate the team's 2017 championship.

Durant was honored in his hometown of Seat Pleasant, Md. and the 2017 Finals MVP told ESPN he will not attend any possible ceremony with Trump.

"Nah, I won't do that," Durant told ESPN. "I don't respect who's in office right now."

Durant and the Warriors are scheduled to visit the Washington Wizards Feb. 28. The Warriors have been officially been invited by the Trump administration.

"I don't agree with what he agrees with, so my voice is going to be heard by not doing that," Durant told ESPN. "That's just me personally, but if I know my guys well enough, they'll all agree with me."

Durant's comments occurred as Trump is dealing with the fallout over what transpired in Charlottesville, Va., last Saturday, which has caused many sports figures to vent their frustrations.

Last Saturday, 32-year-old Heather

Heyer was protesting a white supremacist rally and was killed when a car plowed into the crowd of protesters.

Durant said he thinks Trump is playing a role in the increased public visibility of white supremacists.

"He's definitely driving it," Durant told ESPN. "I feel ever since he's got into office, or since he ran for the presidency, our country has been so divided and it's not a coincidence."

Durant is not the only NBA star to speak out against Trump.

On Tuesday, Cleveland Cavaliers superstar LeBron James called out Trump on twitter by saying: "Hate has always existed in America. Yes we know that but Donald Trump just made it fashionable again! Statues has nothing to do with us now!"

During the regular season, Golden State's Steve Kerr and San Antonio's Gregg Popovich were among the more vocal coaches in publicly criticizing Trump.

(Source: Reuters)

Mayweather accuses Conor McGregor of being a 'dirty fighter'



Floyd Mayweather has accused Conor McGregor of being a 'dirty fighter' of watching footage of the Irishman sparring Paulie Malignaggi.

The former-two weight world champion was a part of McGregor's training camp for around a week, but made a sudden exit when UFC president Dana White decided to share two short videos taken from the sparring sessions.

The footage, just 22 seconds in length, shows McGregor dominating Malignaggi in the ring, before dropping the New Yorker to the canvas with a short right to the head.

However, Mayweather has said he was not impressed by the footage and has instead said all it proves is that McGregor is "extremely dirty" in the ring.

"A lot of shots were illegal," said Mayweather of the footage. "There was a lot of grappling and illegal punching behind the head."

He added: "He had Joe Cortez (a retired Hall of Fame referee) in his camp but I still saw him being extremely dirty. My job is not to worry about the referee but to let the referee do his job."

Mayweather added the physical demands of training for a fight had become much harder on his body than when in his prime, but said he did not let negative thoughts enter his mind.

"I try not to think about losing or taking the 'L'. That's not really my focus. Every day I tell myself I am a winner. I was born to be a winner at life. Not just in the ring but I was born to be a winner," said Mayweather.

"It's all about taking risk. I wouldn't be where I'm at if I didn't take risks so I don't mind putting a 49-0 record on the line, putting everything on the line for this fight. I feel like it's worth it."

(Source: Independent)

The Best FIFA Football Awards: shortlisted candidates revealed

Cristiano Ronaldo will be hoping to be named Best FIFA Men's Player for the second year running after being included among the nominations for the 2017 award.

Real Madrid star Ronaldo, who won the inaugural award last year, is one of 24 players to have been nominated for the accolade.

The award, which covers the period of Nov. 20, 2016, to July 2, 2017, is voted for by national team coaches, captains, selected media and fans and will be handed out at the Best FIFA Football Awards ceremony on Oct. 23 in London.

Ronaldo's nomination comes after a year that saw him help Madrid to a third Champions League crown in four seasons and a first La Liga title in five years, as well as the FIFA Club World Cup.

Ronaldo scored twice as Madrid beat Juventus 4-1 in the Champions League final, while also finishing top scorer in the competition with 12 goals.

Ronaldo faces competition from long-time rival Lionel Messi, who finished up as La Liga's top scorer with 37 goals — 12 ahead of Ronaldo — and helped Barcelona to Copa del Rey success in what was a largely disappointing season for the club.

Juventus captain Gianluigi Buffon will also be vying for the award after guiding his club to a Serie A and Coppa Italia double as well as a place in the Champions League final.



Madrid dominate the list of nominees given their successful 2016-17 campaign, boasting seven players in total. Alongside Ronaldo sits Toni Kroos, Luka Modric, Sergio Ramos, Marcelo, Dani Carvajal and Keylor Navas.

