



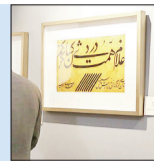
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# Parliament OKs new cabinet



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## Iraqi PM announces launch of Tal Afar liberation operation

Iraqi forces have launched a ground offensive to retake a key ISIL-held area in the northern part of the country, Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi said.

"I am saying to Daesh (ISIL) that there's no choice other than to leave or be killed," said Abadi during a televised speech early on Sunday.

"You either surrender, or die," Abadi said.

He was addressing the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Daesh) terrorists, who have been in control of the city since 2014.

Abadi further went on to hail all forces, including army, police, anti-terrorism forces and Popular Mobilization Units, (PMU/Hashd Sha'abi) fighters that are present in the operations.

"Sons of our honorable people you will see another promise being fulfilled.

The city of Tal Afar is making ready to join other liberated areas as the heroes are being prepared to make sacrifices and exert efforts to liberate this steadfast city... As we promised before, we promise now that we will continue the liberation process. We triumphed in all the battles we fought, while death and defeat were the fate of Daesh in all the battles they fought," he said. Tal Afar and the surrounding area are among the last pockets of ISIL-held territory in Iraq, after victory was declared in Mosul, the country's second-largest city.

Iraqi officials believe there are between 1,400 and 1,600 ISIL terrorists in the Tal Afar area, including many foreign fighters, according to Iraqi Brigadier General Yahia Rasool who spoke through an interpreter on Saturday. **→3**

## Petchem exports near \$3.5b in 4 months

**ECONOMY TEHRAN** — Iran exported 7.188 million tons of petrochemical products worth \$3.496 billion during the first four months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-July 23), Shana reported on Sunday.

The report said that petrochemical exports stood at 6.847 million tons valued at \$3.028 billion during the same period of time in the past year.

Iran produced 18 million tons of petrochemicals in the first four months of the current year, Ali-Mohammad Bossaqzadeh, the production control director of National Petro-

chemical Company (NPC), announced on August 1.

NPC plans to export 23 million tons of petrochemical products worth \$11 billion by the end of the current calendar year (March 20, 2018).

In July, Bossaqzadeh announced that seven new petrochemical projects were planned to be implemented in the country by the yearend.

He put petrochemical output at 51 million tons in the past calendar year, saying that the figure is estimated to reach 56 million tons by the end of this year, posting a record for the second consecutive year.

## No isolated country can make advances: Rouhani

**POLITICS TEHRAN** — Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said on Sunday that no isolated country can make advances and the Foreign Ministry should facilitate foreign investment in the country.

Rouhani, who was making the last efforts his cabinet nominees in the parliament, said, "The Foreign Ministry should facilitate and open the way for foreign investment and technology."

"The Foreign Ministry should prioritize economic activity. The first and most important duty of the foreign minister during this tenure is to stand beside BARJAM [the Persian acronym for the nuclear deal that internationally called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action] and not to allow the U.S. and Iran's enemies succeed," Rouhani noted.

Rouhani added, "The one who stands against the U.S., Israel and some small countries in the region for BARJAM is the hero in fight against hegemony."

Elsewhere, he said that "freedom" and "security" should be beside each other and "neither should be sacrificed".

"We want responsible freedom and a security which is upon the shoulder of the nation's awareness," the president remarked.

**■ 'There is a difficult way ahead'**  
Rouhani also said that the government and parliament have the opportunity to serve the people, however, there is a "difficult way ahead".

"In the current situation in the world, it is not even easy to govern in Europe, the U.S. and other countries, let alone in our volatile region," he noted.

Elsewhere, Rouhani said that all efforts have been made to introduce the most qualified nominees for ministerial posts.

He also said it is impossible to create jobs without investment, noting that the country should welcome foreign investment and technology in order to be able to provide employment opportunities for the youth.

## The world does well to remember gift of Islam to civilization: philosopher

By Jalal Heirannia

**TEHRAN** — Charles Taliaferro, a professor of philosophy at St. Olaf College, tells the Tehran Times that "the world does well to remember the gift of Islam to civilization, culture, education, and to stand against acts that violate the greatness and beauty of Islamic teaching, practice, and architecture."

Following is the text of the interview:

**■ August 21 marks the anniversary of the burning of al-Aqsa Mosque in 1969, an event which came to be known as World Mosque Day. Why we should remember this day?**

A: The fire set in the Al-Aqsa Mosque is a solemn, sober reminder of the way some anti-Muslim forces resort not to peaceful dialogue and public debate, but resort instead to shameful acts of violence. The world does well to remember the gift of Islam to



civilization, culture, education, and to stand against such acts that violate the greatness and beauty of Islamic teaching, practice, and architecture.

**'Beauty of mosques testify to intricate integrity of Islam'**

## Environment chiefs of Iran in a snapshot

**SOCIETY TEHRAN** — Since the establishment of Iran's Department of Environment (DOE) in 1967 ten persons have taken over its presidency.

Today's DOE was first set up as a fishing and hunting regulatory agency by Eskandar Firuz. He strived to change the agency's name and eventually in 1971 it was renamed to the Department of Environment.

Firuz is called the father of Iran's environment protection, headed the department for 10 years and was the first person who actually introduced the concept of environment to the Iranian within a legal framework.

Firuz is the first ever Iranian appointed as the vice-president for United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, held in Stockholm in 1972. He was a member of the presiding board of International Union for

Conservation of Nature (IUCN) in 1973-75. In 1977 he was offered a job as IUCN director general which he turned down.

In an interview with Zistboom, an environmental website, published on March 5, 2015, Firuz has regretted that not so many countries in the world has ever harmed its environment as Iran; managers must understand that environment should be a priority in all decision making processes. **→12**

## Assad: War still not won, West's plots foiled

Syrian President Bashar al-Assad said on Sunday that while his country had foiled Western designs to topple him, his army had not won defeated insurgents and the fight was continuing.

Assad said government forces, backed by allied fighters from popular defense groups, are crushing foreign-backed terrorists across the country, and clearing areas of militants.

"Our army is making territorial gains every day, week after week, crushing terrorists and clearing lands occupied by them," Assad said during a press conference at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates in the capital Damascus on Sunday.

He added that valiant fighters from the Syrian army and allied forces make a positive role model in the history of wars.

"We, in cooperation with friends, will continue to squash terrorists wherever they are. We will continue national reconciliation which has proved its effectiveness, will enhance communication with others and explore economic opportunities... The direct political, economic, and military support of our allies has helped us to make more gains than to suffer losses. These friends are our actual partners," Assad pointed out.

The Syrian leader added Syria has been a target throughout history, noting that the Syrian nation has been forced to pay a heavy price in the ongoing foreign-backed militancy plaguing the country.

"We have managed to foil the Western project. West is like a chameleon that its behavior to fit different situations. The psychological war against the Damascus government has failed to discourage us from fighting terrorism or even frighten us... We have fought terror since day one, and we will continue to fight it until there is no terrorist in Syria..." Assad stressed.

He said the assistance extended by stalwart allies Russia, Iran and Lebanon's Hezbollah movement had enabled the army to make battlefield gains and reduce the burden of war. **→13**



© Tehran Times/ Asghar Khamseh

## Association of Iranian Photojournalists honors top photos of the year

Ali Hamed-Hagdoost reacts after accepting a Golden Camera during a ceremony held by the Association of Iranian Photojournalists in Tehran on August 19, 2017 to honor the Best Photos of the Year in various categories. Hamed-Hagdoost who work for the Mehr News Agency won the award in the documentary photo section.

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS



Switzerland, Iran to boost nuclear safety cooperation

**POLITICS** **TEHRAN** — Iranian and Swiss nuclear regulatory authorities agreed on Sunday to enhance cooperation in nuclear safety as Switzerland assumes presidency of the Western European Nuclear Regulators Association, IRNA reported.

That the two sides agreed to devise a roadmap for furthering cooperation was made in a meeting in Switzerland between Director General of Swiss Federal Nuclear Safety Inspectorate (ENSI) Hans Wanner and director of Iran's Centre for Nuclear Safety System Hojattollah Salehi.



Iran: U.S. liable \$245m over victims of chemical weapons

**POLITICS** **TEHRAN** — Iran's Judiciary spokesman has announced that an Iranian court has issued a decree which requires the U.S. administration to pay close to \$245 million to the victims of chemical weapons supplied to former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein during his war against Iran in the 1980s.

"A number of people who have been harmed during the chemical bombing have filed lawsuits and a court has issued decrees for 18 of them who have been harmed or died" Gholamhossein Mohseni Ejei said on Sunday, Fars reported.



Tehran police confiscate 1600 kg of narcotics

**POLITICS** **TEHRAN** — Police in the Iranian capital Tehran have busted an international smuggling ring, seizing 1600 kilograms of illegal drugs, the Tehran police chief said on Sunday.

The international smuggling gang consisted of six people who used to transfer the drugs from the Iranian border areas into the country, Brigadier General Hossein Rahimi told reporters, ILNA reported.

Rahimi went on to say that five members of the ring were arrested and one of them managed to flee the country.

Some 200 drug dealers were also taken into custody in Tehran on Saturday.



Assyrian MP dismisses U.S. report on religious freedom in Iran

**POLITICS** **TEHRAN** — An Iranian Assyrian lawmaker has denounced an annual report by the U.S. State Department on religious freedom in Iran, saying religious minorities in Iran are treated with much more respect than those in the U.S.

In a Sunday interview with Tasnim, Yonathan Betkolia dismissed the State Department report on religious freedom in Iran as totally untrue.

"Religious minorities in Iran enjoy all necessary freedoms," he said, adding that non-Muslim citizens are treated with great respect in Iran.



Barzani: Referendum should not concern neighbors

**POLITICS** **TEHRAN** —The president of the Iraqi Kurdistan Region (KRG) has said a prospective referendum for independence should not concern Iran or Turkey.

Speaking to Saudi Arabian newspaper Akkath in an interview published on Sunday, Masoud Barzani said that 25 years of experience should have proven that the Iraqi Kurdistan would not pose any threat to Turkey or Iran.

He also dismissed a question about Iran's alleged intervention in Iraq, but stressed "Iran is more there in Iraq than any other country.... And we want our relations with Iran based on good neighborliness and common interests."



Telegram admins get up to 5 years in jail

**POLITICS** **TEHRAN** — The spokesman for the Iranian Judiciary announced on Sunday that some administrators of Telegram messaging app channels who had been arrested on security charges have been given from 91 days to five years in jail.

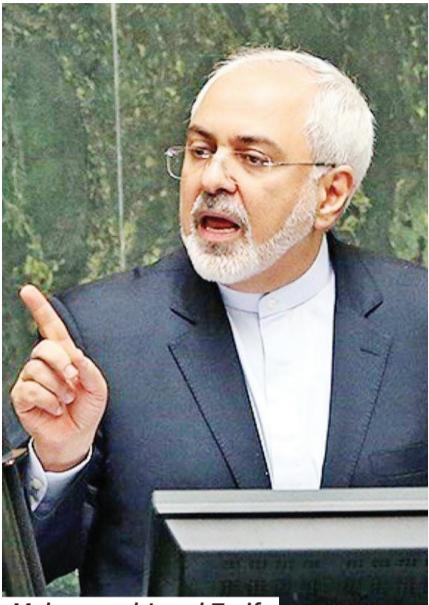
Fourteen of these administrators have been tried, Qolamhossein Mohseni Ejei said, adding "two or three cases" have been filed in this regard, ILNA reported.

"In another case, eight people have stood trial, but their verdicts have not been issued yet," Ejei explained.

Parliament OKs new cabinet



Abdolreza Rahmani Fazli



Mohammad Javad Zarif



Mahmoud Alavi



Amir Hatami

**The strongest vote of confidence, 261-10, was granted to the nominee for defense minister, Brigadier General Amir Hatami, with health, intelligence, and interior picks standing next respectively. The confidence vote was cast by 288 lawmakers in the 290-seat parliament**

Mohammad Javad Azari Jahromi, Rouhani's youngest ITC nominee, gathered the weakest vote, 152-120, followed by agriculture and transport picks.

Also, Habibollah Bitaraf, Rouhani's nominee for the minister of energy, was not granted a vote of confidence, 133-132. In 2013, three of Rouhani's picks did not garner enough votes.

Bitaraf, energy minister for eight years under the Khatami administration, came under attack by lawmakers for wrong water management policies in his previous tenures.

"Had Mr. Bitaraf taken a scientific approach during his tenure, today we would not have been grappling with dust storms and water shortage," said Jalil Mokhtar, who represents Abadan in the parliament.

Here is a background of the approved ministers.

■ **Mohammad Javad Zarif, Ministry of Foreign Affairs: Confirmed 236-26**

Former UN ambassador and foreign minister, Zarif was Iran's chief negotiator on the nuclear deal reached in 2015.

In August 2013, the U.S.-educated Zarif was approved as foreign minister by a 232-36 vote. Zarif has heaped an equal share of praise and vitriol all along the way. While he was branded a "spy" during the nuclear negotiations by his dyed-in-the-wool opponents, President Rouhani awarded the "Medal of Merit" to him for the signature achievement in 2016.

Also, in 2016, Zarif and his American counterpart John Kerry won the annual Chatham House Prize for making significant contributions to improving international relations.

Zarif has the full trust of Ayatollah Khamenei, Leader of the Islamic Revolution. In one of his speeches, the Leader hailed the top diplomat as "pious and brave."

Zarif's intuitive use of social media is unrivaled among ministers. He continues to post consequential tweets on sensitive foreign policy issues.

In reinstituting Zarif as foreign minister, Rouhani seeks to fix strained relations with regional Arab states, particularly Saudi Arabia, accelerate the Syrian peace efforts with the aid of Russia and Turkey, and finally shield the nuclear deal against the antagonistic Trump administration.

■ **Amir Hatami, Ministry of Defense: Confirmed 261-10**

The fourteenth defense minister since the 1979 Islamic Revolution, Hatami

replaced Hossein Dehghan in Rouhani's second administration.

The 51-year-old battle-hardened Hatami, is the first defense pick from the Iranian army in twenty-four years, with five of his predecessors from the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC).

Hatami will have the responsibility to orchestrate Iranian forces against any possible threats in the beleaguered Middle East, bring about structural changes in the military in line with asymmetric, guerrilla wars.

Also, the laconic commander has to oversee a major part of the country's missile program.

Following the recent test-launch of Iran's first satellite-carrier rocket, Simorgh (Phoenix), Hatami proudly said Iran can now run the entire "space cycle which includes station, satellite-carrier, satellite, designing, and navigation."

A key issue will be Iran's increasing military cooperation with Russia in the Syrian battleground and future arms deals with Moscow.

A major focus of Iran's Defense Ministry over the past years has been the development of unmanned aerial vehicles, a macro-policy Hatami has to continue.

■ **Mahmoud Alavi, Intelligence Ministry: Confirmed 252-22**

Rouhani decided to keep the 63-year-old Alavi in the sensitive post. Alavi won a 227-38 confidence vote in 2013.

Prior to his ministerial position in 2013, Alavi had served as parliamentary representative for the southern city of Lamerd for 12 years.

His first tenure as intelligence minister coincided with the Islamic State ravaging through virtually the entire Middle East, particularly Syria and Iraq.

While the self-styled terrorist group struck many places in Europe and other Middle East countries, it failed to arrange such raids on Iranian soil until before June 7, 2017.

At least 16 people were killed when six attackers mounted simultaneous gun and suicide bomb assaults on Iran's Parliament building and the mausoleum of Imam Khomeini, the Islamic Republic's founder.

All ISIS-linked assailants were immediately killed, and a number of their sympathizers arrested in different hideouts across the country.

While Alavi came under indirect criticism for the events, he said upwards of a hundred terrorist efforts had been thwarted.

**Habibollah Bitaraf, Rouhani's nominee for the minister of energy, was not granted a vote of confidence, 133-132. In 2013, three of Rouhani's picks did not garner enough votes.**

Rouhani names close aides

President appoints caretaker energy, science ministers

**POLITICS** **TEHRAN** — In separate decrees on Sunday President Hassan Rouhani appointed heads of the Management and Planning Organization, presidential chief of staff, and vice president for economic affairs.

He reappointed Bagher Nobakht as vice president and director of the Management and Planning Organization. Nobakht was the government's spokesman during Rouhani's first term.

Jamshid Ansari was also re-appointed as vice president and head of the Administrative and Recruitment Affairs Organization.

Rouhani also named Mohammad Nahavandian as vice president for economic affairs.

Nahavandian served as chief of staff during



Nahavandian



Vaezi



Nobakht

Rouhani's first term in office.

Mahmoud Vaezi, who held the post of information and communications technology minister in Rouhani's first

administration, was appointed as presidential chief of staff.

Rouhani also appointed Sattar Mahmoudi as caretaker energy minister as Habibollah Bitaraf, the nominee for the post of energy minister failed to win parliamentary approval on Sunday.

Seyed Zia Hashemi also named caretaker science minister as according to First Vice President Es'haq Jahangiri the nominee for the post, Ali Khaki Sediq, refused to accept the post at last minute.

Parliament on Sunday approved all but one of Rouhani's ministerial picks.

The parliament debated each of the 17 nominees over the course of five days. All the proposed ministers won vote of confidence except the nominee for the energy minister.

# Iraqi Kurds might put off independence vote in return for concessions from Baghdad: official

Iraq's Kurds may consider the possibility of postponing a planned Sept. 25 referendum on independence in return for financial and political concessions from the central government in Baghdad, a senior Kurdish official said.

A Kurdish delegation is visiting Baghdad to sound out proposals for Iraqi leaders that might convince the Kurds to postpone the vote, according to Mala Bakhtiar, executive secretary of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) Politburo.

The United States and other Western nations fear the vote could ignite a fresh conflict with Baghdad and possibly neighboring countries, diverting attention from the ongoing war against Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Daesh) terrorists in Iraq and Syria.

The United States Secretary of State Rex Tillerson formally asked Massoud Barzani, president of the autonomous Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG), 10 days ago to postpone the referendum.

"What thing would Baghdad be prepared to offer to the (Kurdish) region" in return for postponing the referendum, Bakhtiar, speaking about the talks with Baghdad ruling coalition, said in an interview.

On the economic side, Baghdad should be ready to help the Kurds overcome a financial crisis and settle debts owed by their government, he told Reuters in the Kurdish city of Sulaimaniya.

He estimated the debt at \$10 to \$12 billion, about equal to the KRG's annual budget, owed to public works contractors and civil servants and Kurdish peshmerga fighters whose salaries have not been paid in full for several months.

At the political level, Baghdad should commit to agree to settle the issue of disputed regions, such as the oil-rich area of Kirkuk where Arab and Turkmen communities also live.



The Kurdish delegation would then convey the proposals to Kurdish political parties to make a decision on whether they are good enough to justify a postponement of the vote, he said, insisting on the Kurdish right to hold the vote at a later date.

"We don't accept to postpone the referendum with nothing in return and without fixing another time to hold it," he said.

Baghdad stopped payments from the Iraqi federal budget to the KRG in 2014 after the Kurds began exporting oil independently from Baghdad, via a pipeline to Turkey.

The Kurds say they need the extra revenue to cope with increased costs incurred by the war against the ISIL terrorist outfit and a large influx into KRG territory

of displaced people.

The self-proclaimed ISIL "caliphate" effectively collapsed in July when Iraqi forces completed the recapture of Mosul from the militants in a nine-month campaign in which Kurdish peshmerga fighters took part.

The ISIL terrorists remain, however, in control of territory in western Iraq and eastern Syria.

## ■ Independence eyed since world war one

The Kurds have been seeking an independent state since at least the end of World War One, when colonial powers divided up the Middle East and left Kurdish-populated territory split between modern-day Turkey, Iran, Iraq and Syria.

Turkey, Iran and Syria, which together

with Iraq have sizeable Kurdish communities, all oppose an independent Kurdistan. Prime Minister Abadi's government has rejected the planned referendum as "unilateral" and unconstitutional.

Barzani, whose father led struggles against Baghdad in the 1960s and 1970s, told Reuters in July the Kurds would take responsibility for the expected "yes" outcome of the referendum, and implement the outcome through dialogue with Baghdad and regional powers to avoid conflict.

"We have to rectify the history of mistreatment of our people and those who are saying that independence is not good," Barzani said in an interview in the KRG capital Erbil.

(Source: Reuters)

## Britain: Palestine activists face prison over Elbit protest

A group of Palestinian activists in Britain could be imprisoned after a peaceful protest outside a factory owned by a subsidiary of Israeli drone manufacturer, Elbit Systems.

Five protesters were arrested in July after the demonstration in the West Midlands town of Shenstone and later charged with a breach of the Trade Union and Labor Relations.

Operations at the UAV Engines Ltd plant were shut down for two days starting July 6 with protesters laying out mock coffins outside the factory and laying on the ground outside its gates.

The specific offence the activists are accused of carries a sentence of up to six months in prison and a fine of up to 5,000 British pounds (\$6,410).

A court hearing on Friday was adjourned pending a review of the charge by prosecutors with the possibility that the current charge may be dropped and a new one added.

The Birmingham and Manchester branches of Palestine Action, which helped organize the protest said those accused would be pleading not guilty.

A spokesperson for Elbit said the company will not comment on the issue.

Based in the northern Israeli city of Haifa, Elbit produces military and civilian-use equipment, including drones, aircraft, weapon control systems, and artillery.

The company's customers include the Israeli army, United States Air Force, and the British Royal Air Force.

## ■ Bibi to meet Putin amid Syrian army advances



Meantime, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is about to meet Russian President Vladimir Putin in Sochi on Wednesday in the face of the Syrian army advances against militants, including those backed by Tel Aviv.

In a statement released on Saturday, Netanyahu's office said the two sides would "discuss the latest developments in the region" during their meeting in the Black Sea resort.

Later this week, an Israeli military delegation, headed by Cohen, will visit Washington for talks with senior White House and American officials.

Israel has been regularly attacking positions held by pro-Damascus forces in Syria, claiming that the attacks are retaliatory. Syria says the Israeli raids are meant to shore up the Takfiri terrorists fighting the government.