Barcelona are next in line with four nominees, with Neymar — now of Paris Saint-Germain — Luis Suarez and Andres Iniesta joining Messi on the list.

The Best FIFA Women's Player award will also be handed out on the same night, with 2016 winner Carli Lloyd named among the 10 nominees, while Madrid boss Zinedine Zidane is the leading contender to win the Best FIFA Men's Coach award.

Full list of Best FIFA Men's Player nominations:

Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang (Borussia Dortmund, Gabon)
Leonardo Bonucci (Juventus/AC Milan, Italy)
Gianluigi Buffon (Juventus, Italy)
Dani Carvajal (Real Madrid, Spain)
Cristiano Ronaldo (Real Madrid, Portugal)
Paulo Dybala (Juventus, Argentina)
Antoine Griezmann (Atletico Madrid, France)
Eden Hazard (Chelsea, Belgium)
Zlatan Ibrahimovic (Manchester United)
Andres Iniesta (Barcelona, Spain)
Harry Kane, (Tottenham, England)
N'Golo Kante (Chelsea, France)
Toni Kroos (Real Madrid, Germany)
Robert Lewandowski (Bayern Munich, Poland)
Marcelo (Real Madrid, Brazil)
Lionel Messi (Barcelona, Argentina)
Luka Modric (Real Madrid, Croatia)
Keylor Navas (Real Madrid, Costa Rica)
Manuel Neuer (Bayern Munich, Germany)
Neymar (Barcelona/Paris Saint-Germain, Brazil)
Sergio Ramos (Real Madrid, Spain)
Alexis Sanchez (Arsenal, Chile)
Luis Suarez (Barcelona, Uruguay)
Arturo Vidal (Bayern Munich, Chile)

Iran legend Mahdavia hopes Persepolis win FC Champions League

S P O R T S Islamic Republic of d e s k Iran's Persepolis meet Al Ahli of Saudi Arabia in a highly-anticipated 2017 AFC Champions League quarter-final clash on Tuesday in Muscat, Oman.

For such an exciting encounter, the-afc has picked the Iranian club legend to give his views on the mouthwatering meeting.

Legendary Team Melli star Mehdi Mahdavia began and ended his professional career as a player at Persepolis.

The former winger, who numbers over a 100 caps for IR Iran, was one of his nation's leading players and enjoyed an impressive spell in Germany with Hamburg SV and Eintracht Frankfurt.

■ **What have you made of your former clubs' performances in the AFC Champions League so far?**

Mahdavia: I think Persepolis has given a good performance this season in the AFC Champions League and they are one of the strongest sides in the quarter-final.

■ **How have you rated their work in the transfer market?**

Mahdavia: They did a good job in the transfer window. They have signed a central defender and a dangerous forward who had scored many goals in previous season. Persepolis have also new faces in the center and left side of the pitch.

■ **Which players have the potential to be game-changers?**

Mahdavia: This is such an important match. I think Persepolis's strikers, specially Mehdi Taremi, can change the result.



■ **What are your predictions for the two matches?**

Mahdavia: Well, I'd like it if Persepolis can win both matches. But at the end of the day, getting to the next stage is more important to us and all the fans.

■ **Do you think your former team have what it takes to go all the way and win the 2017 AFC Champions League?**

Mahdavia: Persepolis have key players in all areas of the pitch. And they are a very well-organized team. I hope

they can finally become Asian champions after so many years, although there is plenty of hard work left to do. Becoming AFC Champions League winners would make the Persepolis fans so happy. I'm really hopeful this year.

Hamed Haddadi reaches 700 points in Asia



S P O R T S Iranian basketball d e s k national team center Hamed Haddadi became the first Asian player to reach 700 points in the continent's competitions.

Haddadi top scored Iran with 23 points in the match against Lebanon in the 2017 FIBA Asia Cup.

He has helped Iran win FIBA Asia Championship three times in 2007 Tokushima, 2009 Tianjin and 2013 Manila respectively and won a

bronze medal with the team in 2015 Changsha.

Haddadi started his playing career in his homeland team Shahin Ahvaz in 1999 and has played at Memphis Grizzlies, Dakota Wizards, Phoenix Suns, Sichuan Blue Whales and Qingdao DoubleStar Eagles.