There are also reports that Israel has been providing medical treatment to the extremists wounded in Syria and supplying arms to them.

Back in June, United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres warned that the growing interactions between Israeli armed forces and Syria militants could lead to escalation.

## ■ Israeli forces kill Palestinian teenager over alleged stabbing

The developments followed as Israeli forces have shot and fatally wounded a Palestinian teenager in the northern part of the occupied West Bank over an alleged stabbing attack, police and medics say.

Israeli police alleged in a statement that the 17-year-old, whose identity was not disclosed, approached a group of border guards at Israel's Zaatara military

checkpoint, located at Tapuah Junction, south of the city of Nablus, on Saturday and made an "apparent stabbing attempt" against one of the soldiers.

It added that another guard opened fire at him and critically injured the Palestinian teen, who succumbed to his wounds shortly afterwards. According to the statement, he was from the West Bank city of Tul Kareem.

Israeli medics initially announced that one of the guards also sustained light stabbing injuries but later said it appeared that the 21-year-old trooper had been wounded by shrapnel from the shots fired. Israel's public radio also said the border guard was the victim of "friendly fire."

On July 14, three Palestinians opened fire on Israeli forces at the al-Aqsa Mosque compound, killing two of them before being shot dead.

The occupied Palestinian territories have witnessed new tension ever since Israeli forces introduced restrictions on the entry of Palestinian worshipers into the al-Aqsa Mosque compound in East al-Quds (Jerusalem) in August 2015.

More than 300 Palestinians have lost their lives at the hands of Israeli forces since the beginning of October 2015.

The Tel Aviv regime has tried to change the demographic makeup of al-Quds over the past decades by constructing settlements, destroying historical sites and expelling the local Palestinian population. Palestinians say the Israeli measures are aimed at paving the way for the Judaization of the city.

(Source: agencies)

## North Korea slams upcoming U.S.-South military exercises

North Korea has warned the United States will be "pouring gasoline on fire" by conducting annual war games with the South amid heightened tensions between Pyongyang and Washington.

The Ulchi Freedom Guardian military exercises involving thousands of American and South Korean troops are to begin on Monday. North Korea views the drills as a highly provocative rehearsal for an invasion.

Combative rhetoric between the nations has spiked after Pyongyang tested two intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) in July that appeared to bring much of the U.S. within range, sparking an intense warning by President Donald Trump that Washington could rain "fire and fury" on the North.

Pyongyang then threatened to fire a salvo of missiles towards the U.S. territory of Guam - a plan that Leader Kim Jong-un last week delayed, but warned could go ahead depending on Washington's next move.

The joint exercise is the most explicit expression of hostility against us, and no one can guarantee that the exercise won't evolve into actual fighting," said an editorial carried by the North's official Rodong Sinmun newspaper.

"The Ulchi Freedom Guardian joint military exercises will be like pouring gasoline on fire and worsen the state of the peninsula," the paper said.

Warning of an "uncontrollable phase of a nuclear war" on the peninsula, it added:

"If the U.S. is lost in a fantasy that war on the peninsula is at somebody else's doorstep far away from them across the Pacific, it is far more mistaken than ever."

Seoul and Washington have said the largely computer-simulated war game, which dates back to 1976, will go ahead as planned but did not comment on whether the drills would be scaled back in an effort to ease tensions.

About 17,500 U.S. troops will participate in this year's drills - a cutback from last year - according to numbers provided by Seoul's defense ministry.

But South Korea's Yonhap news agency reported the allies were mulling scrapping an initial plan to bring in two aircraft carriers to the peninsula to take part in the drill.

South Korea's top military officer said on Sunday the current security situation on the peninsula was "more serious than at any other time" amid the North's growing nuclear and missile threats, and warned Pyongyang of merciless retaliation against any attack.

"If the enemy provokes, [our military] will retaliate resolutely and strongly to make it regret bitterly," said General Jeong Kyeong-doo, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, in his inauguration speech.

Dozens of South Koreans protested against the joint drill in front of the U.S. embassy in Seoul demanding peace on the Korean peninsula. At least four people were arrested, local media reported.

(Source: agencies)

## Iraqi PM announces launch of Tal Afar liberation operation

➔ Iraqi officials believe there are between 1,400 and 1,600 ISIL terrorists in the Tal Afar area, including many foreign fighters, according to Iraqi Brigadier General Yahia Rasool who spoke through an interpreter on Saturday.

"I don't think it will be tougher than the battle of Mosul," he told reporters.

Tal Afar is west of Mosul and about 150km east of the Syrian border, sitting along a major road that was a key ISIL supply route.

The town had a population of about 200,000 before it fell to ISIL in 2014. The United Nations estimates that 10,000 to 40,000 people are left in Tal Afar and surrounding villages.

## ■ Prepare yourself

Meantime, hours before Abadi's announcement, the Iraqi air force dropped leaflets over the city, telling the population to take precautions.

"Prepare yourself, the battle is imminent and the victory is coming," they read.

Matthew Glanville, a military analyst who had formerly advised the Iraqi government, said ISIL has "no hope of winning this battle".

Retired United States General Mark Kimmitt said that while retaking Tal Afar would be an "important milestone", it would not mean final days for the ISIL terrorist outfit.

"We're not looking at the final days of ISIS (ISIL), either in Iraq or in Syria, or outside of those countries," Kimmitt told Al Jazeera. "It still remains a very, very potent force, not only in the self-proclaimed caliphate, but we continue to see ISIS-inspired attacks in places such as Barcelona and elsewhere."

Thousands of Iraqis have fled to Iraq's Kurdish region as preparations of the offensive continued.

The Norwegian Refugee Council said on Saturday that refugees near the northern city of Tal Afar were faced with harsh conditions, and were stopped by authorities in east of Mosul and Kurdish areas as they tried to flee the fighting.

An estimated 50,000 people have fled the areas surrounding Tal Afar since April, and at least 50,000 more could flee in the coming days and weeks, according to aid groups.

That number is in addition to the estimated one million refugees who have fled Mosul.

## ■ 17,000 Iraqis return to Nineveh in 2 months

Elsewhere, Iraq says up to 17,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) have returned to their homes in Nineveh Plains in the country over the past two months following the liberation of the region from the ISIL terrorist group.

In a statement released on Saturday, the Iraqi Ministry of Migration and Displacement said that the IDPs had returned to the district of al-Hamdaniya as well as the city of Nimrud and the towns of Bartella and Bashiqa, all situated in Nineveh Plains, a region in Nineveh Province to the north and east of the city of Mosul.

The ministry admitted that the number of the returnees was still far less than the number of the people who had left due to the ISIL atrocities.

But Iraqi Minister of Migration and Displacement Jassim Mohammed al-Jaaf said it was a "good start"

Additionally, Hussam al-Din al-Abar, a Nineveh council member, told the Spanish international news agency EFE that the majority of services had been restored to Mosul's east.

"Most of the basic services have been restored in the eastern part of Mosul, where 90 percent of the neighborhoods already have electricity, compared with only 30 to 40 percent of areas in the western part," he added.

ISIL unleashed a campaign of death and destruction in Iraq in 2014, seizing Mosul and declaring it as its so-called "capital" in the Middle Eastern country.

Iraqi army soldiers and allied fighters have been leading a major operation to rid the country of the Takfiri elements. The Iraqi forces fully liberated Mosul last month.

(Source: agencies)

## Lebanese soldiers continue battle against ISIL near Syrian border

Lebanese army troops have been attacking positions held by the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Daesh) terrorists near the Syrian border for a second day after liberating a third of the militant-held territory.

On Sunday, Lebanon's National News Agency (NNA) reported that the army forces were firing heavy artillery and rockets at the ISIL positions in the northeastern village of Ras Baalbek.

The Lebanese military launched its anti-terror operation on Saturday. The Hezbollah resistance movement also started a simultaneous offensive against ISIL terrorist outfit from the Syrian side of the frontier.

Colonel Nazih Jreij, a spokesman for the Lebanese army, expressed his satisfaction with the first day of the campaign, saying, "We achieved our goals on the first day, and even a bit more."

"The terrorists are currently being humiliated," he said, adding, "The military operation will continue until the targets are met, the terrorists are expelled and soldiers are deployed along the borders."

Jreij also noted that around 30 square kilometers of territory, approximately a third of the area in the hands of the militants, had been recaptured from the Takfiri elements.

During the first day of the military operation, 10 Lebanese soldiers sustained injuries in clashes and 20 militants were killed in either direct combat, shelling or aerial strikes, he pointed out.

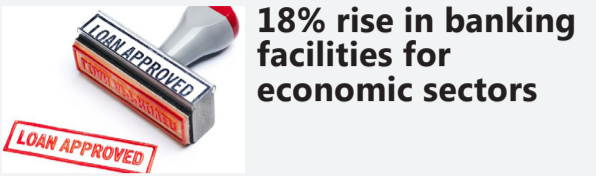
Additionally, Bachir Matar, the head of the municipality of the town of al-Qaa, hailed Lebanon's long-awaited military campaign, saying, "We consider it pivotal, the Lebanese army is liberating our land of Lebanon and Qaa."

Meanwhile, Hezbollah's media bureau reported that its fighters and the Syrian army had on Saturday "managed to liberate 87 square kilometers of the total area controlled by the Daesh (ISIL) ... in western Qalamoun region."

Before Saturday's advances, Lebanon's military estimated that some 600 ISIL terrorists were present in Ras Baalbek and al-Qaa, controlling around 120 square kilometers of territory.

(Source: Daily Star)

NEWS IN BRIEF



**18% rise in banking facilities for economic sectors**

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — According to the latest desk report released by the Central Bank of Iran (CBI), the granted banking facilities to domestic economic sectors witness 18.4 percent growth during the first four month of the present Iranian calendar year (March 21-July 22, 2017) IRNA reported on Sunday.

More than 1.53 quadrillion rials (about \$39.9 billion) of loans were paid to Iranian economic sectors in the said period, showing 238 trillion rials (about \$6.2 billion) increase, i.e. 18.4 percent growth, from the same time span in the preceding year.

Foreign investors' deals in TSE up 47%

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — In the desk first four months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-July 22, 2017), the number of foreign investors' deals in Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE) increased by 47 percent, compared to the same period in the previous year, according to a TSE director.

As Hamid Rouhbakhsh, the director

of public relations and international affairs of TSE, said 91 percent of foreign deals was made by real entities in TSE during the four-month period, which indicates more active presence of foreign investors in this market compared to the figure of 88 percent in the same time span last year, SENA news agency reported on Sunday.

Foreign investors are present in 36



industries in TSE, Rouhbakhsh added.

The first trading code was issued for a foreign shareholder in Iranian calendar year of 1373 (1994-95) to let it

commence its activity in Iranian capital market while the number currently stands at 878 trading codes, the same report confirmed.

Qatar emerging stronger despite economic blockade

By Peter Alagos

Qatar has proven its ability to overcome the challenges of the economic blockade imposed by Saudi Arabia and its allies, earning the praise and respect from both the international and regional communities, Doha Bank CEO Dr R Seetharaman has said.



*Doha Bank CEO Dr R Seetharaman moderates a panel discussion with guest speakers Qatar Financial Centre Authority CEO Yousuf Mohamed al-Jaida, Qatar Stock Exchange CEO Rashid Ali al-Mansoori, and Qatar Development Bank CEO Abdulaziz bin Nasser al-Khalifa. PICTURE: Shemeer Rasheed*

“Qatar is converging as a resilient and sustainable performer,” he said at a knowledge-sharing session titled ‘Qatar – Land of Opportunities.’ The event was attended by chief guest of honour HE the Qatar Central Bank Governor Sheikh Abdulla bin Saoud al-Thani. He was joined by key Qatari dignitaries, local businessmen, and representatives from various embassies.

Seetharaman also moderated a panel discussion with guest speakers Qatar Financial Centre Authority CEO Yousuf Mohamed al-Jaida, Qatar Stock Exchange CEO Rashid Ali al-Mansoori, and Qatar Development Bank CEO Abdulaziz bin Nasser al-Khalifa.

Seetharaman spoke on Qatar’s economy and showcased the various developments in the country since the beginning of the blockade, and how Qatar is currently managing the current situation.

“Qatar has a reserve of \$340bn, including assets of its sovereign wealth fund, Qatar Central Bank reserves, cash, and gold. Together, Qatar’s reserves are more than 200% of its GDP. Qatar banking asset growth was close to 3% year-to-date till June 2017.

“The overall lending growth was close to 4% YTD till June 2017. The deposit growth was close to 6% YTD till June 2017. Qatar’s net trade surplus for June 2017 was \$3.45bn,” Seetharaman pointed out.

During the panel session, the topics delivered by the speakers revolved on foreign investors, capital market developments, regulatory reforms, food security, and the small and medium-sized enterprise (SME) sector.

Al-Jaida said Qatar “has proven its resilience” and remains as the world’s top liquefied natural gas (LNG) exporter, and one of the highest-rated countries in the Middle East.

“Additionally, reserves and funds exceeding 250% of GDP mean that Qatar has the tools to defend its economy. Qatar is emerging stronger than ever by proving its self-sufficiency, entering new markets, and pushing ahead with its diversification strategy.

“The vast billion dollar infrastructure projects in place in a variety of sectors such as transport, health, education, and sports show that Qatar will carry on growing and remains to be one of the strongest economies worldwide.”

Al-Mansoori said the Qatar stock market is open for GCC and foreign investors and is offering new products, as well as focusing on the SME sector.

“We are working on introducing margin trading and short-selling products. Exchange trade funds (ETFs) will also be an interesting opportunity. We are working on simplifying the process for investors.

“The change in tick size of stocks at the Qatar Stock Exchange will have positive impact on certain stocks. The new rules are also set to improve governance and transparency,” he pointed out.

Al-Khalifa said the major challenges faced by SME sector such as access to information, funding, and procurement opportunities.

“QDB is working on these challenges and will try to translate them into opportunities. The blockade is giving opportunities on the international front, apart from the local segment. These developments reveal that Qatar is serious for business and that ‘business is as usual,’” said al-Khalifa.

(Source: The Gulf Times)

OPEC sec. gen. welcomes Zanganeh’s second term in office

**ENERGY** **TEHRAN** — Secretary desk General of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) Mohammad Sanusi Barkindo send a letter to Bijan Namdar Zanganeh, welcoming his second term in office in President Hassan Rouhani’s cabinet.

“It was with great pleasure that I learned of your recent well-deserved reappointment as Minister of Petroleum by His Excellency, President Hassan Rouhani. On behalf of all of the staff at the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, please permit me, Your Excellency, to wish you ever success in this role over the coming years,” the letter reads, according to Shana.



German engine maker considers Iran its biggest growth market in region

MAN Diesel & Turbo, a German multinational that produces engines and turbo machinery, has said it is increasingly active in Iran, seeing the country as its biggest growth market in the region.

“We are very active in Iran. We’ve restarted our company there, called MAN Iran Power. We are now building a workshop there, I just signed a

lease on the shed,” said Gaby B. Hanna, vice-president and head of region MEA (Middle East and Africa), MAN Diesel & Turbo.

A shed refers to a place where engines or turbines are designed and tested.

Part of the Volkswagen Group, which is set to start exporting cars to Iran this

month after 17 years away from the country, MAN Diesel & Turbo is ensuring that it is fully compliant with all regulations when dealing with the republic.

“We see Iran, putting aside all the political issues, as a big market for us,” said Hanna, adding: “The biggest growth market for us.”

Commenting on the lack of invest-

ment in Iran, Uwe Lauber, CEO of MAN Diesel & Turbo, noted that the country was a very important market before sanctions were placed on it.

“During the sanctions, we were not able to serve our customers ... and to keep plants operating, the Chinese and Koreans were there,” Lauber said.

(Source: gulfnews.com)

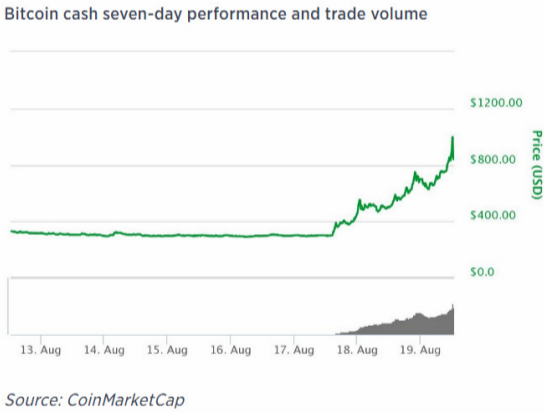
‘Bitcoin cash’ soars to record high above \$900 as ‘mining’ profits jump

The bitcoin offshoot surged Saturday to a record high in high trade volume, helped by strong demand from South Korea and digital currency “miners” who found the offshoot more profitable to mine.

Bitcoin cash, an alternative version of bitcoin launched by a minority of developers on Aug. 1, climbed 44 percent to \$996.92, according to CoinMarketCap. That’s the highest bitcoin cash has ever traded in its less than three weeks of history, and a jump of almost 374 percent from its low of \$210.38 on its first day of trading.

Bitcoin cash traded off that high at \$944.45 in mid-morning trade, still less than a quarter of the original bitcoin’s price.

After stagnating interest in the first two weeks of its existence, the bitcoin offshoot began climbing late



last week after digital currency “miners” on Wednesday mined an eight megabyte bitcoin cash block. That demonstrated bitcoin cash could fulfill its promise of faster transaction speeds, which is determined by block size. The original bitcoin has a one megabyte block size and is set for an upgrade to a two megabyte block this fall.

The gains in bitcoin cash’s price and built-in protocols that gradually reduce the difficulty of mining the digital currency have made the offshoot more attractive to miners. Bitcoin cash is now 69 percent more profitable to mine than the original bitcoin, according to data analysis from Coin Dance.

Digital currency miners often switch their mining power among different currencies depending on their relative profitability.

(Source: cnbc)

Britain will not exclude possible EU oversight of UK borders after Brexit

**LONDON (Reuters)** — Britain will not rule out the possibility that the European Union may retain oversight of customs controls at UK borders after it leaves the bloc, as the country seeks ways to keep unhindered access to EU markets following Brexit.

Last week, the UK published a policy document proposing two possible models for British-EU customs arrangements after withdrawal from the EU in 2019.

The first model was a “highly streamlined customs arrangement” which involved the re-introduction of a customs border but which envisaged electronic tracking of shipments, rather than physical checks of goods and documents at the border.

An alternative proposal was the “new customs partnership” which would remove the need for a UK-EU customs border altogether.

Under this model, the UK would operate as if it was still part of the bloc for customs purposes. British goods would be exported tariff-free and Britain would levy EU tariffs on goods coming into the UK for onward passage to the EU directly or as components in UK export goods.

However, lawyers said there would be a need for a mechanism to oversee the “new customs partnership” to ensure that the UK was correctly monitoring goods coming into the UK and destined for Europe.

The EU’s system of movement of goods across EU borders without checks works on the basis that all members closely monitor shipments coming into the bloc from outside, to ensure the correct tariffs are paid and that goods meet EU standards.

■ **Weaknesses**

The EU anti-fraud agency OLAF polices customs agencies across Europe



to ensure they are correctly monitoring imports. OLAF has the powers to conduct on-the-spot inspections and seek information from customs bodies.

If OLAF finds weaknesses in a country’s systems and that the member is not charging the appropriate duties on imports from outside the EU, it will recommend that the European Commission, the EU’s executive arm, should recover money from the offending member.

For example, in March OLAF slammed lax UK border controls and recommended the European Commission reclaim 2 billion euros the agency said was lost because Britain had failed to apply the correct EU duties on imports of Chinese clothes and footwear in recent years.

A spokesman for the UK’s tax authority said it questioned OLAF’s estimate of lost revenue. Duties collected are paid to Brussels.

Commission duty recovery claims can be appealed to the Court of Justice of the European Union (ECJ), the EU’s highest court.

UK Prime Minister Theresa May has said the UK will no longer be subject to the jurisdiction of the ECJ after Britain’s exit from the bloc.

However, the British finance ministry declined to say if the country would bar OLAF from policing the UK’s customs system under the “new customs partnership” model or whether it would allow the Commission to make demands for recovery of lost duties.

“The exact form of the arrangements will be agreed as part of the negotiations,” a ministry spokeswoman said.

■ **Money and effort**

Lode Van Den Hende, a partner with Herbert Smith Freehills in Brussels, said it was hard to see how the customs partnership model could work without OLAF or a similar body policing the

UK’s monitoring of imports destined for the EU.

“In practical terms they (Britain and the EU) would have to operate in the same way or the whole thing would fall apart,” he said.

Bernard Jenkin, a member of parliament for May’s Conservative party, who backed Brexit in last year’s referendum, said he opposed continued EU oversight of UK borders.

“There is no need for an EU institution to police our customs, and we should not accept this,” he said in a statement.

“Any dispute about each other’s customs arrangements should be settled by an independent arbitrator, as with any other international agreement, not by an institution which belongs only to one party of the agreement,” he added.

Van Den Hende said the ECJ may not accept the creation of an independent body to oversee EU customs. Customs are a matter of EU law and the court is supposed to be the highest authority on this.

Also, the breadth of areas in which the UK wishes to retain free trade with Europe means many such independent arbitrators would be required. They would be needed to monitor enforcement of health standards, standards in financial services and rules that apply to a host of other regulated markets.

“In theory you can design that, but in practice neither the UK nor the EU would want that because you would be replicating institutions which already exist. It would be a huge amount of money and effort,” he said.

“This is in one of the fundamental problems about Brexit. The UK wants to retain deep integration but the UK doesn’t like the institutions that administer all this stuff,” Van Den Hende said.

# Why OPEC’s success hinges on a change of seasons

Global oil consumption ebbs and flows from one season to the next. So the current months of higher demand will be scrutinized closely for signs of whether production cuts from the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries and its allies are bearing fruit. The group is struggling to clear the glut that's kept prices close to \$50 a barrel -- half the level three years ago. The annual rhythms of refiners, U.S. motorists and the weather will play a big part in determining whether the cartel's effort to boost prices is successful.

■ **1. Why are the next few months so important?**

Demand for oil tends to increase during the summer as U.S. households hit the road for their vacations. Consumption tails off in September as the driving season ends and refineries halt for maintenance, before rising again at the start of winter as people burn oil for heating. Periods of higher demand offer OPEC an opportunity to make a significant dent in swollen crude stockpiles, while the lulls carry the risk that the surplus will grow again.

■ **2. Shouldn't OPEC's cuts have eliminated the glut already?**

OPEC and allies including Russia agreed to curb output by as much as 1.8 million barrels a day for six months starting in January. Initial confidence from Saudi Arabia -- OPEC's de-facto leader -- that this would do the job quickly turned into the realization that a longer reduction was required. The extension was deemed necessary because a rally in the price of oil revived investment in the U.S. shale industry, causing production there to boom again.

■ **3. What are analysts watching for?**

Data showing how many miles were driven by U.S. vacationers will be released over the next few months, but there are already signs that summer demand is helping OPEC achieve its goals. The nation's refiners were gulping down a record 17.6 million barrels a day earlier in August, well above the summer averages for the last two years. Crude inventories have dropped almost every week since the start of April and now stand at their lowest since January 2016.

■ **4. What are the wild cards?**

Weather plays a big part. Hurricanes could disrupt oil production in the Gulf of Mexico as well as the operations of coastal refineries. An unusually cold Northern Hemisphere winter could cause boost demand and increase prices. The pace of the recovery in U.S. shale production -- which caught OPEC by surprise this year -- remains



hard to predict.

■ **5. Will the global surplus of fuel stockpiles finally disappear?**

That's still a matter of considerable debate. OPEC and Russia have already extended their cuts for nine months longer than originally expected and now plan to wrap them up next spring. Even that may prove to be inadequate, with data from the International Energy Agency showing inventories in industrialized nations could remain oversupplied even after the end of 2018. Without deeper supply reductions -- which so far haven't found enough support within OPEC -- it could take years for the surplus to be eliminated.

■ **6. What does this mean for OPEC's effort to boost prices?**

OPEC's goal of rebalancing the oil market, ending three years of oversupply, keeps slipping out of reach. In the first half its efforts were undermined by recovering output from Libya and Nigeria -- members exempt from the deal -- and increases in U.S. shale production. The situation should improve in the second half, when both Goldman Sachs Group Inc. and the International Energy Agency expect demand to significantly exceed production.

■ **7. What could spoil OPEC's plan?**

There are three main risks. Disappointing global economic growth could damp demand. OPEC members could backtrack on their promises and exceed their quotas. Or U.S. shale could continue to grow faster than expected. By the group's next meeting on Nov. 30, it will have September stockpile data that will show whether the summer demand bump put inventories on track to fall back in line with the five-year average. If inventories haven't fallen enough, the cartel may need to consider cutting output even further beyond spring 2018. With compliance with the curbs already weakening, that may not be an easy agreement.

■ **8. Could this -- finally -- be the end of OPEC?**

Probably not. OPEC's obituary has been written again and again, but the group tends to come bouncing back. There's little question the shale revolution has weakened the cartel's grip on the global market, at least for now, but it maintains some key advantages. OPEC's heartland in the Middle East still holds the world's most profitable fields -- simply put, it costs far less to drill into the Saudi desert than the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean or even the shale fields of Texas. In the long-run, we're likely to rely more on OPEC's crude than on expensive barrels drilled in countries outside the group. (Source: Bloomberg)

## Solar eclipse presents first major test of power grid in renewable era

As today's total solar eclipse sweeps from Oregon to South Carolina, U.S. electric power and grid operators will be glued to their monitoring systems in what for them represents the biggest test of the renewable energy era.

Utilities and grid operators have been planning for the event for years, calculating the timing and drop in output from solar, running simulations of the potential impact on demand, and lining up standby power sources. It promises a critical test of their ability to manage a sizeable swing in renewable power.

Solar energy now accounts for more than 42,600 megawatts (MW), about 5 percent of the U.S.'s peak demand, up from 5 MW in 2000, according to the North American Electric Reliability Council (NERC), a group formed to improve the nation's power system in the wake of a 1964 blackout. When the next eclipse comes to the United States in 2024, solar will account for 14 percent of the nation's power, estimates NERC.

For utilities and solar farms, the eclipse represents an opportunity to see how well prepared their systems are to respond to rapid swings in an era where variable energy sources such as solar and wind are climbing in scale and importance.

Power companies view today's event as a "test bed" on how power systems can manage a major change in supply, said John Moura, director of reliability assessment and system analysis at the North American Electric Reliability Corp.

Power utilities say the focus will be on managing a rapid drop off and accommodate the solar surge post the eclipse. Utility executives say they do not expect any interruption in service, but are prepared to ask customers to pare usage if a problem arises.

"We want to assure our customers that we have secured enough resources to meet their energy needs, even with significantly less solar generation on hand," said Caroline Winn, chief operating officer at utility San Diego Gas & Electric Co.

In the Eastern United States, utilities will have more time to watch the results of their Western counterparts. PJM Interconnection, which coordinates electricity transmission among 13 states from Michigan to North Carolina, says non-solar sources such as hydro and fossil fuel can easily supplant the 400 MW to 2,500 MW solar loss, depending on the cloud cover.

For small-scale solar providers, the eclipse is a drop in the revenue bucket. Ron Strom, a North Carolina real estate developer, sells the power from a 58 kilovolt system atop a commercial property in Chapel Hill to Duke Energy.

(Source: Reuters)



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## Why does Macron's presidential approval rating keep falling?

By James McAuley

At home and abroad, the name Emmanuel Macron elicits vastly different reactions.

In many countries, the 39-year-old French president remains a symbol of youthful dynamism, a darling of social democrats shocked by Brexit and the ascent of Donald Trump. But in France, the man whose landslide victory in May marked the end of Europe's populist surge is falling out of favor — and fast.

In view of the sky-high expectations for Macron, his initial slide in the polls was to be expected, political analysts say. After little more than three months in office, however, he faces a full-fledged nose-dive in public opinion. According to the latest YouGov poll, published at the beginning of August, just 36 percent of the French now approve of their president, roughly the same as the percentage of Americans who approve of President Trump. On May 7, 66 percent of French voters supported Macron.



That steep decline — especially given the relief that followed Macron's trouncing of the far-right Marine Le Pen — has baffled political operatives and pollsters here. And although poll numbers fluctuate, the latest figures also have many wondering about the viability of the president's newly established political party and his ambitious economic proposals.

### ■ France's system of government

Others say the decline can be explained in part by France's system of government, in which the president enjoys far broader powers than many of his Western peers — including the power to dissolve Parliament. As a result, he receives all the credit or all the blame whenever either is due.

"It's a pitfall of the presidential system," said Sudhir Hazareesingh, an expert on French politics at the University of Oxford. Hazareesingh also noted the damage done by lawmakers in Macron's party, whom he described as "a complete set of novices."

"They haven't got used to parliamentary procedure," he said, "and the group really isn't as cohesive as might be hoped."

Established last year, the party — République En Marche, or Republic on the Move — is a new force in French politics. While Macron made headlines for creating a diverse coalition of deputies — with as many women as men, and from a wide range of professional backgrounds — the brief summer session before Parliament's August recess was marked by infighting and a degree of administrative chaos.

For many, though, it's Macron's personality that has done the most to alienate ordinary citizens.

In three months in power, the new head of state has been reluctant to grant interviews, preferring to deliver lengthy orations in the halls of Versailles, France's historic seat of absolute monarchy, and such regal optics have not played well with the media or the public. Macron is more unpopular at the three-month point of his first term than any of his immediate predecessors — François Hollande, Nicolas Sarkozy and Jacques Chirac — were at the same point, according to Ifop, the Paris-based polling firm.

### ■ Jupiter of the Elysee

Of late, any attempt by Macron to act as the "Jupiter of the Elysee," as he has been dubbed, has run into fierce opposition. A vague proposal to make his wife, Brigitte, an "official" first lady — a title that would have come with a separate taxpayer-funded budget — was abandoned after an online petition garnered more than 300,000 signatures. Brigitte Macron told Elle Magazine in her first public interview that she would serve only in an informal capacity.

Macron's treatment of the military has also helped cement his emerging image as an aloof, kinglike figure.

**Macron is more unpopular at the three-month point of his first term than any of his immediate predecessors — François Hollande, Nicolas Sarkozy and Jacques Chirac — were at the same point, according to Ifop, the Paris-based polling firm.**

After his inauguration, the new president quickly set his sights on military expenditures, a not-unexpected move given his promises to slash government spending as a way to keep France in line with European Union budgetary guidelines. Although he pledged to increase military spending by next year, he plans to go ahead with previously announced cuts of almost \$1 billion to the 2017 defense budget.

That amount represents a small fraction of the French military's total annual budget of \$37 billion. But against the backdrop of France's efforts to combat terrorism at home and abroad, Macron's decision was seen by military officials as a betrayal. In mid-July, the country's top-ranking general, Pierre de Villiers, resigned in protest.

"The French army is in a very difficult state because of the budget cuts that have characterized the last 25 years," said Vincent Desportes, a retired French general, in an interview. "Fundamentally, we need support. Macron said he would provide that support, but the first thing he did was to walk back on his word."

Separately from the budget arguments, conservatives and other supporters of the military objected to what they saw as the undiplomatic way Macron conveyed and defended his decisions to the armed forces. The young president — who has never served in the military — dismissed the protests of his troops, telling them in a widely discussed public speech last month, "I am your boss" and insisting that he needed "no pressure and no commentary."

(Source: The Washington Post)

# The failing Trump presidency

With each day, President Trump offers fresh proof that he is failing the office that Americans entrusted to him. The rolling disaster of his presidency accelerated downhill last week with a news conference on Tuesday at which he seemed determined to sow racial strife in a nation desperate for a unifying vision.

Since the 1930s it has not typically been a challenge for an American leader to denounce Nazism. But there is nothing typical about this president; urged by some of his advisers and family members to summon the majesty and moral authority of the presidency to heal the wounds of last weekend's neo-Nazi violence in Charlottesville, to put the good of the country before personal pique, he chose instead to deliver a defense of white supremacists that raised as never before profound doubts about his moral compass, his grasp of the obligations of his office and his fitness to occupy it.

### ■ Prince of discord

This, in essence, is where we are now: a nation led by a prince of discord who seems divorced from decency and common sense. The alarm bells were loud and swift. Five members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff delivered a rare rebuke, condemning race-based extremism in the military and the nation. Foreign leaders, from Secretary General António Guterres of the United Nations to Prime Minister Theresa May of Britain, condemned intolerance and a failure of leadership in the White House.

Of all the many complaints and condemnations, the strongest came from Trump's putative allies in the business community, a glittering who's who of financial and corporate leaders who began resigning from two White House advisory councils early last week, ultimately forcing the president to dissolve both panels in order to spare himself the humiliation of further corporate desertions. The White House ultimately abandoned a third advisory council, on infrastructure, an area where Trump had hoped to fulfill at least one of his campaign promises to create jobs.

Trump was reportedly energized by his Tuesday performance, which he saw as a rebuke to politically correct forces that he thinks are determined to topple him. He crashed ahead, attacking critics on all sides and delivering Twitter bursts of anti-historical nonsense. Not the least of these was his repetition, shortly after the terrorist attack in Barcelona on Thursday, of the canard that Gen. John Pershing, known as "Black Jack," had stopped terrorists in the Philippines by killing dozens of them with bullets dipped in pigs' blood, a strategy Trump thinks worthy of emulation.

One measure of the despair caused by Trump's behavior is that we find ourselves strangely comforted by things that in any normal presidency would be cause for concern. One of these is the sheer incompetence that this president has displayed. Apart from



**Foreign leaders, from Secretary General António Guterres of the United Nations to Prime Minister Theresa May of Britain, condemned intolerance and a failure of leadership in the White House.**

threatening environmental, safety and financial protections with largely unfulfilled executive orders, a demonstrably cruel deportation policy, and lamentable court appointments, the worst of Trump's plans have thankfully faltered, like destroying the Affordable Care Act, while others are nowhere in sight.

Here is yet another oddity, another upending of traditional expectations. Americans accustomed constitutionally and politically to civilian leadership now find themselves relying on three current and former generals — John Kelly, the new White House chief of staff; H. R. McMaster, the national security adviser; and Jim Mattis, the secretary of defense — to stop Trump from going completely off the rails.

### ■ Trump's tendency

Experienced and educated, well-versed in the terrible costs of global confrontation and driven by an impulse toward public service that Trump doesn't possess, these three, it is hoped, can counter his worst instincts. This is at best a weak reed, though, given the training of military leaders to follow the lead of the commander-in-chief and Trump's tendency to confuse criticism with "disloyalty." And the idea of three military men at the top of strategic policy making gives further pause at a time when the State Department has been robbed of expertise and traditional diplomacy has been marginalized.

Some people, optimists in our view,

believe that. Trump's worst instincts can be controlled or at least moderated after the exit on Friday of one of the White House's darker forces, Stephen Bannon. Bannon doubtless reinforced and gave bogus intellectual cover to Trump's cramped views on immigration and race, but his influence appears to have been fading, by order of Kelly, and in any case his departure does not solve the main problem, which is Trump himself.

There are some signs that our democratic system is working to contain Trump. The failure of his efforts to deprive millions of Americans of health care coverage, the continuing investigation of his administration by the FBI, court challenges to his immigration and environmental edicts, and a new willingness by self-interested allies to desert him all suggest he is not immune to the forces that have felled bad presidents before him.

Is it fair to place any hope in the Republican Party, in particular its congressional leadership? For reasons of ineptitude and ideological complicity, the party's leaders did almost nothing to counter the Trump phenomenon, nor did they seek in any sustained fashion to temper his worst excesses, beginning with his false claims about President Barack Obama's birth and proceeding onward through his demagogic Inaugural Address.

It thus seems beyond unlikely that

Mitch McConnell, the Senate majority leader, or Paul Ryan, the weak-kneed speaker of the House, would entertain any thought of strong action, like censure. But it's fair to ask: Purely as a matter of political self-preservation, wouldn't a concerted effort to drag Trump away from the fringes make sense? His approval ratings are drifting south of 35 percent while he continues to romance the fewer than one-quarter of Americans who say they can't think of anything he could do to shake their support. Heading into an election year, is that where McConnell and Ryan want to be?

The deeper question, to Trump's remaining supporters, is not political but moral. It is whether they will continue to follow a standard-bearer who is alienating most of the country by embracing extremists. Yes, other Republican leaders, while claiming the mantle of Abraham Lincoln, have subtly and not so subtly courted big-ots since the days of Richard Nixon's "Southern strategy." But Trump has now made that subtext his text. Last week, he stripped away the pretense and the camouflage. In deciding to split Americans apart rather than draw them together, he abandoned the legacy of Lincoln for the legacy of Robert E. Lee and Jefferson Davis. He chose to summon not America's better angels, but its demons.

(Source: The NYT)

## Spain responds to terror with a display of unity



**The Barcelona attack comes at an especially sensitive moment, as the Catalan regional government prepares to hold a referendum on secession that Spain's constitutional court has ruled to be illegal.**

uniquely in Western Europe, Spain has not developed the virulent strain of xenophobic nationalism that brought far-right politicians to the fore from France to Austria.

This is all the more admirable given the high levels of immigration Spain was absorbing at a time

when its economy was one of the worst affected by the Eurozone debt crisis. Spanish people — themselves accustomed to moving in search of work — seem to have felt affinity with, rather than resentment of, foreigners in a similar predicament. And although increasing numbers of migrants are from North Africa, rather than culturally similar Latin American countries, there seems to be no general rise in Islamophobia.

It is to be hoped the latest attacks will make no difference to these values of openness and tolerance. But there are other fault lines in Spanish society; in particular the longstanding tensions between national and regional identity. These came to the fore in the aftermath of the Atocha bomb attacks, when the conservative government of the day initially suggested Eta was responsible, an explanation that would have played to its advantage in the imminent election. As the facts emerged, voters angry at the apparent deceit awarded an unexpected victory to the socialist opposition.

The Barcelona attack comes at an especially sensitive moment, as the Catalan regional government prepares to hold a referendum on secession that Spain's constitutional court has ruled to be illegal. Catalan leaders underlined on August 17th that the attacks would not affect their plans to hold the vote.

Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy meanwhile called for national and institutional unity to confront terrorism. That unity was on display on Friday in Barcelona, as people gathered to pay tribute to the victims. It is the right response to an attack that — like all terrorist atrocities — seeks to exploit and widen society's divisions.

(Source: FT)

# Barcelona: The hypocrisy of sorrow

By Peter Koenig

Barcelona, 17 August, 5 PM – a white van plows with 70 km/h into a mass of pedestrians, many of them tourists, on the famous Las Ramblas, in the heart of Barcelona. The death toll, 13 plus more than 100 injured. In an adjacent event, the police kill one alleged perpetrator. The main suspect flees and is still at large. Or is he? – Maybe he has already been killed.

All the recent truck killings were carried out by white vans. Does it mean anything? Maybe not. But importantly ISIS has already claimed responsibility, through their news agency Amaq, so say the prostitute media. Does anybody other than the mainstream media check? – Probably not. Doesn't matter. When ISIS claims responsibilities, it puts hearts and minds at ease. The culprit has been found. It's always the bloody Islamists-jihadists. We can rest in peace. And life goes on.

Indeed, life must go on and being prepared for more and increasing terror attacks is what the Mayor of London and Mr. Macron, the novice French President, already predicted. They must know a thing or two we don't. OK, let's brace ourselves. Much else we can't do anyway – or can we?

The French head of the conservative Republican Party, François Fillon, a losing contender of the recent Presidential elections, said with regards to the French tourists who died in the Barcelona attack: "We must assume our responsibility..." referring to the fact that he was not elected President – as he, Monsieur Fillon, would have done away with this Islamist terror. How low-low can you sink? There are no words, no comments.

Fortunately, the alleged chief perpetrator leaves, as usual and conveniently, an ID behind in the cabin of the white van. So, he can be traced to Melilla, a Spanish enclave in Morocco. In a related event, in a small town, Alcanar, some 250 km south of Barcelona, where on Wednesday night – well before the deadly Ramblas run, a massive explosion took place in a residence, leaving one person dead and 7 insured. One person was arrested by police. One of the injured persons was suspected to be the driver of

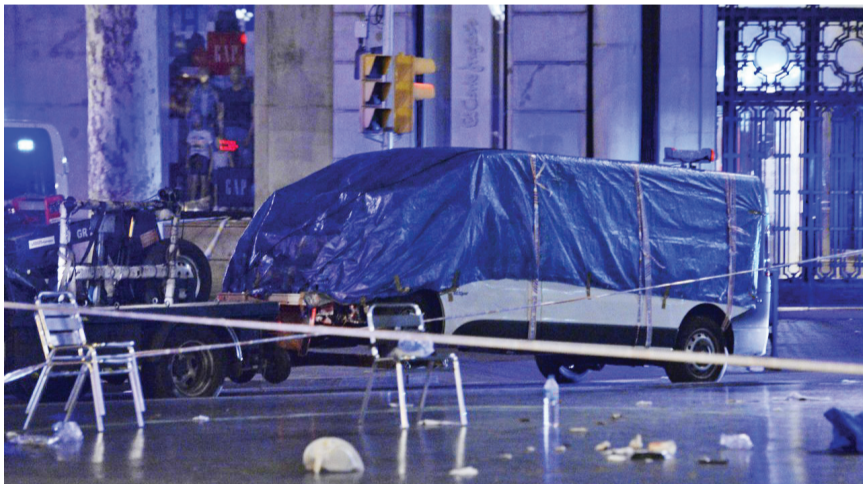
and a bit of a somber ambiance – and a crowd is holding an anti-islamisation rally in the center of Barcelona. All the while the Rambla is overflowing with tourists as usual. That's the way it should be. Shopping is first. Put police in charge. They will protect us henceforth. In case they can't handle it, the military are right at hand.

In the meantime – and foremost – and immediately after the horror massacre, messages of condolences poured in from such illustrious personalities, like Theresa May, Madame Merkel, Emmanuel Macron, Sweden's PM Stefan Löfven, from Belgium, Denmark.... Sorrow, no end.

Let's not forget, in the last year the Ram-Truck-Terror, now a convenient tool of horror, fear and killing, has hit Nice, France – 14 July 2016, Promenade des Anglais, 86 killed, almost 500 injured; Berlin, 19 December 2016, Christmas Market, 12 people dead, 56 injured; England twice, 22 March 2017, Westminster Bridge, 5 dead, more than 50 injured; London Bridge, June 2017, 7 dead; Stockholm, 8 April 2017, the city's busiest shopping street – 4 died, 15 injured. And now Barcelona Spain.

The condolences of these leaders sound hollow and so hypocritical because they, the very leaders, are at the heart of the problem. If not the direct instigators of this simply patterned string of terror attacks, they are utterly complicit, allowing the strings being pulled on their secret services by order of the Master Global Deep State, whose goal it is to subdue Europe, to convert her into a police – military state, chaos, possibly civil war. A civil war not as bad as to curtail essential consumption. But civil strife all the same. Give corporate finance enough room to escalate their debt and profit spiral, but leave the populace poor enough to produce a Europe that is devoid of thinking; no time to reflect, no time to protest – as people will struggle for their sheer survival.

You don't believe it? Look at Greece and elsewhere, what's going on around you. Militarization slow motion. Macron is fully committed to it – and doesn't shy from saying so. The French have understood, and Macron's popularity has sunk from 66% after the "election" to less than 35% today. Never mind. He is there to



the white Rambla van.

In the early morning hours of Friday, hours after the Barcelona van-ram in the beach town of Cambrils, some 120 km south of Barcelona, another van runs a police barricade, attempting to embark on a similar terror attack against a tourist-packed pedestrian strip. Apparently one pedestrian was killed. The police however, so the 'news', killed all five alleged terrorists in the van. The police now say they suspect one of them was the driver of the white van that rammed the Rambla. Dead men can't talk.

All has – sadly but predictably – the putrefied smell of another false flag. And the 'system', the deep-deep dark state, again, gets away with it.