Team Melli will face South Korea in the FIBA Asia Cup semi-final on Saturday in the competition underway in Beirut, Lebanon.

The first match always the toughest match, Vakili says



S P O R T S Iran coach Reza d e s k Vakili Farjad says that their first match against Italy in the 2017 FIVB Volleyball Boys' U19 World Championship is the hardest match.

Iran will start the campaign on Saturday with a match against Italy in Pool D.

The Iranian team have been drawn along with Italy, Czech Republic, Mexico and China.

"We are just concentrating on Italy match since the first match is always the hardest. If we can start good the competition we will keep the team motivated," Vakili said in the pre-match news conference.

"Italy are a strong team and we have a difficult match ahead but we also have so many talented players and we can start seeing the future players of the sport in this generation," he added.

Russian football chief rules out Moscow as venue for friendly with Iran

The Russian capital of Moscow will not be the venue for a mooted friendly football match between the Russian and Iranian national teams and two other options are under negotiations at the moment, Vitaly Mutko, the president of the Russian Football Union (RFU), told TASS on Thursday.

A source close to the situation told TASS last week that the RFU and the Football Federation Islamic Republic of Iran (FFIRI) reached an agreement to hold a friendly football match between

the two national teams in Russia on October 10.

"We will come up soon with an official statement," Mutko, who also serves as a Russian deputy prime minister, said in an interview with TASS. "We are still in talks on a possible venue for the match."

"The game will be undoubtedly held in Russia, but Moscow is not the venue," Mutko stated. "Two options are currently negotiated."

Iran, which holds 24th place in the most recently published FIFA World

Rankings list, have already passed the qualifying round for the 2018 FIFA World Cup and secured the birth in the global quadrennial football tournament, which will be held next year for the first time in Russia.

Russia, ranked 62nd in FIFA World Rankings, played a friendly match against Iran in Abu Dhabi, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), in February losing the game 0-1. The team of the former Soviet Union played against Iran on three occasions winning all of them – in

1976 (Olympic Games 2-1), in 1978 (1-0) and in 1985 (2-0).

National teams around the globe are currently in the qualifying stage, battling for a place in the 2018 FIFA World Cup, while Russia as the host nation has been already guaranteed a berth in the world's main quadrennial football event.

Therefore, the Russian national team is playing friendly football matches in the run-up to the much anticipated 2018 FIFA World Cup.

(Source: TASS)

Costa accuses Chelsea of pricing him out of Atletico move

Chelsea striker Diego Costa has accused the club of pricing him out of a move back to Atletico Madrid in his continuing stand-off with manager Antonio Conte.

The Spanish international is determined to rejoin former side Atletico despite the La Liga club being subject to a transfer ban preventing them from registering players until January.

Costa has not played for Chelsea since the FA Cup final in May, following which he claims manager Antonio Conte sent him a text telling him he was not in his plans for the new season.

Chelsea say that was made clear to him as early as January.

He has accused the Premier League club of treating him like a "criminal" and has said he was willing to see out the remaining two years of his deal unpaid in Brazil.

"My destination is already set," Costa was quoted as saying by Brazilian newspaper O Globo. "I must return to Atletico Madrid next season."

Atletico are banned from signing players in this window as punishment for signing minors.



Costa has remained in Brazil and been fined by Chelsea for not returning to pre-season training.

In a later interview with ESPN Brasil he accused the club of demanding too high a fee for him.

"What I know is that this offer Chelsea will get is bigger than what they paid," he said. Chelsea signed Costa from Atletico for £32 million in July 2014.

"My agent said that Chelsea want something that Atletico can't get near. Atletico is a team growing every year, a big team, but they can't pay an extraordinary amount.

"I think they (Chelsea) should take into account everything that I've done. It's not my fault that I'm not at the club. If it was down to me I'd be playing. It's already been one month. Holidays are good but it gets tiresome."

With less than two weeks until the transfer window closes, Costa is now concerned that he may have to consider other options.

"If Atletico and Chelsea don't come to an agreement and Atletico don't make a big effort, I can't keep on wanting to play for a club that isn't going to make a bigger effort to try and sign me," he said.

Conte, who has been reluctant to discuss the issue in public recently, will face further questions at his news conference on Friday ahead Sunday's Premier League game against Tottenham Hotspur.