The mix of information, is seemingly incoherent and purposely very confusing. Connections must be fabricated. Let chaos reign. Keep people confused. Keep them in the belief that police are on top of it and on the guard. You people must not think. Indeed, shopping, according to RT is almost back to normal. There is a candle vigil going on in plain daylight –

stay for 5 years. The French Constitution says so. A (people's) miracle would have to happen to remove him.

On another occasion, I have mentioned the sophisticated hundreds of millions of euros worst ghost town being built in a German military camp in Saxony-Althaus – for the very purpose of training urban warfare – just in case, you and your fellow protesters, when you can't take it anymore, you may take to the streets and go on the barricades – that's when the urban trained forces of power come in to oppress you, even kill you, if necessary. What you saw in Hamburg at the G20 Meeting in early July was just a benign precursor of what's to come.

Yes, that's what's expecting us Europeans – the US is already there, they are always a few notches ahead of us, they are doing the trial run for us. – Barcelona is just a little stone in the mosaic, in the Big Picture of "Full Spectrum Domination" – the ultimate goal of the PNAC (Plan for a new American Century) – the Washington's and the Deep-Dark One-Eyed State's Bible, written and periodi-



**Today, Spain, with a smooth Parliamentary coup in 2016 that went almost unnoticed, has quietly slipped back to the neoliberal Rajoy Government.**

cally updated by the ultimate One-Eyed Anglo-Zionists on top of the echelon. We are almost there.

Why now Spain? – Spain has been spared of major terror attacks since the 11-M (11 March 2004) attack, when a few explosions at Madrid's Atocha train station killed 192 people and injured over 2000, three days ahead of Presidential elections. This had nothing to do with Jihadism. Though the terror was immediately blamed on Al Qaeda, no proof was ever found. It was the work of the right-wing government under PP (Partido Popular) in power at the time, blaming the Socialist Party (PSOE), hoping to defeat it. It backfired. The socialists won and stayed in power for two terms, a total of 8 years. But in the second term neoliberal might descended also on the socialists in Spain, as it did and does everywhere in Europe. The Socialists became and still are to this day, traitors to the people.

Today, Spain, with a smooth Parliamentary coup in 2016 that went almost unnoticed, has quietly slipped back to the neoliberal Rajoy Government. So, Spain is supposed to be safe for the system. It also followed the strict rules of the IMF, today reaching 100% debt to GDP, up from about 66% before the neoliberal manufactured crisis hit Europe and the

to the market. Even your pensions and your saving. They are no longer yours. The market decides. Don't believe it? – Just look at Greece. – "Hasn't happen yet to me" – Well it will, I guarantee it, if you don't take over your nation and make her again YOUR sovereign country. Act rather sooner than later. Time is running out.

Naturally, the situation will become unbearable to the point where you can't take it anymore, and you will want to take to the street. It'll be too late. Urban warfare will be ready against you.

Fascism with a smile has brought you to the point where there is no going back. It's a new fascism. It's not Hitler's fascism. It's soft, sophisticated and deadly, if you oppose it. You are manipulated by a blue-managed matrix, encircled by police and military, ready to fire – but you will be fine and get fed as long as you nod, as in agreement.

Barcelona, Nice, London, Berlin, Munich, Paris, Brussels, Stockholm – and whatever else is to come, are mere little pebbles in a growing mosaic. You better look ahead what the picture, the mosaic may look like when its finished – the Big Picture is nasty, very nasty.

Think about the message of sorrow Mr. Putin sent to King Felipe VI of Spain: "We strongly condemn this brutal and

**It also followed the strict rules of the IMF, today reaching 100% debt to GDP, up from about 66% before the neoliberal manufactured crisis hit Europe and the western world in 2007 / 2008.**

western world in 2007 / 2008.

That's exactly what the system wants. Spain is ready for another economic collapse, orchestrated in connivance with her leadership. Ready for another round of rent taking – more privatization, pension and base salary cuts – the usual. Again, look at Greece and you see the pattern. Wall Street's appetite is never satisfied. It's the fraudulent dollar (and euro) economy we are enslaved to that makes this human tragedy possible – and people don't seem to even notice who and what is behind the planned misery.

Spain is on track for further 'milking'. So, why more suffering now? – Spain is an important NATO country with three naval and military bases. The majority of the population hates NATO, would like to get rid of it. What better way of convincing the people that the forces of NATO are useful defenders against Islamist attacks. Yes, weak and with fear you accept (almost) anything. Actually, you call for your hangman to protect you – in fact, it's the collective Stockholm syndrome.

Therefore, let's not get sidetracked by the hollow and hypocritical words of sorrow of the chief vassal-leaders (sic) of our three most powerful European countries which are meant to lead the way for the people of the European Continent to become gradually but surely enslaved into mere hapless and powerless serfs, deprived of civil and human rights. We are well on the way there. Have you noticed?

It's called Fascism with a smile. It's a slow-moving soft but deadly fascism that fascinates you at every corner, pulling you deeper and deeper into the hole of no return. It's the neoliberal fascism, that has abrogated and done away with every law, every regulation that may have protected you and your hard-earned savings and public assets; it conveyed everything

cynical crime against civilians. What has happened once again emphasizes the need for the global community to join efforts to fight against the forces of terror."

Mr. Putin has not mentioned Islam. He knows that he talks to western leaders who are in bed with terror, that getting them out of bed is a pipe dream. They are bought or threatened – with promises of heaven – to lead this system of terror all the way to a One World Order, or as India's President Modi said so eloquently in a recent RT interview – until the world is eventually one happy family. Bingo.

But it is not the end. There are alternatives. The western world is like a sinking ship. It's a slow sinking ship, slow and smiling as the fascism that drives it. We may not notice it. But look all around you, the massive killing, the fraud, the lawlessness at every step, up to the highest levels of government. Forget the msm prostitute, they are lying.

Most everybody knows this today. The next few centuries or more, are the Age of the East – Russia and China are opening the gates for an Economy of Peace, led by President Xi Jinping's initiative, the enormous multi-pronged OBI – One Belt Initiative, formerly the OBOR – One Belt One Road; a new Silk road that stretches from Shanghai to Hamburg and from Vladivostok to Lisbon and connecting Syria and Iran in the South.

Be brave! Dare to detach. Detach from the lie and fraud we have been living for the last two millennia, all the way back to the Roman Empire and which may be reaching soon a peak, a fiery and bloody peak which may end life as we know it in a nuclear all-annihilating holocaust. Because the dying beast may not want to leave survivors on this planet of ours. (Source: Global Research)

## Breaking America's Cold War addiction in Korea

By Suzy Kim

With tensions at an all-time high between the United States and North Korea, the New York Times headlined a recent digital newsletter with Lies Your High School History Teacher Told You About Nukes. The basic point was to debunk the theory of "mutually assured destruction" that is often used to explain why the Cold War remained cold and did not result in a nuclear holocaust.

The article argues that despite possessing a nuclear arsenal that guaranteed "mutually assured destruction," both the United States and the Soviet Union engaged in a costly arms race that attempted to outmaneuver the other with more numerous and powerful warheads, delivered with more precise and faster missiles.

This happened not because they wanted to engage in actual nuclear warfare, but because of the threat that the other could "escape" mutually assured destruction, fight back, and win. This justified pursuing weaponry that could, in theory, take out the other side before it could retaliate. The Soviet Union was so terrified of this prospect that it spent enormous resources to retain at least the power to deliver a second strike, ultimately at the cost to its own ailing economy.

This is precisely what North Korea is doing now, but from a much weaker position, which only increases the risk of war. In a military confrontation with the United States, North Korea faces a terrible choice between using its weapons first or losing them in a conventional war against a far superior power.

Although the so-called end of the Cold War was expected to make a nuclear-weapons-free world achievable, the latest conflict with North Korea has only heightened the risk of nuclear war. Today, the danger isn't history repeating itself with another Cold War; rather it is American complacency at having "won" the Cold War. The Soviet Union is long gone, but increasing conflicts with Russia and China prompted Barack Obama — the first American president to pledge nuclear disarmament — to renege on his promise and commit a projected \$1 trillion over three decades toward revitalizing America's nuclear weapons.

This isn't simply a return to a Cold War-era arms race. The Cold War never ended, nor did it maintain peace. The Cold War was never "cold" for those who experienced the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and the many other conflicts around the world, especially in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. In the Third World, the Cold War was fought in actual combat with millions of lost lives, the vast majority civilian.

And the Cold War has yet to end in Korea. August 15 marked the anniversary of Korea's liberation from Japanese colonial occupation, but also its simultaneous division. The Korean peninsula has remained divided since the Americans and the Soviets partitioned it in 1945, with almost 30,000 American troops still stationed in South Korea.

While pundits harp about a lack of good options, it wasn't so long ago that citizens across the Cold War divide called for peace and disarmament in unison. British social historian E.P. Thompson pointedly asked whose needs the Cold War served and whether it was necessary. In a lecture delivered in 1981, Thompson asked us to think "beyond the Cold War" to a world where peace and freedom made common cause.

Peace activists during the Cold War were lumped together with the Soviet "peace offensive" and branded naïve at best or dupes at worst, replicated today against those who seek engagement and peace with North Korea. Blaming appeasement and failure of diplomacy to stop Hitler and World War II while forgetting that World War I was the result of increased militarization and lack of diplomacy, the goal of peace was equated with appeasement and forsaken in the name of protecting freedom and "our way of life."

Thompson concluded that the Cold War was an "addiction," "a habit supported by very powerful material interests in each bloc," from the military-industrial complex to intelligence and national security agencies, and the politicians they serve. This is no less true here in the United States as it is in North Korea today, where the American threat has been used to justify draconian measures since the Korean War.

North Korea's threat of turning the United States into a "sea of fire," while rhetorically inflammatory and unproductive, is based on its historical experience of the Korean War, during which the United States engaged in a literal scorched earth campaign of incendiary bombing that exhausted all targets. Despite the American introduction of nuclear weapons into South Korea in 1958 in violation of the 1953 Armistice Agreement, North Korea began developing its own nuclear weapons in earnest only in the 1990s when it could no longer rely on the Soviet nuclear umbrella.

Aware of this history, peace activists, former ambassadors, and policy analysts have presented possible solutions to the current impasse toward a comprehensive peace settlement that includes a nuclear-free Korea in exchange for security guarantees and normalization of relations.

Globally, 123 nations voted last October at the UN Committee for Disarmament to start negotiations on banning nuclear weapons. What was most surprising was not that it took so long to take this step, but rather the outcome of the vote. Among the nine nuclear-weapon states, North Korea — the latest member — was the only one that voted in favor of negotiations for a ban. The United States, Russia, the United Kingdom, France, and Israel, along with most NATO allies, voted against the resolution, while China for the first time broke from the other recognized nuclear powers to abstain with India and Pakistan.

Thompson noted how history is "the record of unintended consequences." The current conflict is one of the many unintended consequences of the continuing Cold War and the arbitrary division of the Korean peninsula that has lasted to this day. Before the latest clash erupts into a real nuclear war, we must commit to truly ending the Cold War by demanding immediate and unconditional talks with North Korea, in which the United States also works toward a nuclear-weapons free world.

This may sound utopian, but the largest protest against nuclear weapons in American history gathered close to one million people in Manhattan's Central Park in 1982. The recent anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki is a sobering reminder of what is at stake.

(Source: FPIF)

# The United States was never immune to fascism. Not then, not now

By David Motadel

America is currently experiencing a wave of increasingly aggressive far-right and neo-fascist activism. Observers have routinely considered fascism an ideology alien to American society. Yet it has deeper roots in American history than most of us have been willing to acknowledge.

Consider the interwar period. The crisis years of the 1920s and 1930s not only gave rise to fascist movements across Europe – a moment captured in Ernst Nolte's classic *The Three Faces of Fascism* – but around the globe.

The United States was no exception.

Across the country, fascist and proto-fascist groups sprang up. The most prominent among them was the paramilitary Silver Shirts movement, founded by William Dudley Pelley, a radical journalist from Massachusetts, in 1933.

Obsessed with fantasies about a Jewish-Communist world conspiracy and fears about an African American corruption of American culture, its followers promoted racism, extreme nationalism, violence and the ideal of an aggressive masculinity. They competed against various other militant fringe groups, from the Khaki Shirt movement, which aimed to build a paramilitary force of army veterans to stage a coup, to the paramilitary Black Legion, feared for its assassinations, bombings and acts of arson.

## Numerous fascist groups in U.S.

An important role in this history was played by radicalized parts of the Italian and German American community. Inspired by the ascent of Mussolini, some Italian Americans founded numerous fascist groups, which were eventually united under the Fascist League of North America.

Even bigger was Fritz Julius Kuhn's German-American Bund, founded in 1936. Its members considered themselves patriotic Americans. At their meetings the American flag stood beside the Swastika banner. At a rally at Madison Square Garden in New York on 20 February 1939, a crowd of 20,000 listened to Kuhn attacking President Franklin D Roosevelt, referring to him as "Frank D Rosenfeld" and calling his New Deal a "Jew Deal".

The gathering ended in violent clashes between protest-

ers and participants. Similar riots took place on the west coast. The New York Times reported: "Disorders attendant upon Nazi rallies in New York and Los Angeles this week again focused attention upon the Nazi movement in the United States and inspired conjectures as to its strength and influence."

To be sure, most of these groups were peripheral. And yet historians have shown that the appeal of fascism among many Americans in the interwar years should not be underestimated. The ideology found prominent supporters, from the writer Ezra Pound, who from Italy called Americans for an alliance with Mussolini, to the aviator Charles Lindbergh, who in the 1940s campaigned against Washington's entry into the war.

Fascist agitators published widely circulated newspapers and aired radio shows, which reached millions, preaching virulent antisemitism, nativism and anti-Communism. Many of them had no obvious links to their fascist counterparts in Europe and cushioned their message with American nativism and Christian piety.

"When and if fascism comes to America it will not be

labelled 'made in Germany'; it will not be marked with a swastika," a U.S. reporter warned urgently in 1938. "It will not even be called fascism; it will be called, of course, 'Americanism'." Sinclair Lewis's novel *It Can't Happen Here*, published a few years earlier, had made a similar point.

During the World War II, American fascists suffered a serious blow. At the great sedition trial of 1944, some of the movement's key proponents were charged with treason. In the postwar years, however, scores of new groups emerged. Some saw themselves in the tradition of the interwar period, such as the American Nazi party, founded in 1959 by the flamboyant war veteran George Lincoln Rockwell, which copied its ideology and iconography from Germany's Nazi party.

Yet many of these groups transformed and began to look very different from their predecessors of the 1930s. Not all wore jackboots, armbands and uniforms any more. Not all assembled at torch rallies. They embraced new discourses of globalization, migration and multiculturalism. Today, neo-fascism has many faces, with movements ranging from neo-Nazis to neo-Confederates to segments of the alt-right. ➔13

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# Lessons from meditating with the Dalai Lama

By Sanjay Gupta

For the past two months, I have been a changed man. It is hard to fully describe, except to say my mood is mostly sunny and more patient than usual.

In the past, my family and friends would've typically described me as pleasant but hurried. My baseline restlessness and edginess, however, have now nearly vanished.

Without difficulty, I have sustained attention when my young children spend time with me. Instead of constant surveillance of my phone, there is an ability to quickly hyper-focus on the task is at hand and a corresponding joy of living in a distraction-less world.

This change seems to have started the end of last year, after I spent a morning meditating with the Dalai Lama.

First off: Yes, I do feel a little ridiculous writing a line like that, and I didn't feel worthy of his invitation at the time. Even though I meditate, I've never been sure whether I was using proper technique or whether there was an acceptable way to meditate in the presence of His Holiness.

If he was looking forward to a good meditation partner, I worried he was unlikely to find it in me. Even my posture is terrible when sitting cross-legged on the floor. My back starts to hurt, followed by my knees. Thus, my breathing, which is supposed to drive my focus, sounds raspy and uneven. All this makes my mind race instead of slowing down and calming.

Just thinking about meditating with His Holiness was making me anxious.

Nevertheless, who says "no" to a chance to meditate with the Dalai Lama? I agreed to join him early the next morning at his private residence.

A practice that begins at 3 a.m.

At 81 years, old, the Dalai Lama keeps a very active schedule. I met him in Mundgod, India, at the Drepung Monastery, where he was overseeing a symposium bridging Buddhism and science.

For three days, his Holiness moderated sessions on weighty metaphysical topics such as the criteria for valid reasoning, the fundamental constituents of the universe, origins of life and the subjective experience of the mind.

It was fascinating and mind-bending -- but also mentally exhausting. It was difficult to stay awake, let alone keep up with the rapid-fire debate between the Buddhists and the scientists. Yet his Holiness was mentally engaged and inquisitive throughout, even more remarkable given more than half the comments were being translated for him.



**Through analytical meditation we can use logic and reason to more clearly identify the question at hand, separate it from irrelevant considerations, erase doubt and brightly illuminate the answers.**

The Dalai Lama typically wakes about 2:40 a.m. and starts his daily meditation routine at 3 a.m., even as most of his staff is still snoozing.

This was the backdrop when one of his senior staff members picked me up outside the monastery early one morning. We drove in a three-car convoy to the gates outside his private residence.

From there, several more staff members escorted us to a small conference room where his security detail was slowly waking and drinking their morning tea. Finally, his chief of staff walked me just outside the personal quarters of the Dalai Lama.

■ **Meditating is hard for him, too**

There were a few minor instructions before we entered. Eye contact is not a problem, and shaking hands is acceptable if you use two hands, not just one. Try not to turn your back to him when leaving the room, and instead walk backward, as much as possible facing him. When sitting cross-legged on the floor, don't point your feet at the Dalai Lama. And the correct address is "your holiness."

Shortly after, the doors opened, and I nervously walked into a very modest room where the Dalai Lama was sitting

on a raised platform, already deep in meditation. I slipped off my shoes, sat cross-legged at a slight angle on the floor to avoid my toes being pointed in his direction, closed my eyes and started to focus on my breathing.

All my meditation insecurities immediately started to kick in. After a few minutes, I heard his deep, distinctive baritone voice: "Any questions?"

I looked up and saw his smiling face, starting to break into his characteristic head-bobbing laugh.

"This is hard for me," I said.

"Me, too!" he exclaimed. "After doing daily for 60 years, it is still hard."

It was at once surprising and reassuring to hear him say this. The Dalai Lama, Buddhist monk and spiritual leader of Tibet, also has trouble meditating.

"I think you will like analytical meditation," he told me. Instead of focusing on a chosen object, as in single-point meditation, he suggested I think about a problem I was trying to solve, a topic I may have read about recently or one of the philosophical areas from the earlier sessions.

He wanted me to separate the problem

or issue from everything else by placing it in a large, clear bubble. With my eyes closed, I thought of something nagging at me -- something I couldn't quite solve. As I placed the physical embodiment of this problem into the bubble, several things started to happen very naturally.

The problem was now directly in front of me, floating weightlessly. In my mind, I could rotate it, spin it or flip it upside-down. It was an exercise to develop hyper-focus.

Less intuitively, as the bubble was rising, it was also disentangling itself from any other attachments, such as subjective emotional considerations. I could visualize it, as the problem isolated itself, and came into a clear-eyed view.

Too often, we allow unrelated emotional factors to blur the elegant and practical solutions right in front of us. It can be dispiriting and frustrating. Through analytical meditation, His Holiness told me, we can use logic and reason to more clearly identify the question at hand, separate it from irrelevant considerations, erase doubt and brightly illuminate the answers. It was simple and sensible. Most important, for me -- it worked.

(Source: CNN)

## Poor quality sleep could increase Alzheimer's risk, research suggests

Findings raise possibility repeated disruption of slow wave sleep could lead to a buildup of proteins linked to disease.

Prolonged periods of poor sleep increase levels of proteins involved in Alzheimer's disease, research suggests, although quality, not quantity, of sleep is at the root of the issue.

While previous research has revealed that bad sleep can increase levels of these proteins, known as beta-amyloid and tau, it was unclear which aspect of shut-eye was behind the uptick.

Now researchers say that poor sleep quality, and disruption of the deep, restful sleep known as slow-wave sleep, both play a key role.

"[The study] shows specifically that slow wave sleep, or deep sleep, is important for lowering the levels of amyloid overnight," said Yo-El Ju, a neurologist at Washington University in St Louis, Missouri, and a co-author of the research. "We think that not getting good sleep chronically over the years would increase the risk of the amyloid and tau clumping up and causing Alzheimer's disease."

Published in the journal Brain, the study involved a group of healthy participants aged between 35 and 65, who each undertook two sleep experiments a month apart.

In both experiments, participants were asked to complete a sleep diary at home over a period between five days and two weeks, during which they also wore sensors to track their movements during sleep.

At the end of the period, they spent a night asleep in the laboratory where they had their brain-waves tracked and,



the following morning, they each had a lumbar puncture taken.

While asleep in the laboratory setting, all participants wore headphones, but while one group had no noises played to them, the other group were played a series of beeps of increasing loudness when it was detected that they had entered slow-wave sleep. "Our goal was to get them to just get out of slow-wave sleep, but not wake up," said Ju.

The results, based on data from 17 participants, revealed that disruption of

slow-wave-sleep had an impact.

Among those who showed a response to the disruption, the team found on average levels of beta amyloid were about 10% higher when the beeps were played.

"The more we were able to disrupt their slow-wave sleep, the more the amyloid increased," added Ju. But, she noted, not all participants showed a response to the sleep disruption -- a result Ju says is down to them having little slow wave sleep in the first place.

**Repeated disruption of slow wave sleep, or poor quality sleep, could lead to a buildup of beta-amyloid and tau, increasing the risk of plaques and tangles forming in the brain and eventually increasing the risk of Alzheimer's disease.**

## Why eating ice cream gives you brain freeze

Scientists have explained why eating ice cream too quickly can cause a painful headache - commonly known as brain freeze.

By Rebecca Smith

They hope to use the discovery to develop new treatments for migraine.

The instant headache brought on by ice cold food and drinks is the bane of the summer with ice-cream lovers often seen clutching their foreheads waiting for the gripping pain to ease.

Scientists have noticed that migraine sufferers are more prone to 'brain freeze' and wondered if the phenomenon could be turned to their advantage.



In experiments carried by a researchers at the National University of Ireland in Galway and Harvard Medical School a team of 13 healthy volunteers deliberately induced the brain freeze so the effects could be studied.

It was found that the pain was brought on by a rapid increase in blood flow through a major blood vessel in the brain, the anterior cerebral artery.

The ache subsided again once blood flow was restricted.

The findings were presented at the meeting Experimental Biology 2012 being in San Diego.

By bringing on brain freeze in the laboratory the researchers were able to study a headache from beginning to end without the need for drugs that would mask the causes and symptoms of the pain.

The volunteers drank iced water through a straw that was pressed against their palate and then drank water at room temperature.

Blood flow was monitored using a hand held Doppler.

It was found that the anterior cerebral artery dilated rapidly and flooded the brain with blood in conjunction to when the volunteers felt pain. Soon after this dilation occurred, the same vessel constricted as the volunteers' pain receded.

Co-author Jorge Serrador of Harvard Medical School and the War Related Illness and Injury Study Centre of the Veterans Affairs New Jersey Health Care System, said: "The brain is one of the relatively important organs in the body, and it needs to be working all the time. It's fairly sensitive to temperature, so vasodilatation might be moving warm blood inside tissue to make sure the brain stays warm."

But because the skull is a closed structure, the sudden influx of blood could raise pressure and induce pain, he said.

By constricting the blood vessel again the body could be acting to reduce the pressure before it reaches dangerous levels, he said.

Similar alterations in blood flow could be at work in migraines, post traumatic headaches, and other headache types, he added.

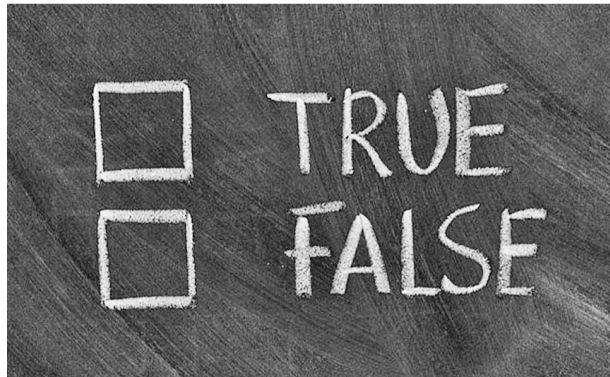
If further research confirms these suspicions, then finding ways to control blood flow could offer new treatments for these conditions. Drugs that block sudden vasodilatation or target channels involved specifically in the vasodilatation of headaches could be one way of changing headaches' course.

(Source: telegraph.co.uk)

## True or False health quiz for a healthier heart...

Taking blood pressure in both arms may reveal a higher heart attack risk.

TRUE: You should measure blood pressure in both arms. A difference of 10 points or more means a 38% greater chance of having a heart attack -- something you should talk to your doctor about.



Coated aspirin is better if you are taking it daily for your heart.

FALSE: If you're taking daily aspirin for your heart, don't use coated aspirin. It won't protect your stomach AND not all the aspirin will get into your blood stream. You're better off with chewable "baby aspirin."

Dietary fat wreaks havoc on your heart and your memory.

FALSE: Not all dietary fat wreaks havoc on your heart and memory. Saturated fat (in butter and red meat) can harm both memory and artery health while monosaturated fats (in olive oil and fish) actually improve both memory and heart health.

(Source: health.harvard.edu)

(Source: The Guardian)

## 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** Atari and Nestle are fighting over a 40-year-old video game.  
Atari has accused Nestle of copyright infringement after a British Kit-Kat ad bore a suspicious resemblance to an old-yet-familiar game.  
According to BBC, a Nestle spokesperson said, “This is a UK TV advert that ran in 2016. The ad no longer runs and we have no current plans to re-run it.”

**2** Mark Zuckerberg on Charlottesville: Facebook will remove violent threats  
CEO says Facebook is ‘watching closely’ and will ‘take down threats of physical harm’, joining raft of tech companies purging white nationalists and neo-Nazis

**3** AT&T Inc is exploring options for its Digital Life home security business, including selling it, as it seeks to pay down debt following its planned \$85.4 billion acquisition of Time Warner Inc (TWX.N), people familiar with the matter said.  
The divestiture would mark a reversal for AT&T, which entered the U.S. home security market with the introduction of Digital Life in 2013. The service offers customers sensors and cameras so they can monitor their homes and pets on their phones.

**4** Japan launched an H-2A rocket carrying a geo-positioning satellite into orbit after a week-long delay, the government said.  
The launch of Japan’s third geo-positioning satellite is part of its plan to build a version of the U.S. global positioning system (GPS) to offer location information used for autopiloting and possible national security purposes.

**5** Darmiyani’s software detects early stages of Alzheimer’s.  
Darmiyani wants to help diagnose Alzheimer’s before the onset of symptoms and has developed an MRI-analyzing software that detects cell abnormalities at a microscopic level to reveal what a standard MRI scan cannot.

**6** Baidu’s ambitious plan for ‘everyone on this planet’ to use its conversational AI DuerOS.  
DuerOS is only available in Chinese today, but as part of the deal, Kitt will incorporate portions of DuerOS into drag-and-drop tool ChatFlow, making part of DuerOS available to both English-speaking audiences and ChatFlow available to Chinese developers.

**7** Wisconsin lawmakers vote to pay Foxconn \$3 billion to get new factory.  
State taxpayers could end up paying Foxconn \$500,000 per job, or more.  
Foxconn, best known for supplying parts of Apple’s iPhones, will open the \$10 billion liquid-crystal display plant in 2020.

**8** Infosys CEO Vishal Sikka resigns  
Sikka abruptly resigned amid executive tensions and an “untenable atmosphere” surrounding the company.

**9** Asus debuts iPhone 7 Plus-style dual cameras in lower cost ZenFone 4s  
Asus wants to bring dual-camera smartphones to everyone with its new range of ZenFone 4 smartphones.  
The company has taken the wraps off six new 5.5-inch display handsets, from entry level to premium, each with a rear dual phone camera.

**10** Google and ProPublica launch machine learning tool to track hate crime in America.  
To try and make better sense of the issue, Google and ProPublica have teamed up to create an artificial-intelligence powered tool that parses through news articles, in order to build a bigger picture of where hate crimes are occurring across the country.

## Patent application shows Facebook working on its own pair of AR smartglasses

A patent application filed by the Oculus division of Facebook reveals that the latter is working on AR powered smartglasses. The patent application is titled “waveguide display with two-dimensional scanner” and puts “computer generated elements” over a real world background.  
The display could be inside a frame used for eye-wear in a way that “presents media to a user’s eyes.” Sounds like the definition of AR-powered smartglasses to us.

The patented display uses waveguide technology, allowing a wave of light to be guided through the lens. The display will be able to show video and images while audio would be handled by speakers or a headphone. Former Piper Jaffray tech analyst Gene

Munster sees Apple launching its smartglasses by 2019, and predicts that the glasses will soon thereafter replace the iPhone in popularity. That is pretty much the same timeline that Oculus chief scientist Michael Abrash is calling for. He doesn’t see the specs replacing smartphones until 2022.

Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg calls VR and AR the next big computing platforms. That is similar to how Apple CEO Tim Cook feels about both, although Cook seems partial to AR. Zuckerberg also sees the glasses replacing smartphones and even PCs down the road. Facebook bought Oculus in 2014 for \$2 billion.

(Source: USPTO)

# 3 Pakistani brothers ensure mobile game chat isn’t lost in translation

By Dean Takahashi

Game developers can grow up anywhere these days, and the latest example of that are the Zaeem brothers from Pakistan. Saad, Ammar, and Shayan have created two startups: one that makes mobile games, and a new venture that is creating a platform for multilingual chat in games.

The startups have created jobs in their hometown in Lahore, Pakistan, and Silicon Valley. Their successes are modest by the valley’s standards. But growing up in their part of the world, they overcame a lot of odds and made a rare successful tech and game startup in a fast-moving industry. I met them at a party at the Seattle Aquarium at the game event Casual Connect USA, and their story intrigued me. I met them again at a coffee house in Palo Alto, California, and I listened.

Their Pakistan company, Caramel Tech Studios, has been making mobile games since 2011, and they are creating a new San Francisco startup, Fizz, that promises to do real-time translation for text chat in mobile games. Saad is heading that effort, and he has moved to Silicon Valley to raise money and build the company’s connections to others.

### ■ Growing up in Lahore

The brothers credit their entrepreneurial spirit to their father, who’s in textiles and taught them about startups and business. In the late 1990s, when Saad was 14 and Ammar was 12, they learned how to create websites. One company hired them for \$700 or so, and that was a lot of money for young Pakistani entrepreneurs. Their parents “acquired” their company and urged them to stay in school.

“Our father made us watch Pirates of Silicon Valley,” the TV film about Steve Jobs and Steve Wozniak, said Ammar. “Our dad was our mentor for entrepreneurship from day one.”

Part of the inspiration is Silicon Valley’s fairy tale rags-to-riches stories, and part is the desire to play and learn how to build games.

“Back in the ’80s and ’90s, families wanted their children to become medical doctors,” Ammar said. “Now it’s engineering.”

### ■ Lucky breaks

Their lives have been full of lucky



breaks, made more frequent by their dedication. Ammar was interested in investing in stocks. Saad, the oldest, joined a startup without a salary. He helped the business grow and get work for hire. Then the brothers set up their own company, making software and games for hire. Halfbrick Studios, the Australian game company that made Fruit Ninja, gave the Zaeem brothers their lucky break. It hired them to build a version of Fruit Ninja for the Nokia Symbian phone platform.

“The biggest problem we had was having the cash flow to take bigger risks,” Ammar said.

The Halfbrick deal enabled them to boost the company to 22 people in Lahore, which had a good university that produced technical graduates. The Halfbrick job led to more work with Kabam, a mobile game company that made hits such as Kingdoms of Camelot. Andrew Sheppard, then head of studios for Kabam, put Caramel Tech Studios to work on a mobile card strategy game, Order of Elements. The studio then worked for Animoca, a Hong Kong company, to build an Astro Boy mobile game.

Apple liked the idea of a game company in Pakistan, and it featured the title that the brothers made. One of their

games, Blades of Battle, has been featured by Apple in 137 countries.

After a while, Caramel Tech Studios started making its own games. That was like moving up the food chain, and it led to more deals. Then Saad stepped down as CEO in 2016 and started the effort to build the chat platform.

### ■ Real-time translation

They saw how important chat could be when they added it to one of their existing games. It cost them about \$40,000 in development costs, but it enabled the players to be far more social. That snowballed into bigger download numbers and revenues, Ammar said. And once they built chat, they realized they could do it as a platform.

The user interface would be customizable, said Shayan. Customers could slap on their own UI with their own branding.

“We made it into a drag-and-drop” software development kit (SDK), which makes it easy for developers to integrate Fizz. The real-time translation relies on Microsoft’s technology at the moment.

“The real-time translation part is what the companies get excited about, because it is much easier for them to manage one community than a bunch of communities that are separated from

each other by language,” Shayan said.

Ammar said, “It’s a win for everybody, and it offloads the developers.”

Saad’s task is to sign up a bunch of customers and raise money. Once that happens, the rest of the Zaeem family’s fairy tale could come true. But Ammar cautioned that simply raising money isn’t success.

“We don’t want to just raise money, inflate it, and be part of the bubble,” Ammar said. “We want to build a real company.”

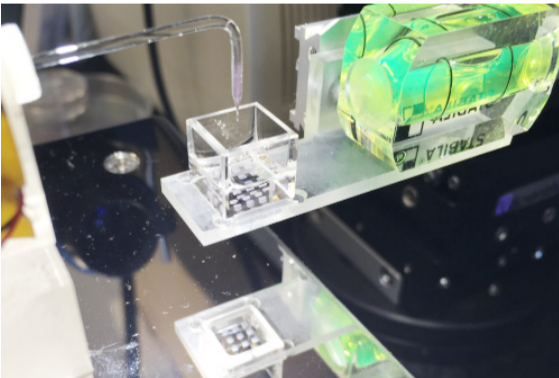
They also want their success to come back and help Pakistan. They have created some jobs, with 40 people working at Caramel Tech Studios and 20 at Fizz.

But they want to see more tech and game startups there, and venture capitalists as well. Right now, there are few investors, and that makes the tech startups more rare. The investors are present in neighboring India, and Ammar thinks they will show up in Pakistan too. The local stock market has gone up more than 1,000 percent in less than a decade. Pakistan’s historic brain drain could be dampened with home-grown jobs.

“The next five years will be big for Pakistan,” Ammar said.

(Source: Venturebeat)

## Oxford 3D-bioprinting scaling to industrial scale tissue printing and organ printing



ic the behaviors and functions of the human body. The method enables the fabrication of patterned cellular constructs, which, once fully grown, mimic or potentially enhance natural tissues.

### ■ New bioprinting approach

Oxford’s new bioprinting approach complements existing methodologies by combining advantages of various fabrication routes into a single methodology to produce millimeter-scale constructs with defined cellular patterns at tissue-like densities.

By broadening our existing approach for aqueous droplet printing in oil, they demonstrate a high precision cell printing approach with a droplet resolution of 1?nL. The printed cellular constructs submerged in oil were subsequently encapsulated in a thin layer of gel for transfer to aqueous medium.

The incorporated cells initially displayed high viability (90% average) and were present at tissue-like densities of 10 million cells mL<sup>-1</sup>, i.e., the same magnitude as the highest reported densities for a droplet-based bioprinting processes.

Cell proliferation occurred over several days along with an overall increase in cell viability (over95% average).

(Source: nextbigfuture.com)

## Why prewar car engines need bearings made from scratch



learn, had to buy him lunch.

Giainio is a babbitt man. He lives in the San Francisco Bay Area and is widely regarded as one of the best automotive babbitt pourers on earth. And because automotive babbitt is deeply obsolete, he is also one of the last. If you own a prewar road or race car, it almost cer-

tainly has babbitt in its engine. If that car gets used hard and doesn’t regularly blow up, Giainio has probably seen some of its innards.

### ■ Metal alloy

Babbitt is a loose term for a metal alloy used in bearings. It’s also a process. Consider the crankshaft in a combustion

engine: It rotates and is subject to thousands of pounds of force. It has to spin in something. The modern solution is a hydrodynamic shell bearing, a replaceable piece of metal that sits between engine block and crank. Most new engines have many of these, including two at each of the crankshaft’s supporting journals, but they’re also used in or around other rotating bits, like camshafts and connecting rods.

Modern engines feed pressurized oil to these bearings, which helps keep them alive. That’s the “hydrodynamic” part—if the engine is healthy, the bearing doesn’t touch anything. (A layer of oil supports the spinning pieces.) But shell bearings wear out like anything else. When they do, their design makes them easy to replace: You open the engine, typically during a rebuild, pop the bearings out with a fingernail, and replace them.

(Source: Popular Mechanics)

# Wood frogs research clarifies risks posed to animals by warming climate

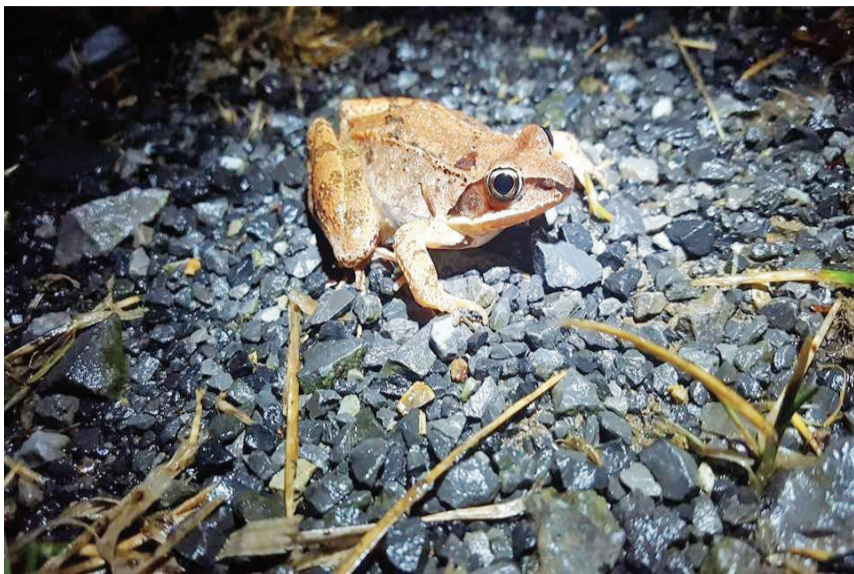
As conditions warm, fish and wildlife living at the southern edge of their species' ranges are most at risk, according to Penn State researchers who led a major collaborative study of how wood frogs are being affected by climate change.

However, determining which species and which populations are in danger of declining or disappearing is not simple or straightforward, according to researcher David Miller, assistant professor of wildlife population ecology, College of Agricultural Sciences. Local and regional precipitation trends are nearly as important as temperature in determining the fate of many animals, he explained, and that's especially true with moisture-sensitive creatures such as amphibians.

Miller's lab spearheaded the study that included 14 universities, the U.S. Geological Survey, and several other state and federal agencies, looking at long-term monitoring data from 746 wood frog populations in 27 study areas, from Tennessee to Canada. The research focused on how climatic variation affected population growth rates and how these relationships varied with respect to long-term climate.

## ■ Frog populations

In many of the wood frog populations studied, researchers found evidence of



interacting temperature and precipitation influencing population size, such as warmer summers having less of a negative effect in areas that received more precipitation. Some of the findings, which were published early online on August 19.

As anticipated, researchers saw wood frog populations that seemed to be suffering from warmer than normal sum-

mer temperatures in hotter areas in the southern part of the range. Similarly, they found higher than average rainfall in areas that typically experience lower annual rainfall saw positive effects on wood frog population growth.

But other results were contrary to expectations, such as positive effects of higher than normal rainfall in wetter parts of the range and positive responses to

winter warming, especially in milder areas. In general, researchers found wood frogs were more sensitive to changes in temperature or temperature interacting with precipitation than to changes in precipitation alone.

## ■ Wildlife ranges

Northward shifts in wildlife ranges may be expected in coming years or decades, noted lead researcher Staci Amburgey, a doctoral degree student in ecology, but that trend may depend nearly as much on demographic weather patterns as warming temperatures. And in the case of wood frogs, other factors are also at play.

The study's results suggest that sensitivity to changes in climate cannot be predicted simply by knowing locations within the species' climate envelope, she pointed out. Processes such as species interactions, local adaptation and interactions with the physical landscape likely affect the responses researchers observed.

"Wood frogs are really broadly distributed, so I don't think the species is going to be declining anytime soon," said Amburgey, who started studying amphibians when she was an undergraduate and master's degree student at Colorado State.

(Source: EurekAlert)

## Atlas V launches TDRS-M data relay satellite for NASA

A United Launch Alliance (ULA) Atlas V rocket roared off the pad with NASA's newest communications spacecraft, Tracking and Data Relay Satellite M (TDRS-M). Liftoff took place at 08:29 A.M. EDT (12:29 GMT) on August 18, 2017.

The launch occurred about 26 minutes into a 40-minute window due to an issue detected on the vehicle's Centaur upper stage engine, the RL10C. Thermal conditioning took a bit longer than planned. The pre-chill eventually took place, clearing the way for a successful liftoff and eventual satellite deployment.

Weather for the launch was nearly perfect.

In the hours before liftoff, the 45th Weather Squadron had predicted a 90 percent chance of favorable conditions. The only concern was the potential for thick clouds. However, those never materialized. Additionally, an offshore anvil cloud stayed just far enough away to not be a problem.

## ■ Rocket boosters

Once the countdown finally reached zero, the 191-foot (58-meter) tall Atlas V (AV-074), which was in the 401 configuration (four-meter fairing, zero solid rocket boosters, and a single engine Centaur upper stage), rose into the Florida skies away from Space Launch Complex 41 atop a column of flame produced by the first stage's RD-180 engine.

Just under 1.5 minutes into the flight, the vehicle passed Mach 1 – the speed of sound. Some three minutes later, the Common Core Booster first stage finished consuming its rocket grade kerosene and liquid oxygen propellant. At 4 minutes, 8 seconds after leaving Cape Canaveral, the booster separated with the upper stage and fell away.

About 10 seconds later, the Centaur upper stage's RL10C engine ignited to continue powering toward orbit. Consuming liquid oxygen and liquid hydrogen, the engine burned for almost 14 minutes before shutting down as planned. During that time, at 4 minutes, 26 seconds into flight, the payload fairing jettisoned, revealing TDRS-M to the vacuum of space.

## ■ Parking orbit

About 18 minutes after launch, the Centaur upper stage with TDRS-M on top was in a parking orbit. There, the duo coasted for about 90 minutes before the RL10C ignited again for about a minute to place the satellite into a geostationary transfer orbit of about 2,882 by 22,237 miles (4,638 by 35,787 kilometers) inclined 26.2 degrees from the equator.

TDRS-M separated from Centaur at about 1 hour, 53 minutes into the flight. It will use its onboard propellant to finish the job of circularizing its orbit into a geosta-



tionary orbit where it will reside with nine other TDRS satellites – seven of which are active and two are in storage orbits.

The TDRS system is the set of geostationary orbiting satellites that NASA uses to communicate with its array of low-Earth orbiting spacecraft, and with U.S. scientific facilities in Antarctica. The satellites are used by the space agency to communicate with an array of orbiting assets.

(Source: spaceflightinsider.com)

## Supermassive black holes in jellyfish galaxies are hungry

Hungry supermassive black holes are powering galaxies shaped like jellyfish, astronomers have found, and the information might offer more clues about how the universe formed.

Scientists using the European Southern Observatory's Very Large Telescope in Chile spotted active supermassive black holes at the centers of six galaxies with ten-

tle-shaped arms of material reaching out of their disks for thousands of light years, called jellyfish galaxies. Those black holes were gobbling up material, the ESO said.