(Source: Guardian)

Saipa stun Esteghlal at Iran Professional League

Saipa football team defeated Esteghlal 1-0 in the Iran Professional League (IPL) on Thursday night.

Mohammad Abbaszadeh scored from the penalty spot in the 58th minute in Tehran's Takhti Stadium.

Saipa captain Rouzbeh Shahalidoust was sent off in the injury time after receiving his second yellow card.

Esteghlal suffered their second defeat in four matches in the IPL new season.

Sepahan defeated Zob Ahan 2-0 in Isfahan derby thanks to goals from Sasan Ansari and Jalaeddin Alimohammadi.

Pars Jonoubi Jam edged past Sanat Naft 2-1 and Tractor Sazi earned its first win after three defeats, beating Naft Tehran 2-1.

On Wednesday, IPL leader were held to a 1-1 draw by Siahjamegan.

(Source: Tasnim)

Iran volleyball team beat Ukraine in preparation for Universiade

Iranian volleyball players have defeated their Ukrainian counterparts as part of preparations for the 29th edition of Universiade in Chinese Taipei, which is going to open within hours.

On Thursday evening, the Payame Noor University outfit, which are representing the Islamic Republic of Iran in the tournament, sealed their win by seeing off Ukraine 3-1 (25-23, 23-25, 27-25 and 25-18) in a demonstration game played in Taipei.

The 2017 Summer Universiade, which is the 29th edition of the international multi-sport event, will start in Taipei on August 19 and will finish on August 30.

Iran's Payame Noor University students' volleyball team have been drawn in Pool D along with Argentina, Canada, Cyprus, Switzerland and the United Arab Emirates.

Brazil, Chinese Taipei, France, Japan and the United States are in Pool A. Latvia, Mexico, Portugal, South Korea and Ukraine are pitted against each other in Pool B.

Pool C consists of Australia, China, the Czech Republic, Hong Kong, Romania and Russia.

(Source: Press TV)

British aerial skier Wallace suffers head injury

British aerial skier Lloyd Wallace has sustained a serious head injury after a training accident and is in hospital in Switzerland, the International Ski Federation and British Ski and Snowboard (BSS) said.

The 22-year-old aerial specialist, who is hoping to participate in the 2018 Winter Olympics at PyeongChang, suffered the injury while training with the Swiss national team and was given first aid on site before being flown to hospital.

A detailed prognosis for the injury is expected to be released over the next week.

"The whole situation is hard on us as Lloyd Wallace was part of a combined training group with the Swiss Ski team. Our thoughts are with Lloyd and his family," Head of Freestyle Swiss Ski Christoph Perreten said.

Wallace's winter sports compatriots sent their support to the 2015 Junior World Championships Bronze medalist.

(Source: Reuters)

Former Barcelona keeper Victor Valdes retires

Ex-Barcelona and Manchester United goalkeeper Victor Valdes has decided to retire from football, according to a report in El Mundo Deportivo.

Valdes, 35, had offers from Deportivo La Coruna, Real Betis and Las Palmas to continue to play after leaving Middlesbrough in the summer, but has opted to hang up his gloves and focus on his new TV production company.

Valdes' agent Gines Carvajal would not confirm or deny the story when contacted by ESPN FC.

The former Spain international has set up Crazy4fun TV, which was launched on July 27, an international production company with bases in Barcelona, London and Abu Dhabi.

El Mundo Deportivo reports that Valdes will not only be behind the camera but is also expected to present a TV show that will feature former players that has already been sold to 12 countries.

Valdes left Middlesbrough in May after his one-year contract expired following the club's relegation from the Premier League, making 28 appearances for the club.

Valdes was a huge figure in Barcelona's success, playing 535 games and winning 21 titles, including six La Liga titles and three Champions League trophies in his 12 years at the club.

(Source: Soccerbet)

Liverpool reject third Philippe Coutinho bid

Liverpool have rejected a third bid from Barcelona for Philippe Coutinho, a source has told ESPN FC.

The bid was immediately rejected by Liverpool, who maintain their stance that Coutinho will not be leaving Anfield this summer.

The latest offer was worth £118 million (€129m) including add-ons, according to The Times. That follows two previous rejected bids from the Catalan side worth £72m and £90m.

Sources close to Liverpool say it does not matter what Barca offer for Coutinho, as they will not sell the player at any price.

Coutinho handed in a transfer request last week and has not featured in Liverpool's first two games of the season.

(Source: ESPN)

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Avaye Tabari performing at World Championship of Folklore

A R T d e s k **TEHRAN** — Avaye Tabari, an ensemble from the northern Iranian city of Sari, is currently in the Bulgarian town of Nessebar to participate in the 7th World Championship of Folklore - World Folk.



Led by Iranian musician Seyyed Jalal Mohammadi, the ensemble performed its first concert on Friday. It will give five other performances on August 19, 20, 21, 25 and 26 at the festival. Groups from around the world are participating in the event, which will come to an end on August 27.

NEWS IN BRIEF



Hamedan to host symposium on photography

A R T d e s k **TEHRAN** — The western Iranian city of Hamedan will be hosting the 1st National Symposium of Photography on Saturday, which is World Photography Day.

Fakhreddin Fakhreddini, Kamaledin Shahrokh and Dariush Mohammadkhani are scheduled to deliver speeches during the one-day symposium.

WHAT'S IN ART GALLERIES

Painting

■ Paintings by Nilufar Sasaki and Sara Rashidi are on display in an exhibition at Gallery No. 26.



The exhibition named "Duet" runs until August 29 at the gallery located at 26 Salmanpur-Zahir St., in the East Farmanieh neighborhood.

■ A collection of paintings by Soheila Noruzi is on display in an exhibition at Sa Gallery.



The exhibit titled "And Things Will Grow from Us" will run until August 27 at the gallery located at No. 134, 8th Bustan St., off Pasdaran Ave.

■ Laya Hossein-Rashidi is currently displaying her latest collection of paintings in an exhibition at Kabiri Gallery.



The exhibition entitled "Apple Aroma" will be running until August 23 at the gallery located at 60 South Dibaji St.

■ Paintings by Mona Moin-Ansari are on display in an exhibition at Golestan Gallery.



The exhibit will run until August 23 at the gallery that can be found at 34 Kamasaj St. in the Darus neighborhood.

Photo

■ Knack Gallery is playing host to an exhibition of photos by Elmira Ali-Akbari, Taher Tatari, Masud Sabetzadeh, Puya Sediqi and Alireza Fatehi.



The exhibition titled "The Inverted Pyramid" will run until August 31 at the gallery located at 7 Sina Alley, Takharestan St., Zafar Ave.

■ Photos by Saeid Fallahfar are currently on display in an exhibition at Negar Gallery.



The exhibition runs until August 23 at the gallery, which can be found at 33 Delaram Alley, East Roshanai St., in the Qeitarieh neighborhood.

“Subdued” scoops up awards at Celebration of Iranian Cinema Critics and Screenwriters

A R T d e s k **TEHRAN** — “Subdued”, director Hamid Nematollah’s drama about an emotional journey, has won several awards including one in the best film category at the 11th Celebration of Iranian Cinema Critics and Screenwriters.

Nematollah was also picked as best director, while Leila Hatami won the award for best actress for her role in the movie by the France-based company Dreamlabs.

Hatami’s co-star, Kurosh Tahami, also received an honorable mention.

The film also brought Sohrab Purnazeri the best composer award, and Masumeh Bayat won the best screenwriter award.

The film is about Mina who is recently divorced from her drug addict husband. With her mother deceased and estranged from her father, she leads an independent life. After finding a job in a restaurant, she strikes up a friendship with its attentive manager. She starts having feelings she has never before experienced. These feelings, eventually shared, are shaken when the manager begins to distance himself from her. Thus commences a tumultuous emotional journey.

“I really care about critic’s views, because their views help make a film memorable,” Nematollah said after accepting his award at the Conference Hall of the Institute for Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults on Thursday evening.

The award for best actor went to Hamed Behdad for his role in “Blockage” directed by Mohsen Qarai.

He dedicated his award to Mohsen Hojaji, an Iranian soldier who was killed by ISIS terrorists in Syria a few weeks ago.

The best supporting actress award was presented to Tannaz Tabatabai for her role director Monir Qeidi’s debut feature film “The Villa Tenants”, and the award for best supporting actor award went



Hamid Nematollah speaks after being honored as best director for his latest drama “Subdued” during the 11th Celebration of Iranian Cinema Critics and Screenwriters in Tehran on August 17, 2017. Director Rakhshan Bani-Etemad is also seen in the photo. (Mehr/Asghar Khamseh)

to Hadi Hejazifar for his role in director Mohammad-Hossein Mahdavian’s political drama “The Midday Event”.