What made the observation so special was that the team had only been looking at seven of those galaxies all together — the high proportion of active su-

permassive black holes within them was unexpected because they are usually only found in a small number. Among the total galaxies in the universe, typically scientists will find such an active black hole at fewer than one in every 10, even though these superdense space monsters lie at the center of most galaxies.

Jellyfish galaxies like JO204, above, got their name from the long tentacles of material stretching out of their disks. The same process that blows a galaxy's material in that shape might switch on the supermassive black hole at its center. Photo: ESO/GASP collaboration

(Source: IBT)

## Agreement Inked with Foreign Investors for Construction of Waste Incineration Plant

An agreement will be signed with foreign investors for the construction of waste incineration plant.

Dr. Delkhosh Representative of people of Some'eh-sara in the Islamic Consultative Assembly announced the above statement and said: "With the coordination made in this regard, Majlis will make its utmost effort to help foreign investors for generating electricity in the country."

Development of "BARAN" provincial network is put atop agenda, he said, adding: "Power industry is the country infrastructural affairs that should be taken into serious consideration."

Foreign investment should be strengthened in this province in order to settle the unemployment problem, he maintained.



"We have requested both domestic and foreign investors in order to make huge investment in renewable and clean energies," he said, adding: "We have expressed our readiness to support investors in the country wholeheartedly."

Eng. Bolbolabadi Managing Director of Gilan Regional Power Company (P.J.S) was the next speaker who pointed to the important concept of optimal use of energy and its basic role in the economy of families in the country coupled with helping boost environment and said: "Management of energy consumption in the power energy production sector is considered as the leanest type of energy production."

## Efficient and Competent Manpower, Asset for any Economic Enterprise: Molaii

A historical overview on the evolution of thought in the field of human resources shows evolutionary and gradual changes in the attitudes towards human and its management in the organization, so that specialized field of administering human resources' affair in organizations started since 20th century and then, it took titles such as "Administrative Affairs", "Personnel Management", "Administrative Management", "Management of Human Resource" and "Management of Human Capital".

It is obvious that such change of attitude is originated from playing the

constructive and effective role of human capital at organizations.

Nasser Molaii Manager of Human Resources of the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) announced the above statement.

The said issue is so important that development projects and empowerment of manpower was put atop agenda as a strategic planning of organizations, he said, adding: "In the meantime, raising up and training managers was taken into serious consideration."

With due observance to the said issue and thanks to the significance of



the respected minister of oil and senior managers of the Oil Ministry and its affiliated companies, the necessity of paying

due attention to increase technical know-how and knowledge of staff, personnel and managers was put atop agenda especially over the past three years.

In the end, director of Human Resources Department of the Oil Ministry once again pointed to the key role of competent and efficient manpower and said: "Development of economic objectives of any economic enterprise strictly hinges on training expert, skilled and the most experienced manpower, the issue of which should be taken into consideration."

## SARMAYEH BANK, among Leaders and Forerunners of Public Relations

SARMAYEH BANK managed to receive crystal statue at 6th round of leaders and forerunners of the Public Relations in the country, the Public Relations Department of the bank reported.

It should be noted that 6th Edition of Leaders of

Iran's Public Relations was held at Tarbiyat Modaress University on August 16.

Given the above issue, Crystal Statue of Public Relations Excellence was awarded to SARMAYEH BANK for its commitments to the excellence and producing best results in the

field Public Relations, winning at least 562 scores and also observing European Foundation for Quality Management (EFQM) according to the accepted standards.

It is worth mentioning that the bank also was awarded with Public Relations Excellent Trophy in 2013.

## Testing TVs and tablets for 'green' screens

To improve viewing pleasure, companies have developed television -- and tablet screens -- that include quantum dots to enhance brightness and color. Some quantum dots are made with potentially harmful metals, which could leach into the environment when the device is discarded. But other TVs made with less hazardous nanomaterials require more energy to make.

Today, researchers report preliminary results suggesting that under simulated landfill conditions, quantum dots can leach out of devices. But because this happens in such tiny amounts, the team says that in the grand scheme of things, it might make sense to use the more toxic quantum dots that are made with a more eco-friendly process.

The researchers will present their work today at the 254th National Meeting & Exposition of the American Chemical Society (ACS). ACS, the world's largest scientific society, is holding the meeting here through Thursday. It features nearly 9,400 presentations on a wide range of science topics.

"In just the past decade, engineered nanomaterials have been incorporated into so many consumer products," says Yuqiang Bi, Ph.D., a postdoctoral fellow in the laboratory of Paul Westerhoff, Ph.D. "The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has funded us to assess these nanomaterials. They want to know how to predict and manage the risk from these substances." Westerhoff adds, "This case study is one of several that consider the use, fate, transformations, release and potential human or ecological exposure to nanomaterials across the life cycle of nano-enabled consumer products."

(Source: eurekalert.org)

## New magic mushrooms discovery could reveal how to make your own drugs

Scientists have long wondered how and why magic mushrooms create psilocybin, a psychoactive chemical that causes hallucinations when ingested. Two new papers published this month provide some answers, one of which paves the way for an easier way to create the psychedelic compound.



Around 200 types of mushrooms produce psilocybin, and they've been used ceremonially for millennia. Since trip-inducing fungi were introduced to Western audiences by financier and author Gordon Wasson in a Life magazine article in 1957, people have been using them for recreational purposes throughout the world. Albert Hofmann, the Swiss chemist who synthesized LSD, identified psilocybin as the active ingredient in magic mushrooms and determined its structure in 1959.

However, nobody knew — until now — how mushrooms themselves make psilocybin. In a study published in the journal Angewandte Chemie, Dirk Hoffmeister and colleagues sequenced and mapped the genes in the "magic" mushroom Psilocybe cubensis. Scientists have known for a while that these genes produce several enzymes that combine to create psilocybin, but nobody knew the sequence and order of this seemingly mystical process. Through a series of trial-and-error type tests, Hoffmeister and colleagues figured out the correct order.

One of the most surprising findings is the simplicity of the process, says David Sherman, a medicinal chemist at the University of Michigan who wasn't involved in the paper.

The paper could pave the way for people without advanced knowledge to produce psilocybin on their own, using commercially available synthetic biology kits, Sherman says.

Hoffmeister says the finding could theoretically make the mass-production of psilocybin easier and less expensive, though he expects "it will take quite some effort until we make headway."

(Source: Newsweek)

## Scientists remotely hacked a brain, controlling body movements

Imagine someone remotely controlling your brain, forcing your body's central processing organ to send messages to your muscles that you didn't authorize. It's an incredibly scary thought, but scientists have managed to accomplish this science fiction nightmare for real, albeit on a much small scale, and they were even able to prompt their test subject to run, freeze in place, or even completely lose control over their limbs.

The effort, led by physics professor Arnd Pralle, Ph.D., of the University at Buffalo College of Arts and Sciences, focused on a technique called "magneto-thermal stimulation." It's not exactly a simple process — it requires the implantation of specially built DNA strands and nanoparticles which attach to specific neurons — but once the minimally invasive procedure is over, the brain can be remotely controlled via an alternating magnetic field. When those magnetic inputs are applied, the particles heat up, causing the neurons to fire.

The study, which was published in the most recent edition of the journal eLife, includes experiments where were performed on mice. Using the new technique, the researchers were able to control the movement of the animals, causing them to freeze, lock up their limbs, turn around, or even run.

(Source: BGR)

## Schools in Tehran to prepare for emergencies

**SOCIETY** **TEHRAN** — A total of 500 schools in Tehran will be provided with emergency response plans during the coming academic year, which will begin on September 23.

It is a part of project dubbed ‘Ready School’, which promotes disaster preparedness and management at Tehran’s schools, ISNA reported on Sunday.

“During the past academic year, over one thousand schools in Tehran got prepared against disasters,” the head of the Tehran Crisis and Disaster Management Organization Ahmad Sadeqi explained.

School staff and managers, students and their parents are trained for disaster risk reduction and the schools are equipped, he said. Electrical and gas hazards are also considered for schools, he added.

## Wildlife rescue and rehabilitation committee set up

**ENVIRONMENT** **TEHRAN** — Iran’s Department of Environment has established a committee for wildlife rescue and rehabilitation, the director general of the office for aquatic wildlife of the Department of Environment announced.

The committee is formed by a group of environmental activists who are members of NGOs, Majid Kharrazian-Moqaddam explained, ISNA reported on Sunday.



Last month, the Department of Environment signed a deal with a representative from NGOs to prepare a national wildlife rescue and rehabilitation strategic plan, he said.

The committee aims to hold educational workshops and train volunteers to rehabilitate injured animals, he added.

The committee is mainly tasked with monitoring and controlling wildlife road traffic accidents and diseases, he concluded.

## LEARN ENGLISH

### Head Chef

A: ...**Right away** sir, your order will be ready shortly. Jean Pierre, we have another special for table seven!

B: I’m working as fast as I can! We’re really **in the weeds!** Where is my sous chef? Luc! I need you to **peel** more potatoes. Marie, **chop** some onions and carrots for the stew.

A: Jean Pierre another special! We’re really **packed** tonight! We’re **running low** on drinks. Is there any left in the cellar?

C: Sorry I’m late, everyone. Wow, we are doing really well tonight!

B: Harry, stop talking and get over here I need this sauce **stirred** and the fish needs to be **butchered** and **battered**.

C: Ok, I’m on it!

A: Jean Pierre, table seven has requested to see the chef! I think they are food critics from Cuisine Magazine.

#### ■ Key vocabulary

**right away:** quickly, as soon as possible

**in the weeds:** in a difficult situation

**peel:** remove the outer skin of a fruit or vegetable

**chop:** cut into small pieces

**packed:** extremely full of people

**running low on:** to not have so much, having not enough

**stir:** move or mix something; usually with a spoon

**butcher:** cut meat into pieces taking out bones and organs

**butter:** put butter on something

#### ■ Supplementary vocabulary

**sous chef:** chef that helps and assists the head chef

**bake:** to cook food at very high and dry heat

**pan:** a usually shallow and open metal container that has a handle and that is used for cooking or baking

**pot:** a deep, round container that is used for cooking

**dice:** to cut something into small cubes

**stove:** at piece of kitchen equipment for cooking with fire

(Source: irlanguage.com)



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

# Environment chiefs of Iran in a snapshot

**I →** Mohammad Darvish, an official with DOE has told Mehr news agency that Firuz was the first person who spoke of sustainable development in Stockholm Conference in 1972 saying that in case the world continue to consume the resources in the same manner the Earth would not be able to meet their needs in near future.

“His projection actually came true in 8 years when in 1980 human demands equaled Earth’s sustainable supply,” Darvish added.

Hossein Akhani, environment professor at University of Tehran, also highlighted that Firuz has established DOE when no one truly knew anything about the environment not only in the Middle East but also in western countries. According to Akhani he played a key role in adoption of Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, and registered many biosphere reserves and national parks.

After Firuz resigned from his post at DOE in 1978, Manouchehr Fili, Abbas Samei, and Taqi Ebtekar each headed the DOE for very short time until 1981.

In 1981 Reza-Hossein Mirzataheri became the then DOE chief for four years. After Mirzataheri Hadi Manafi, a physician who had also served as the Health Minister, directed the department for almost 13 years.

As Akhani put it well none of the environment chiefs appointed after Firuz had any environmental background and did nothing for the environment.

In 1998, Masoumeh Ebtekar, daughter of Taqi Ebtekar, became the chief of DOE. Ebtekar was named one of the seven 2006 Champions of the Earth by the United Nations.

After Ebtekar, Fatemeh Vaez-Javadi became the chief and was succeeded by Mohammad Javad Mohammadzadeh who according to Darvish preferred industrial development to the environment.

With President Hassan Rouhani taking office in 2013 Ebtekar was re-elected as chief of environment. She was



harshly criticized during her second term, however, as Darvish believes she was the reason environmental issues became a “front-page headline”.

The media’s attention turned to environment for the first time in years, Darvish noted.

Now, with Rouhani returned to office again, Ebtekar was replaced with Isa Kalantari. Kalantari served as agriculture minister during the Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani presidency from 1989-97 and the first year of President Mohammad Khatami’s administration from 1997-98.

Kalantari holds a BSc in agriculture from Urmia University, an MSc in physiology-biochemistry from Iowa State University, and a PhD in agricultural physiology from University of Nebraska.

He has also served as the advisor to president Rouhani in water, agriculture and environmental affairs. In February 2014, he was appointed as the chairman of a committee tasked with restoration of Lake Urmia.

## Common words you don’t know are making you sound unreliable

By Brian Lee

Communication becomes more casual every day. Ten years ago, we never would have felt comfortable including a smiley face in an email to our boss, but now in 2017, that seems less unprofessional.

While speaking and writing tend to have different guidelines, we still tend to have more fillers when speaking vs. typing a social media post or a quick message to a coworker. When we speak, we tend to allow ourselves more fillers; I’ll never forget the time one of my professors in college asked us to count the number of times we said, “like” in one day. Maybe I was hyper-aware, but the number was astronomical.

While it may seem like a small thing at first, the amount of times we use filler words like “um” or “like” in a conversation can make us appeal unreliable, no matter how educated or dependable we may be.

#### ■ Your Word Choice Reflects Your Personality

It’s no surprise that word choice and expression says a lot about someone’s personality, but even the regularity in which words or word categories are used can speak volumes about a person.

Psychologist James W. Pennebaker of the University of Texas at Austin is one of many experts who assert that the way a person expresses thought reveals character. Any time a person speaks, they make choices – choices regarding appropriate nouns and verbs. Those small aspects are part of a bigger context which can provide clues into an individual’s large-scale behaviors

1. Some researchers are so fascinated by this that they have created software to monitor a person’s word choice in order to predict the way they will act in the future.

#### ■ 8 toxic words to avoid

Here is a list of words to limit in daily conversation. I promise you all it takes is a once-over and you’ll suddenly realize how often you’re saying every single one of them!

#### ■ AI Verbs: might, should, maybe and would

While these are some of the most common verbs in the english language, all they do is make the speaker sound unsure of himself. Modal Verbs include, “Might,” “should,” “maybe,” and “would.” While these verbs are easy to include in casual conversation, think about how insincere it makes a friend sound when you invite them to hang out and they reply with something like, “Yeah, maybe. I might have something going on, but I’ll let you know...” The next time you find yourself wanting to use this kind of verb, allow yourself a short pause and mentally delete the words when uttering the sentence. It’ll feel unnatural at first, but before long you’ll be a pro.

#### ■ Ok

I think we can all agree this is one of the most annoying responses to get when texting someone. Second only to “k,” “Ok” is such a blah response. It makes you sound indifferent and unsure. Plus it’s not even a descriptive term! It basically means “satisfactory.” Who wants that? In text form, it can read like the end of a conversation or even a passive aggressive way to try to be agreeable. These two letters serve as a self-protecting mechanism to avoid giving concrete statements that could be hurtful. If someone asks for your opinion and you regularly offer “Yeah, it’s ok” to avoid hurting them, then you need to understand why it’s not ok to say ok !

#### ■ Awesome

This word is tricky. If someone tells you about an incredible trip they just took and you respond with, “Wow! That sounds awesome!” you’re probably being sincere. But if you tend to offer up this word regularly, you probably sound a little dense. Sorry! Saying “Awesome!” all the time makes people feel like you don’t have any of your own opinions. I know, I know, it’s just a word. But think about it for a second: When was the last time you were having a conversation and your friend seemed to say “awe-

some,” “oh wow. Awesome,” and “cool” after every other sentence? I’ve been in that situation before and it was really frustrating! I didn’t doubt that my friend actually felt that everything I was saying was “awesome,” but the overuse of the word became insincere quickly and made me want to stop sharing my story. It’s a vague word and usually over-exaggerated. I’d rather someone use multiple words to show enthusiasm or give me a compliment than just recycle one word over and over.

#### ■ Um

Perhaps the most common filler word, “um” is, um, super, um, annoying! I hate to tell you this, but you probably say it so much more often than you realize. For one full day, try to keep a mental tally of how, um, often you, um say, “um.” It’s going to shock you. Even if you’re an intelligent person, overuse of the word makes you seem a bit delayed when it comes to processing thoughts. It’s simple enough to replace it. Instead of saying, “um,” try: “Let me think for a while.” You’re accomplishing the same goal, but the longer sentence gives you a proactive appearance and proves you want to take control the situation.

#### ■ Like

Stop. Using. This. Filler. Word. If you have ever tried to sit through an hour of reality TV, then you know the word, “like” is the most common word (like) ever. If you’re oblivious enough to have never noticed it, you’re lucky. Once

you start noticing, you can’t stop. The filler word makes you sound childish and it usually isn’t a necessary filler. While you could replace it with “such as” or something similar, if you really analyze a sentence before you speak it, you’ll find you don’t need it at all.

#### ■ Actually


This word actually isn’t necessary in a majority of situations. The word itself tends to give the impression that whatever was uttered before was not true. If you take the time to look at sentences with this word, you’ll find that nearly all of them can be deleted without changing the meaning/message, while it makes the tone stronger and more direct. For example: The word choices you make can go a long way in showing the kind of person you are. Actually, word choices can predict the kind of person you can be in a conversation. The statement is redundant.

#### ■ Sorry


This apology can make you seem weak and insecure if used in the wrong context. While you should always want to apologize if a situation warrants it, using “sorry” too often or even habitually can lead to you seeming embarrassed and afraid. If you’re actually wanting to apologize for something, feel free to use the word. But if you’re embarrassed or nervous, explain those emotions in different terms.

(Source: Lifehack)

First Announcement



N.I.O.C  
1396.2274



National Iranian  
Drilling Company

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

One-Stage(compressed)

| TENDER GUARANTEE |             | ESTIMATED<br>VALUE (Rial) | Subject of Tender              | Tenders Portal Reg. No. | TENDER NO. / INDENT NO                              | No |
|------------------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|---|----|
| Euro             | Rial        |                           |                                |                         |   |    |
| 12,800           | 448.500.000 | 8.970.000.000             | P/F: PCE<br>DOWNHOLE<br>MOTORS | 1.496.990               | Tender No.:FP/04-96/033<br>Indent No.:08-22-9645018 | 1  |

**Brief discription of subject:**  
National Iranian Drilling Company(NIDC) address pasdaran Blev., Airport Saqare, Ahvaz, Iran hereby intends to purchase its requirements PCE DOWNHOLE MOTORS from qualified and interested tenderers through one-stage public tender (compressed) upon following terms and conditions:  
A) Qualitative evaluation of tenderer:  
The evaluation is based on article ( J ) implementing regulations of the law of tenders and also carried out base on worksheets qualitative evaluation inquiry in the tender doucments. Minimum acceptable point of quality is 60.  
B) Preparation of tender documents:  
Purchasing of documents:  
In order to receive the tender documents, **510,000 Rials** should be paid to SIBA account number 2174652205004 of NIDC in Bank Meli Iran and providing the original deposit receipt.  
Notice: According to N.I.D.C technical and commercial committee rule, the limitation for job referrals in procurement field is four active and in process contract.  
Reciving of documents:  
Tenderers must be obtain the quality evaluation documents along with tender documents maximum ten days after the date of second publication in person at the following address: Hall No.:113, 1thfloor, Foreign Procurement Dept., National Iranian Drilling Company, Airport square, Ahvaz, IRAN  
Notice: Only the real or legal persons who apply to purchase and recieve tender duccments from foreign procurment department in due date and participates in tenderwill be known as tenderer from tender committee.  
C) Delivery of envelopes of bids and call quality evaluating:  
Tenderers shall submit simultaneuosly envelopes of bids including bank guarantees(A), financial offer(C) and stamped and signed of tender documents(B) along with qualificaion worksheets in form of software in CD and documentary within 40 days from last day of document recived deadline to the following address: Hall No.:107, 1thfloor ,Tender Committee, Building operations, National Iranian Drilling Company, Airport square, Ahvaz, IRAN.  
Notice: The deadline for the refusal of bidders participation in the the tender is the last day of determined for submission of bids.  
D) Tender Guarantee:  
**Type of guarantee:**  
A)Bank guarantees or guarantees issued by non-bank institutions that have activites licensed by the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran.  
B) The original cash deposit receipt paid to National Iranain Drilling Company.  
Duration of credit guarantee & quotation:  
This duration should be valid for 90 days and extendable maximum For one time in initial credit amount.  
More on this & other tenders is accessible by click on. [WWW.NIDC.IR](http://WWW.NIDC.IR)  
Foreign Procurement Dept  
National Iranian Drilling Company  
تهران تایمز : نوبت اول ۹۶/۵/۳۰ نوبت دوم ۹۶/۵/۳۱

# U.S. Senate Republicans getting fed up with Trump

The United States President Donald Trump's relationship with Senate Republicans is deteriorating by the day.

Senate Republicans are getting fed up with what they see as Trump's lack of discipline and chaotic leadership style. Several are criticizing him more openly than ever before.

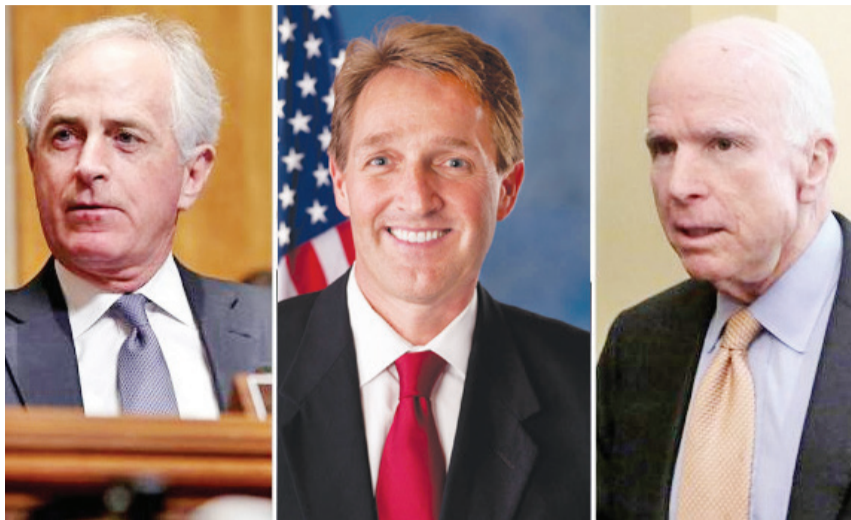
The sharpest critique came from Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Bob Corker (R-Tenn.), who told constituents in Chattanooga that Trump "has not yet been able to demonstrate the stability, nor some of the competence, that he needs to demonstrate in order for him to be successful."