The Society for Cinema Critics and Screenwriters, which is the organizer of the gala, honors two first-film directors every year with the Best Creative and Promising Filmmaker Awards.

This year, Qeidi for “The Villa Tenants”

and Asghar Yusefinejad for “The Home” received the awards.

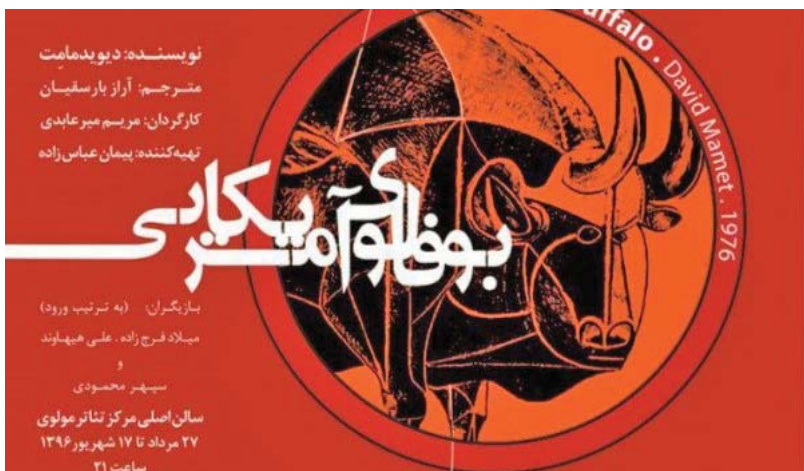
The award for best cinematographer went to Masud Salami for “Stiffness” directed by Fereidun Jeirani.

Bahram Dehqani was named best editor for his collaboration in both “Stiffness” and director Rambod Javan’s drama “Negar”.

Behzad Jafari received the best costume and set designer award for “The Midday Event”, which also brought Mohsen Daarsanj the best makeup artist award.

The organizers also honored Jamshid Hashempur, the Iranian actor who is mostly famous for his roles in action movies, with a lifetime achievement award.

David Mamet’s “American Buffalo” comes to Tehran’s Molavi Hall



A R T d e s k **TEHRAN** — Maryam Mirabedi is directing U.S. dramatist David Mamet’s 1975 play “American Buffalo” at Tehran’s Molavi Hall.

Mirabedi has chosen the drama to stage due to close similarities between what happens in Iranian society and the story line of the play, he said in a press release published on Friday.

“The characters’ inertia and those people who live with over-ambitious plans in society made me to choose the

play to stage,” Mirabedi explained.

She spent a year rehearsing the play with a cast mostly composed of university students.

The play, which has been translated into Persian by Araz Barsegian, will be on stage until September 8.

“American Buffalo” is about a junk shop owner named Don who plans to steal back a buffalo nickel that he sold to a customer for ninety dollars after he suspects it is worth considerably more.

Emma Stone ascends to top of Forbes’ highest-paid actresses

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) — Fresh off winning her first Oscar, actress Emma Stone ousted Jennifer Lawrence on Wednesday to claim the top spot on Forbes’ 2017 list of the world’s highest-paid actresses.

Stone, 28, who won best actress for her role as a struggling actress in “La La Land”, made \$26 million in pre-tax earnings, according to Forbes’ calculations over a 12-month period from June 2016 to June 2017.

She outpaced Jennifer Aniston, 48, who came in at No. 2 this year with earnings of \$25.5 million, with residual income still coming in from the television sitcom “Friends” and endorsement deals with brands such as SmartWater and Emirates Airline.

Lawrence, 27, who topped the Forbes list for two consecutive years, dropped to No. 3 this year with earnings of \$24 million, almost half of her prior year’s earnings of \$46 million.

The actress, who has spoken out on equal pay for



Actress Emma Stone arrives at the 2017 American Film Institute Life Achievement Award in Los Angeles, California, U.S. on August 6, 2017.

(Reuters/Mario Anzuoni/File Photo)

Tom Cruise breaks ankle in stunt, halts production on ‘Mission’ film

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) — Tom Cruise broke his ankle while performing a stunt on the set of the upcoming “Mission: Impossible 6,” causing production on the film to go on hiatus while the actor recovers, Paramount Pictures said in a statement on Wednesday.