GOP (Grand Old Party) strategists say Corker was likely unhappy with Trump's improvised line a week and a half ago about how threats from North Korea "will be met with fire and fury like the world has never seen."

Elsewhere, Sen. James Lankford (R-Okla.) on Friday criticized Trump for not unequivocally condemning the white supremacists who clashed with liberal protesters in Charlottesville.

"Any time he steps up and tries to equate two groups or two conversations, I think that muddies the water," Lankford said of Trump. "I just think you need to be very, very clear with the statements and how they're made."

Meanwhile, senators have rallied behind Sen. Jeff Flake (R-Ariz.), one of Trump's most outspoken critics, after the president tweeted on Thursday morning that he was glad to see that conservative candidate Kelli Ward is running against



Bob Corker (L), Jeff Flake (C), McCain (R)

him. Trump called Flake "toxic."

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) fired back.

Flake has long been one of Trump's biggest critics in the GOP, and released a book this month that on fellow members of the GOP to stand up to him.

McCain, another frequent critic of Trump, clashed with the president earlier in the week when he called on him to push back against the attacks of alt-right critics targeting National Security Advisor H.R. McMaster.

Trump casually dismissed McCain, the chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, when asked about his comments at a press conference on Tuesday,

asking sarcastically, "You mean Senator McCain who voted against us getting good healthcare?"

Earlier in the week, it was Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) who chastised Trump. He said Trump's response to the violence in Charlottesville, in which he condemned "hatred, bigotry and violence on many sides" had only encouraged white supremacist groups.

"For the sake of our nation - as our president - please fix this," Graham pleaded.

In response, Trump slammed Graham as "publicity seeking" and argued that he had falsely accused him of stating a moral equivalency between neo-Nazis, white

supremacists and liberal activists.

Meantime, Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska), one of three Republicans who voted against the healthcare bill that Trump wanted badly, was furious after the president criticized her publicly and threatened programs for Alaska after she opposed a procedural motion to begin the healthcare debate.

Things got so heated at one point that Murkowski, the chairwoman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, postponed a markup for six Trump administration nominees.

House Republicans, by comparison, have generally been more reticent about criticizing or pushing back against the president.

While Speaker Paul Ryan (R-Wis.) criticized Trump several times during last year's presidential campaign - calling the candidate's attacks on a federal judge because of his Mexican-American background the textbook definition of racism - he has kept on good terms with the president this year.

Ryan has made it a policy of not responding to reporters' questions about Trump's daily tweets, though he veered from that policy over two of the president's more controversial statements.

The Speaker tweeted on Tuesday that "there can be no moral ambiguity" in responding to bigotry and white supremacy, in a seeming rejoinder to Trump's statements that blamed both sides in Charlottesville for the violence there.

(Source: The Hill)

## Whole of Saudi Arabia is cuckoo, UAE envoy says in leaked emails

A series of leaked emails have revealed the United Arab Emirates (UAE) frustration with the House of Saud regime's leadership and the role which the emirate played in the rise of the kingdom's young crown prince, Mohammed bin Salman.

In one of the messages, stolen by hacking group GlobalLeaks, UAE's Ambassador to Washington Yousef Otaiba wrote, "That whole country is (expletive) coo cool!" referring to Saudi Arabia.

Otaiba is an influential player in world politics, who has attended Pentagon strategy meetings. The correspondence reveals that he believes the UAE has "bad history" with the Saudi regime.

Writing to wife Abeer Shoukry in another email, he mocked the Saudi regime morality police's decision to ban red roses on Valentine's Day in 2008.

"They're just so stupid... I'm sure red roses are now being sold on the black market for extortionately high prices. They should've banned heart-shaped chocolate as well," the message read.

In another email to The New York Times columnist Tom Friedman, the Emirati ambassador wrote, "Abu Dhabi fought 200 years of wars with Saudi over Wahhabism. We have more bad history with Saudi than anyone."

The exchanges betray a clear plan by the UAE to paint Saudi Arabia as a dysfunctional backwater and sell the Saudi crown prince to a skeptical Washington audience while the Saudi regime embassy remained mostly passive.

Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Zayed regards himself as Mohammed bin Salman's mentor and the two have been known to hold as many as three meetings a month.

According to the online news portal the Middle East Eye, Otaiba helped nurture high-level contacts between the young Saudi regime crown prince, known in diplomatic circles by his initials as MBS, and the United States President Donald Trump.

The House of Saud regime ministers were cut out of the loop when MBS and his brother Khaled flew in for a secret meeting with Trump just weeks before the U.S.

president's visit to Riyadh, the report said.

"While there, MBS and Khaled hashed out and agreed upon the pageantry that was to come for the star-studded Riyadh visit by Trump," MEE said.

The U.S. president's visit to Riyadh was rewarded with a record deal, worth \$350 billion over 10 years and \$110 billion in military purchases that will take effect immediately.

In his message to Friedman, Otaiba asserted that MBS could lead to better relations and a time to get "the most results we can ever get out of Saudi."

"With MBS, we see a genuine change. And that's why we're excited. We finally see hope there and we need it to succeed," the envoy said.

Another message showed Otaiba writing to Martin Indyk, a former U.S. ambassador to Israel, "I don't think we'll ever see a more pragmatic leader in that country. Which is why engaging with them is so important and will yield the most results we can ever get out of Saudi."

(Source: Press TV)

## Parliament OKs new cabinet

➡ Zangeneh was born in Kermanshah in 1953. He spent his early school years in his hometown before moving to Tehran where he received his high school diploma. He received his MSc in civil engineering from the University of Tehran in 1977 and then became a civil engineering professor at Khajeh Nasireddin Toosi University of Technology until his retirement in 2006.

Under his leadership Iran succeeded to regain its share of the oil market after sanctions against the country were lifted based on the landmark nuclear deal, which went into effect in January 2016. Also, under his management the Oil Ministry has struck contracts with the French Total and other contracts are on the way.

■ **Mohammad Shariatmadari, Industries, Mine, and Trade Ministry: Confirmed: 241-25**

Holding a master's degree in commercial management Shariatmadari was been proposed as minister of industries, mine, and trade. He served as vice president for executive affairs since Rouhani took office in 2013.

Shariatmadari served as acting minister of sports and youth from October to November 2013. He was the minister of commerce from 1997 to 2005 under Khatami.

He became a member of the Central Revolution Committee following the 1979 revolution. He is among the founders of the Intelligence Ministry and served as its deputy chief

■ **Mohammad Bathaei, Education Ministry: Confirmed 238-35**

Mohammad Bathaei, the new head of the Education Ministry, is an educator and politician. He previously served as the deputy education minister. He also served as the acting minister from October 19, 2016 after the resignation of Ali Asghar Fani until November 1. Bathaei served as director of the National Strategic Monitoring Center of the Budget and Planning Organization. He has a bachelor in educational planning and management, and a master's degree in state management.

■ **Abbas Salehi, Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance: Confirmed 242-25**

The new minister of culture and Islamic guidance is a scholar and journalist and served as the deputy minister of culture and Islamic guidance prior to the confidence vote.

Salehi is a contributor author to the Tafsir Rahnama and has been a member of Qom Seminary's preaching affairs board of trustees.

He had received a Ph.D. in philosophy from a university linked to Qom Seminary. Salehi also served as deputy culture minister for cultural heritage and activities. He is also a cleric, but doesn't wear the usual outfits Shia clerics do.

■ **Rahmani Fazli, Interior Ministry: Confirmed 250-25**

Abdolreza Rahmani Fazli succeeded to keep his

job as interior minister in Rouhani's new cabinet with a strong approval. Rahmani Fazli was born in Shirvan in 1959. He is a graduate of Ferdowsi University of Mashhad. He also received a Ph.D. in geography from Tarbiat Modarres University. He served as the president of Supreme Audit Court from 2008 to 2013.

Rahmani Fazli has also served as parliament representative, deputy chairman of the national TV, deputy head of economic and international affairs at the Interior Ministry. In 2013, when he was first named as interior minister, Rahmani Fazli was given 256 votes in favor and 19 against, while 9 MPs did not attend the session.

■ **Masoud Soltanifar, Ministry of Youth and Sports: Confirmed 225-39**

Masoud Soltanifar retained his position as the minister of youth and sports. He was previously head of the Cultural Heritage, Handcrafts and Tourism Organization.

Soltanifar was Rouhani's candidate for the minister of youth and sports in 2013, a nomination that was rejected by the parliament. In October 2016, he was again nominated for the position and was approved by the new parliament.

He also served as a Tehran counselor and governor of Gilan Province. He was previously deputy head of the Physical Education Organization. He has received his MA degree in political science from the University of Tehran.

■ **Mahmoud Hojjati, Ministry of Agriculture: Confirmed 164-94**

Mahmoud Hojjati also succeeded to win the approval of parliament as agriculture minister. He held the same position in the first term of Rouhani.

Born in Isfahan in 1955, he studied civil engineering at Isfahan University of Technology. He was transport minister from 1997 to 2000 and agriculture minister from 2001 to 2005 under President Khatami. He was also governor of Sistan and Baluchestan Province from 1989 to 1994.

■ **Ali Rabiei, Ministry of Labor: Confirmed 191-79**

Ali Rabiei had been proposed as labor minister, a post he held in Rouhani's first administration. He was born in Tehran in 1955. He studied state management at the University of Tehran. He holds a master's degree in sociology and Ph.D. in strategic management.

He was advisor to President Mohammad Khatami for social affairs from 1997 to 2005. He was also head of the presidential secretariat for homeland security committee at the Supreme National Security Council from 2002 to 2005, at the time the body was headed by Hassan Rouhani.

Rabiei was also deputy intelligence minister for parliamentary and legal affairs from 1987 to 1993. He is also a professor sociology, politics and economy at Tehran University.

■ **Hassan Ghazizadeh Hashemi, Ministry of Health and Medical Education: Confirmed 253-18**

Hassan Ghazizadeh Hashemi had been proposed to hold the position of health minister as in Rouhani's first administration.

He is the architect of the "health evolution plan" also known as "Rouhani-Care", a plan worked out to reform Iran's healthcare system.

Born in Fariman in northeastern Khorasan Razavi Province in 1959, he studied general medicine and ophthalmology at Mashhad University of Medical Sciences. He undertook cornea fellowship at Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences.

He had served as advisor to Science Minister Mohammad Farhadi from 1997 to 2001.

Ghazizadeh Hashemi is also head of Noor Ophthalmology Complex, which he founded in 1993 and a co-founder of "Nooravaran Salamat Charity Foundation".

■ **Alireza Avaie, Justice Ministry: Confirmed 244-18**

Alireza Avaie had been proposed as minister of justice in the new Rouhani cabinet. A native of the southwestern city of Dezful, he received an MA degree in private law from the University of Tehran.

He was prosecutor general of Dezful in 1979 and held the same position in Ahwaz in 1988. He was also the head of the department of justice in provinces of Lorestan, Markazi and Isfahan in 1994, 1998 and 2002 respectively. He held the same position in Tehran from 2005 to 2014.

He was a judge of the Supreme Court and the deputy interior minister in 2014.

■ **Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs, Masoud Karbasian: Confirmed 240-31**

Karbasian had been nominated as minister of finance and economic affairs. He had been acting as deputy economy minister and head of the Customs Organization under incumbent Economy Minister Ali Tayyebnia. Karbasian has also served as deputy minister of trade.

Karbasian holds a PhD in commercial management. He has acted as top advisor to mayor of Tehran, head of domestic trade at ministry of trade, director of trade at Ministry of Petroleum, director of foreign trade at Ministry of Trade, director of planning at Ministry of Trade, and head of economic affairs and trade at Ministry of Heavy Industries.

## Assad: War still not won, West's plots foiled

➡ "Their direct support - politically, economically and militarily - has made possible advances on the battlefield and reduced the losses and burdens of war," Assad added.

He said his country welcomed Russian-brokered, regional ceasefire deals that Moscow is seeking to extend elsewhere in Syria as these would end bloodshed and bring an end to insurgency and pardoning of rebels.

"We have an interest in the success of this initiative."

However, Assad condemned the United States-inspired "safe zones" which President Donald Trump earlier this year said he hoped to achieve with Russia, saying such a plan would only "give cover to terrorists." He went on to say that his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan is playing the role of a political beggar after his support for Takfiri terrorist groups in Syria came to light.

Assad highlighted that there is no chance for a plan to partition Syria as long as government forces and their allies are fighting terrorism, adding that the main goal of de-escalation zones is to stop bloodshed, deliver humanitarian aid, evacuate militants, and bring life back to normal.

The Syrian president stated that his country's economy is slowly but "consistently" recovering.

"We are not in a state of isolation as they think... There will be no security cooperation or diplomatic ties with some states until sever their ties with terrorism in a clear and unequivocal manner," Assad pointed out.

Syria has been fighting different foreign-sponsored militant and terrorist groups since March 2011. United Nations Special Envoy for Syria Staffan de Mistura estimated last August that more than 400,000 people had been killed until then.

(Source: agencies)

## Rocket blast kills 5 at Damascus International Fair, several injured: Report

At least five people have been killed in a rocket attack near an international exhibition complex in the Syrian capital, Damascus.

The so-called Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said on Sunday that over a dozen other people were wounded, some critically, after the rocket blasted in the vicinity of the entrance of the 59th Damascus International Fair, three days after its opening.

It added that the death toll could likely rise as the seriously injured may succumb to their wounds. The Syrian capital has been largely insulated from most of the rampant violence by foreign-backed terrorist groups, which is still underway almost across the country, but several key militant enclaves remain in the Eastern Ghouta region outside Damascus.

During the past few years, terrorists based in the Eastern Ghouta region have occasionally fired mortar shells at residential neighborhoods in the Syrian capital, inflicting casualties and causing material damage to properties. The Sunday shelling is also suspected to be launched from this region.

The Damascus International Fair, once the top event on Syria's economic calendar, was not held during the last six years, months after the outbreak of deadly foreign-backed militancy in the Middle Eastern country.

This year's trade fair, which opened on Thursday and was scheduled to last 10 days, has attracted the participation of 43 countries, 23 of which through their respective embassies in Damascus and 20 others through a number of their trade firms.

(Source: Press TV)

## The United States was never immune to fascism. Not then, not now

➡

U.S. just a footnote

The United States has never been immune to fascism. But many commentators still feel uneasy speaking about fascism in America. They still consider fascism to be foreign to American society. They often assume that American exceptionalism makes the country immune to any fascist threat. Fascism has no place in our master narrative of American history. Conversely, in most global histories of fascism, America is no more than a footnote.

And yet it has never been more important to acknowledge the history of fascism and neo-fascism in America than it is today. Over the last five years, according to a recent study by George Washington University, white nationalist and neo-fascist movements in the U.S. have grown by 600% on Twitter, outperforming Isis in nearly every category, from follower numbers to numbers of tweets.

Although they remain fringe groups, Trump's victory has given them new confidence. Never in history have they felt more empowered. Many of them saw his election as their victory. The chorus of support ranges from the American Nazi party supremo, Rocky Suhayda, who sees Trump as a "real opportunity", to the white supremacist leader David Duke, who said he was "100% behind" Trump.

They cheered as he failed to mention Jews on Holocaust Remembrance Day. They cheered as he refused to condemn the Minnesota mosque attack. They cheered as he relativized the rightwing violence by blaming "all sides" after the murder in Charlottesville. It is perhaps the first time in American history that the racist far-right sees the elites in the White House as its allies.

Trump has long done little to distance himself from these groups. In fact, he has all too often shamelessly tapped into their discourses, using dog-whistles, and continues to maintain a tacit, though increasingly shaky, alliance with them.

More than a decade ago, the historian Robert Paxton, well versed in the long history of fascism and neo-fascism in America, warned in his important book *The Anatomy of Fascism* about the "catastrophic setbacks and polarization" which the "United States would have to suffer" if "these fringe groups" were to "find powerful allies and enter the mainstream" of American politics.

His words may turn out to be prophetic.

(Source: The Guardian)

## Nadal returns to Brisbane to open 2018 season

Rafa Nadal, who will return to the top of the world rankings for the first time in three years on Monday, announced on Sunday that he would be opening his 18th season as a professional at the Brisbane International in January.



The 31-year-old was beaten in the quarter-finals of the Australian Open warm-up by Milos Raonic on debut this year before going on to lose the final to Roger Federer at Melbourne Park.

Nadal, who lost to Australian Nick Kyrgios in the quarter-finals of the Cincinnati Open on Saturday, said he had thoroughly enjoyed his first taste of the Queensland Tennis Centre.

"Last year for me was the first experience and was very successful," he said.

"The atmosphere is great and there's a lot of nice people supporting the event."

The Brisbane International runs from New Year's Eve to Jan 7 next year.

(Source: Reuters)

## Qatar to build World Cup stadium shaped like Arabian cap

Qatar will build a stadium shaped like an Arabian skull cap for the 2022 World Cup, organisers said on Sunday, as the Gulf state moves ahead with preparations for the tournament despite a diplomatic rift with its neighbours.

Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates imposed sanctions on fellow U.S. ally Qatar in June and cut all transport links with the country, accusing it of supporting terrorism - a charge Doha denies.

To get around the boycott, Qatar has flown in food from Turkey and Iran and chartered ships via Oman to bring in construction materials needed for World Cup projects.

The tournament is the centrepiece of a strategy to project Qatar onto the global stage via sport.

Doha's Al Thumama stadium, designed by a Qatari architect in the shape of a traditional knitted 'ghafiya' Arabian cap, will host 40,000 fans at a World Cup quarter final match, the country's 2022 organising body said in a statement.

"This symbolic design embodies everything that unites us as Arabs and Muslims, and is a fitting tribute to the first FIFA World Cup in the Middle East," said Hassan al-Thawadi, Qatar's 2022 committee chief.

The venue is one of at least eight air-conditioned stadiums Qatar is building along with a new port and metro system as part of a \$200 billion infrastructure upgrade.

Qatar has denied reports the Arab sanctions have hurt tourism and lowered hotel occupancy rates.

(Source: Reuters)

## MotoGP agrees new five-year deal with Motegi track

Japan's Twin Ring Motegi circuit will remain on the MotoGP calendar until at least 2023 after agreeing a five-year contract extension, series organisers Dorna Sports said on Sunday.

The Honda-owned track is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year and first hosted MotoGP in 1999. Honda's Spanish rider Marc Marquez secured his third MotoGP championship at Motegi last season.

With Suzuka hosting the Japanese Grand Prix between 2000-2003, Motegi's race was billed as the Pacific Grand Prix before the circuit again became Japan's sole round of the championship in 2004.

(Source: Fox Sports)

## Hamburg's Muller suffers torn ACL celebrating winning goal

Hamburg have confirmed Nicolai Muller suffered a torn anterior cruciate ligament celebrating his goal against Augsburg in the first round of the Bundesliga season on Saturday.

Muller netted what proved to be the only goal of a 1-0 win in the eighth minute of the game at Volksparkstadion but had to be substituted after falling awkwardly while celebrating his strike.



The 29-year-old underwent scans on Sunday to determine the full extent of the injury, which is likely to leave him out of action for seven months.

"The diagnosis comes as a huge shock to us, it's a big blow at the start of the season and obviously is really tough on Nicolai," Hamburg's sporting director Jens Todt was quoted as saying by the Bundesliga website.

"We wish him all the best for his recovery and, of course, will support him as best we can."

Hamburg's head coach Markus Gisdol said: "It's bad news. I've never seen anything like it."

(Source: Soccerway)

# Manchester City 'ready to meet Messi's £275million' buy-out clause

Manchester City are ready to break the world transfer record and meet Lionel Messi's £275million buy-out clause, according to reports in France.

Pep Guardiola is targeting a reunion with his former protégé, as he plots a serious title charge this season.

Messi has still not put pen to paper on a new deal at Camp Nou, and reports suggest he is holding off due to the recent sale of Neymar to Paris Saint-Germain. Barca revealed last month a contract was agreed, but Messi is still not ready to formally sign the agreement.

And Yahoo Sport France report City are ready to swoop in and bring him to England.

They are said to be 'ready to pay' Messi's £275m (€300m) release clause, as they do 'everything to buy' the Argentina star, who turned 30 in July. And Yahoo Sport France also report we could have the £100m and £200m barrier breached in the same summer — as City try to lure Messi to the Etihad.

Neymar became football's costliest player when he left the Nou Camp to join Paris Saint-Germain for £198m.

It's been a disastrous summer for Barcelona.

The have lost the player they were planning to build their future around after PSG took them by surprise and met Neymar's staggering buy-out clause.

That they replaced him with Paulinho showed how far they've fallen as just



2,000 fans turned up to watch the former Tottenham man's presentation.

Barcelona had to watch arch-rivals Real Madrid win La Liga and the Champions League last season using the model which proved so successful for the Catalans.

And Los Blancos proved their dominance with a 5-1 aggregate victory in the Spanish Super Cup.

Manchester City have spent almost £200m on recruiting first-team players this summer, bringing in Ederson from Benfica, Tottenham's Kyle Walker, Real Madrid's Danilo and Monaco pair Bernardo Silva and Benjamin Mendy.

They are interested in centre-back Jonny Evans, and have already had one £18m rejected by S

City started their Premier League campaign with a 2-0 victory away at newly-promoted Brighton, thanks to a Sergio Aguero strike and Lewis Dunk's own goal. Five-time Ballon d'Or-winner, Lionel Messi, followed Etihad side's official Instagram account and his current deal with Barcelona expires in the summer.

(Source: Sun)

## Iniesta: Barca can't change approach to youth, better not to rely on a surreal market



Andres Iniesta warns Barcelona "can't change" their approach to young players and urges them "not to rely on a surreal and inflationary market."