Paramount, a unit of Viacom, said the action movie, which is one of its biggest franchises, remains on schedule to open on July 27, 2018.

Cruise, 55, who is known for doing his own stunts, was seen in a video on celebrity news website TMZ trying to jump between

the roofs of two high-rise buildings and landing hard against a wall during filming in London at the weekend. He was later seen limping off the set.

“During production on the latest ‘Mission: Impossible’ film, Tom Cruise broke his ankle while performing a stunt. Production will go on hiatus while Tom makes a full recovery,” Paramount said. “Tom wants to thank you all for your concern and support and can’t wait to share the film with everyone next summer.”

Paramount did not say how long

production would be delayed. Hollywood trade paper Variety said filming could be halted anywhere from six weeks to three months while Cruise recovers. Variety said the actor also injured his hip.

“Mission: Impossible – Rogue Nation,” in which Cruise reprised his role as agent Ethan Hunt, made more than \$680 million at the worldwide box office in 2015, according to movie tracker BoxOfficeMojo.com.

Cruise has carved a career as one of Hollywood’s top-earning and longest-running action stars, much of it built on his

Georgian film wins top Sarajevo film fest award, Cleese and Stone honored

SARAJEVO (Reuters) — A Georgian film about a woman struggling to reconcile family life and her passion for writing has been chosen as the best movie at the 23rd Sarajevo Film Festival.

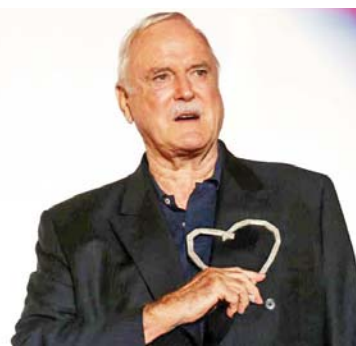
Three-time Oscar-winning U.S. filmmaker Oliver Stone and British actor John Cleese were also awarded with lifetime achievement awards during a week-long festival which has shown 235 films from 54 countries to an audience of about 100,000.

An international jury chaired by Mexican film-maker Michel Franco awarded “Scary Mother”, a debut movie by 27-year-old Georgian director Ana Urushadze, with the Heart of Sarajevo, the festival’s main award.

It described the film as “provocative and elegantly directed”.

This was the second time a Georgian film has triumphed in Sarajevo after “In Bloom” by directors Nana Ekvimishvili and Simon Gros won the main prize in 2013.

Romanian film-maker Emanuel Parvu was awarded best director for his movie “Meda, or the Not So Bright Side of Things”, and Serban Pavlu won the best actor award for his role in the movie.



British actor John Cleese poses with the Heart of Sarajevo honorary award during the 23rd Sarajevo Film Festival in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, August 16, 2017.(Reuters/Dado Ruvic)

The best actress award went to Canadian actress Ornella Kapetani for her role in “Daybreak”, a debut feature by Albanian director Gentian Koci.

The Sarajevo Film Festival, founded as an act of defiance toward the end of the 1992-95 siege during the Bosnian war, has grown into the largest industry platform for the region stretching from Austria to Russia and Turkey.

women in Hollywood, saw her earnings dip this year after the conclusion of the “Hunger Games” franchise, but continues to make money from movie deals and an endorsement deal with fashion brand Christian Dior.

Forbes compiles its annual celebrity earnings lists from box office and Nielsen data, as well as from interviews with industry insiders.

The top-ten list also includes Charlize Theron, Emma Watson and Melissa McCarthy. Forbes said no stars from Asia made the cut this year.

Forbes said the cumulative total earned by the world’s top ten highest-paid actresses - \$172.5 million - was down 16 percent from the previous year.

Last year, Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson topped Forbes’ list of highest-paid actors at \$64.5 million, more than double the amount made by Stone this year. Forbes is expected to release its list of top-earning male actors later this week.

Tom Cruise breaks ankle in stunt, halts production on ‘Mission’ film

reputation for doing his own stunts, including swinging around a Dubai skyscraper and hanging off a plane as it taxied down a runway and took off.

“I just don’t sleep, I just keep going,” he told Reuters in 2015 while promoting “Mission: Impossible – Rogue Nation.”

“Mission: Impossible 6” director Christopher McQuarrie told Britain’s Empire magazine in an interview posted on Wednesday that the production schedule would be rearranged to shoot around Cruise while he recovers.