The second part of Iniesta's interview with El Pais on Sunday focused on Neymar's €222m departure to Paris Saint-Germain and why the number of youth graduates progressing to Barca's first team had decreased sharply.

"Lack of youth graduates in the first team? It's a complex issue because in recent years, we've made the exception a norm," continued the midfielder.

"Playing a Champions League Final with eight or nine youth players, it's not that Barca don't do it but rather no-one does.

"Sometimes it gets confused... Because people think it's easy to achieve, when it's quite the opposite, very complicated even.

"Still, the club can't change because if we're known for something, it's that we don't lose faith or trust in our young players, who have been raised here.

"Sometimes it's better to go with those already at the club and not rely on a market that, lately, has been experiencing

huge inflation.

"Has the market gone crazy? It seems that way. Surreal money has been spent, but if they have, it's because [teams] can afford to..."

"Neymar? Everyone's in charge of their own future and they're entitled to do what they believe is best for themselves and their family.

"It's not up for discussion. If I don't want to be here then I'd go somewhere else.

"I'd have liked him to stay with us for another 10 years, but you must also put yourself in his position.

"I'm in an idyllic situation, I don't need much more, I'm in my comfort zone. It's what I've chosen and there's not much else to say.

"How Neymar's exit affects Barca? Like I said, our idea doesn't change. We'll see how this month ends, the people that come in and, with everything finalised, we'll see the options that we have. Either way, our game is about dominance, balance and being compact.

"Once we stray from these standards, we'll have suffered a lot. Keeping the ball close? Yes, yes. But it's not because we want it close, it's because we suffer less this way."

(Source: El Pais)

## Ruud Gullit believes Antonio Conte was wrong to text Diego Costa over exit



Former Chelsea manager Ruud Gullit believes current boss Antonio Conte was unwise to text striker Diego Costa to tell him he is no longer needed at Stamford Bridge.

Costa top-scored for the Blues with 20 Premier League goals last season as they convincingly won the title in Conte's first year in charge.

But the relationship between the pair has soured, culminating in a message from the Italian boss saying the Brazilian-born Spain international has no future with the London club.

Gullit, who famously fell out with Alan Shearer while in charge at Newcastle, was critical of Conte and believes he has brought pressure on himself.

"It's all been instigated about what happened with Diego Costa," Gullit told BBC Five Live.

"It's a little bit strange that you hear at the end of the season that you're not welcome, and now he's training somewhere in Brazil and that's not good for Costa, not good for the club, not good for anyone.

"(It was) not very wise to do. You don't do that. I think it is a mistake by Conte and I hope that he has learnt from it. He still has the possibility to do something about it, just go to him and say, 'I'm sorry that I did it, you have to come back, we will talk'.

"You need to see each other face to face. You don't need to like each other, but you need to respect each other. If he doesn't want to come back then you have to find the best solution for the club."

Gullit, who was in charge of Chelsea between 1996 and 1998, has also backed proposals to close the transfer window before the beginning of the season.

"The thing that irritates me the most is that we all talk about transfers until the 1st of September," he added.

"Do that before the season starts. I think it has to stop that you can still do transfers when you have already started with your competitions. It is a bad thing at the moment because we talk only about transfers."

(Source: BT Sport)

## Watzke withering over Barca's role in Dembele soap opera

Borussia Dortmund chief executive Hans-Joachim Watzke has accused Barcelona of exerting undue influence upon Ousmane Dembele as the transfer saga concerning the France winger rumbles on.

Dembele missed Dortmund's 3-0 win at Wolfsburg on the opening day of the Bundesliga season after being suspended by the club on the back of missing training without consent.

The 20-year-old's absence last week came as Dortmund rejected an initial bid from Barcelona, who have settled upon Dembele as a prime target in their bid to fill the void left by Neymar's world-record departure to Paris Saint-Germain.

Speaking to Sky, Watzke spoke witheringly of 'glorious' Barcelona, accusing the Catalan club of playing a central role in the stand-off.

"It is not that Ous is making fun of us, he simply declines to do his job. That is a new quality," Watzke said.

"And we should talk about the role of glorious FC Barcelona in this matter.

"On Wednesday [last week] we met with Barcelona's officials. Our positions were very far away from each other. Then, on Thursday, he did not show up at the training.

"The timing of these events is very curious. You don't



believe a 20-year-old will refuse to go to training without his possible new club liking that?"

Watzke echoed the position of Dortmund sporting director Michael Zorc in stating Barcelona know the fee they must meet in order to sign Dembele, who will have to apologize to his team-mates if his future remains in the Bundesliga.

"They must pay the fee we want for this player, who has four years left on his contract, after they received €222million for Neymar.

"If they match our requirements soon then there will be a transfer. Otherwise, there won't be.

"Dembele would have to apologize to the team and the club. Then it is possible, of course [that Dembele has a future in Dortmund]."

Watzke also added his voice to a growing rump of opinion that the transfer window should end before the season starts to stop issues such as those surrounding Dembele's future from lingering after the big kick-off.

"I am of the opinion that UEFA and the ECA (European Club Association) should jointly decide that the transfer window does not end in the season.

"It would mean we could all talk about soccer, about the season – something all fans could look forward to.

"We should all talk about football again and not have this monkey business."

Reports in Barcelona late on Saturday suggested Barca were poised to end their increasingly tortured pursuits of Dembele and Liverpool playmaker Philippe Coutinho and turn their attention towards Nice midfielder Jean Seri.

(Source: FourFourTwo)

# For Korea, Iran is big barrier to Russia

The countdown to the big game has really started. On the final day of August, Korea meets Iran at Seoul World Cup Stadium in a 2018 World Cup qualifier that can only be described as vital.

It is not vital for Iran, which has already qualified and with two games remaining sits seven points clear at the top of Group A. Only the top two teams in the six-team group can be sure of a place in Russia next summer. With Iran taking first place, Korea is desperate to keep hold of second.

At the moment, the grip is shaky. The Taeguk Warriors have 13 points from eight games, just one point ahead of Uzbekistan. Losing three of the last four qualifiers, the most recent of which was in Qatar in June, led to Uli Stielike being fired as head coach.

Shin Tae-yong has been brought in to try to do what no other coach has done in Group A -- score a goal against Iran. The Iranians are not only unbeaten after eight games, but have not yet had their defense breached. That is what Korea has to do in Seoul August 31.

If Korea can defeat Iran and Uzbekistan loses in China on the same evening, then a place in Russia is secured. But if Korea fails to win and Uzbekistan is victorious in Wuhan then it all comes down to the final game in the Uzbek capital of Tashkent on September 5.

That would mean the 2002 semi-finalist must win what would be in a frenzied atmosphere.

Losing to Iran would be a disaster, but it is possible. Under Carlos Queiroz, Iran has won the past four meetings between the two teams.

Under the former coach of Real Madrid, Team Melli, as it is known, has gone from strength to strength. Iran has been Asia's top-ranked nation, according to world governing body FIFA for four years. At the moment, the position is 24, well above the continent's next best team, Japan at 44; while Korea is 49th.

Iran is well organized and solid at the back, but also has increasing creativity going forward. Sardar Azmoun is one of the main rivals with Son Heung-min for the title



of Asia's most dangerous attacker, and has scored 19 goals in 26 appearances for the national team. Azmoun, just 22, plays in Russia, but came close to a move to Italian giant Lazio in the summer. Strikers such as Reza Ghoochannejhad and Karim Ansarifard are scoring goals in Europe.

Iran has issues, though. Earlier this month, the national team made international headlines. Masoud Shojaei and Ehsan Hajisafi look to have been banned from representing their country. The reason is that the pair

belongs to a Greek club and played in a game against Israel, which Iran does not recognize.

A leading sports official in Tehran told state television that Shojaei, captain when Iran defeated Uzbekistan in June to clinch a place at the World Cup, and the similarly experienced Hajisafi, would not play for Iran again.

It remains to be seen what effect, if any, this has on Iran in Seoul. What we know for sure is that it will be a tough game that Korea needs to win.

(Source: koreatimes)

## Uli Stielike candidate to take charge of Iran's Esteghlal: Report

**S P O R T S** Former South Korea coach Uli Stielike reportedly is a candidate to take charge of Iranian football club Esteghlal.

Under Alireza Mansourian, Esteghlal has collected just four points from four games in the new season of the Iran Professional League (IPL).

Mansourian led the Blues to a second-place finish last season.

Stielike was fired as South Korea's head coach in June after poor results in World Cup qualifying.

The 62-year-old German started his coaching career at Switzerland in 1989 and has also coached Ivory Coast national team, FC Sion, and Al-Sailiya of Qatar.

On 1 June 2016, Mansourian was named as head coach of Esteghlal on a three-year contract.

## Mkhitaryan staying grounded after Man United's start to season

Henrikh Mkhitaryan says Manchester United are not getting carried away by their impressive start to the Premier League season.

United matched their 4-0 season-opening win against West Ham by running riot in the closing stages at Swansea on Saturday to record another 4-0 victory.

Romelu Lukaku, Paul Pogba and Anthony Martial added to Eric Bailly's earlier finish in the final 10 minutes as United registered four goals in both of their opening two league fixtures for the first time in 110 years.

But Mkhitaryan says United are not getting ahead of themselves.

"Let's not rush because it's only two games played," he said. "We still have 36 games to play in the Premier League. So let's go just step by step to try and win every game and at the end see where we arrive."

Summer signings Lukaku and Nemanja Matic have both hit the ground running after making respective moves from Everton and Chelsea.

Lukaku has scored three goals in two games and Matic has been a towering mid-

field figure in screening the back four and getting United on the front foot.

Mkhitaryan's own performances, in contrast, have flown under the radar, but he came up with two more assists at Swansea and has created four of United's eight league goals.

"I'm very happy I could assist twice but I enjoyed more of the teamwork than what I have done myself because football is a team sport," Mkhitaryan told MUTV.

"Last year the atmosphere and environment in the team was amazing but this year it is much better. It's not that something has changed but we have become more close to each other. Maybe that's why our new signings have shown that everything is good and are helping us from the first game.

"We are very happy for Romelu and Nemanja that they are playing and I hope that Victor [Lindelof] is going to start playing as soon as he can. We are trying to support them to settle down quick because it's very important for us that they show their best quality."

(Source: Soccermet)

## Nice midfielder Jean Michael Seri set for Barcelona move - reports

Nice midfielder Jean Michael Seri is waiting "to see what happens" with his future amid reports that he is set for a €40 million move to Barcelona.

Both Diario Sport and Mundo Deportivo reported that Barca expect to finalise a deal for the Ivory Coast international in the coming days.

But speaking after his side's win over Guingamp on Saturday, he told reporters: "I'm not in contact with anyone."

"I focus on what I have to do. If my agents and Barcelona see each other and talk, I don't know anything about that."

"If it happens, it happens. I'm still a Nice player today, and we'll see what happens later."

Nice host Napoli in a Champions League qualifier on Tuesday, looking to turn around a 2-0 deficit from the first leg, and Seri said: "It's not the time to think about it."

"There are a lot of things to

do, notably our qualification, and that's the most important thing for me."

Meanwhile, Nice manager Lucien Favre reacted with surprise when told Barca were said to be close to signing Seri, telling a news conference: "An agreement is imminent for the transfer of Jean Michael Seri to Barca?"

"Are you serious? I can't imagine life without Seri. But as long as the transfer window is open, like a lot of clubs, we're in uncertainty."

"I can't tell you any more, I don't know anything at all."

Mundo Deportivo reported that Seri has an agreement with Nice that would allow him to leave for an offer of €40 million.

Barca have already signed Marlon Santos, Gerard Deulofeu, Nelson Semedo and Paulinho this summer, and remain hopeful of doing deals for Philippe Coutinho and Ousmane Dembele.

(Source: ESPN)

## New talented sitting volleyball player has been known

The second tall sitting volleyball player can turn to be as one of the sport star in the country.

According to the Tasnim News Agency Sports Reporter, no doubt I. R. Iran Sitting Volleyball team is the First ranking of world sitting volleyball and it seems that if the effective planning keep on going and based on the existence potential talented athletes, this ranking will continue.

It was a few years ago that Morteza Mehrzad (246 cm height) has been found as the tallest world disabled athlete. And he is now one of the I. R. Iran National Sitting Volleyball Team main members who played an important role in 2016 Rio Paralympic Games that helped I. R. Iran to be the champion in Brazil.

Looking for the talented players did not stop which resulted in finding another capable player. If the required proper planning is taking into consideration, he will be one of the main effective players who can cause the success of I. R. Iran sitting volleyball in the future.

Amirmohammad Ebrahimi, the 23-year-old (220 cm height) is the second tallest sitting volleyball player. Ebrahimi is currently I. R. Iran Youth Sitting Volleyball Team Member and lives in Amol.

(Source: Tasnim)



## Ex-Persepolis defender Umana joins Pars Jonoubi Jam

Former Persepolis defender Michael Umana has joined newly-promoted Pars Jonoubi Jam on a one-year contract.

The details of the contract have not been revealed.

The 35-year-old player was a member of Iranian giant football team Persepolis from 2014 to 2016.

Umana represented Costa Rica in the 2006 and 2014 World Cups.

He has played 96 times for Costa Rica and scored one goal.

Pars Jonoubi Jam sits second in Iran Professional League (IPL) after four weeks.

(Source: Tasnim)

## Wenger expects Alexis Sanchez to face Liverpool

Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger says Alexis Sanchez should be fit to return to action against Liverpool next week, while he has defended Mesut Ozil's performance against Stoke.

Sanchez, who has under a year left on his Arsenal contract and has been heavily linked with a summer exit, has missed the club's start to the season due to an abdominal strain.

Without the Chile international, Arsenal have struggled past Leicester in their Premier League opener while suffering a 1-0 defeat at Stoke on Saturday, though Wenger is hopeful he will have his star man back at Anfield next Sunday.

"If all goes well through the week, he should be available to be selected for the next game, yes," Wenger told reporters.

Wenger also spoke about another player whose Arsenal deal is due to expire next summer, backing Ozil's display against Stoke.

The Germany international's performance and attitude came in for criticism after the game from pundits including Martin Keown and Steven Gerrard.

"I think he did fight," Wenger said. "It is difficult to single anybody out. I believe we had many, many chances and personally I don't think he deserves [criticism]."

(Source: ESPN)

## Wenger defends Ozil and hits back at Steven Gerrard

Arsene Wenger has hit back at the criticism of his Arsenal star Mesut Ozil.

The Gunners endured a tough afternoon away to Stoke, going down 1-0 at the bet365 Stadium.

Ozil was put under the spotlight by pundits Steven Gerrard and Martin Keown following his poor performance against the Potters.

Gerrard claimed the German 'is a liability' at times and 'doesn't do enough', adding: "I just worry about his reaction and body language."

Keown followed on saying: "Arsenal can't afford to carry someone like Ozil. It looked like he was going through the motions today."

"He needs to have a good look at himself."

But Wenger has leaped to the defense of his star midfielder.

When asked about the criticism, the French boss said: "I think he did fight."

"It is difficult to single anybody out. I believe we had many, many chances and personally I don't think he deserves [criticism]."

Stoke new boy Jese netted a fine goal to secure their three points against Arsenal on Saturday.

Wenger will need Ozil to re-find his top form for the Gunners' next Premier League match.

The north Londoners make the trip to Anfield to take on Liverpool in a blockbuster clash next Sunday.

(Source: Daily Star)

## South Korea to feel pressure vs. 'European' Iran - Park Ji-Sung

Manchester United legend Park Ji-Sung has called upon South Korea fans to get behind their team against a "European" Iran in a vital 2018 AFC World Cup qualifier in Seoul on Aug. 31.

Coach Shin Tae-Yong called up English Premier League stars Son Heung-Min and Ki Sung-Yeung in his first squad on Monday. Games in the K-League have been cancelled on the weekend of Aug. 27 and 28 to give Shin more time with his players.

While Iran have already booked their spot in next year's tournament as they sit seven points clear at the top of Group A, the Koreans' grip on the second automatic qualification spot is tenuous.

Victory at Seoul World Cup Stadium will see Korea book a place at a ninth successive World Cup if Uzbekistan, a point behind in third, lose in China.

Otherwise, the Taeguk Warriors will travel to Uzbekistan for the final group game on Sep. 5, needing a result.

"In this situation, the players will feel heavy pressure," Park, who retired from the national team in 2011 after 100 appearances, told the Korea Football Association's official homepage on Thursday.



"But if they're national team players, they need to overcome the pressure and show their abilities."

A big crowd is expected in the capital for the visit of Iran. Fans have been disappointed by the team's performances of late. South Korea have lost three of the last four qualifiers.

(Source: ESPN)

# Tehran building converted into Calligraphy Museum of Iran

**A R T TEHRAN** — A d e s k historical house in Tehran has been converted into the Calligraphy Museum of Iran.

The museum, home to a rare collection of Persian calligraphy, was inaugurated on Saturday during a ceremony attended by a large number of calligraphers and artists.

The house that was formerly owned by Gholamreza Fuladvand, a senator during the reign of Iran's last monarch Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, was converted into a museum under the auspices of Tehran Municipality's Beautification Organization.

Speaking at the ceremony, the director of the organization, Isa Alizadeh, said that calligraphy enjoys a high status in Islamic art.

"Calligraphy has deep connections with morality, spirituality and mysticism. The exquisite tile works on the walls and the mihrabs in the mosques bear beautiful calligraphy that reflects the glory of this precious art," he said.

However, he regretted the fact that a lot of invaluable copies of calligraphy works have been damaged or looted by other countries due to mismanagement.

Alizadeh also explained that most of the items displayed at the museum come from the rare collection of Iranian master of calligraphy, Abdollah Foradi (1927-1996).

"We need to collect more works by master calligraphers, and continue to buy works by contemporary artists," he added.



Guests visit the Calligraphy Museum of Iran in Tehran after an inauguration ceremony on August 19, 2017. (Mehr/Melika Farshforush)

The Director of the Iranian National Committee for the International Council of Museums, Ahmad Mohit-Tabatabai, remarked that several other museums such as the National Museum of Iran and the Reza Abbasi Museum also display

pieces of calligraphy works.

"However, converting a historical house in the capital Tehran into a calligraphy museum is quite praiseworthy," he added.

Calligrapher Ali Shirazi also expressed

his hope that the museum would be active in accumulating works by contemporary artists.

The museum is located on Hoquqi Alley off Somayyeh Street in downtown Tehran.

## Art Bureau unveils painting of Iranian soldier Mohsen Hojaji

**A R T TEHRAN** — A painting of Mohsen Hojaji, an Iranian soldier who was killed by ISIS terrorists in Syria a few weeks ago, was unveiled during a ceremony at Tehran's Art Bureau on Sunday.



This painting of Mohsen Hojaji by Hassan Ruholamin was unveiled at the Art Bureau in Tehran on August 20, 2017. (Mehr/Mahmud Rahimi)

Created by the young artist Hassan Ruholamin, the painting depicts Hojaji moments before he was brutally beheaded.

The painting was unveiled during a press conference that the new director of Art Bureau's Visual Arts Office, Masud Shojai-Tabatabai, organized to brief the media about his programs.

Several more paintings on Hojaji will also be unveiled during in the near future, Shojai-Tabatabai said.

He also announced his plan to produce documentaries about 40 revolutionary Iranian artists in the future.

## Underground rapper confesses to killing his stepfather in Tehran

**A R T TEHRAN** — Underground rapper Hamidrez Sefat confessed to killing his stepfather Saturday to protect his mother against harassment by her husband.

The 24-year-old Sefat beat up the stepfather following a quarrel between his mother and her husband last week, the Persian service of ISNA reported on Saturday.



Underground Iranian rapper Hamidreza Sefat in an undated photo

The 66-year-old stepfather was transferred to a Tehran hospital, but he died on Saturday due to a skull fracture, a public prosecutor in Tehran, Mohammad Shahriari, said.

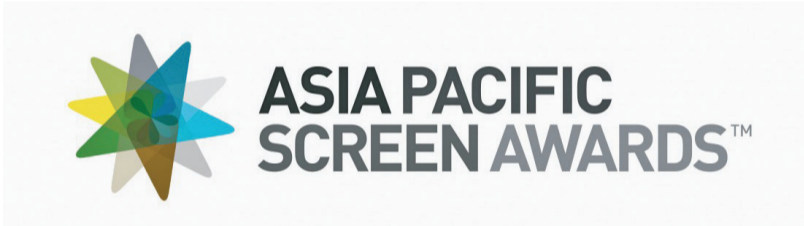
Before he died, the stepfather had said that he had a fight with his wife's son.

The case is still under investigation.

American rappers Eminem and 50 Cent were the role models for Sefat who once said in an interview, "I'm a rebel, but

I'm not an idiot." His credits include a number of single songs such as "Khiabaniha" (The Street Dweller), "Divoonas" (She's Mad), and "Hayhat" (Alas).

## Iran submits nine movies to APSA



**A R T TEHRAN** — The d e s k Iranian House of Cinema has submitted a lineup of nine films to the 11th Asia Pacific Screen Awards (APSA).

Director Ali Nuri-Oskui's acclaimed animated movies "Release from Heaven" is among the highlights of the lineup.

"Twenty-One Days Later" by Mohammadreza Kheradmandan, "The Skater" by Fereidun Najafi, "Ferrari" by Alireza Davudnejad and "Subdued" by Hamid Nematollah are also among the films.

Also included are "The Home" by Asghar Yusefinejad, "No Date, No Signature" by Vahid Jalilvand, "The Villa

Tenants" by Monir Qeidi and "Yeva" by Anahid Abad.

Earlier in July, Iran's Institute for Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults (IIDCYA) also submitted Mohammad-Ali Talebi's "The End of Dreams" to the APSA.

In 2016, "Starless Dreams" by Iranian filmmaker Mehrdad Oskui was named best feature documentary at the APSA, while "Daughter" by Reza Mirkarimi, "Muhammad, the Messenger of God" by Majid Majidi and "Breath" by Narges Abyar also received nominations.

The 11th Asia Pacific Screen Awards will be presented in Brisbane on November 23.

## "Mashti Esmaeil" to compete in Sydney filmfest

**A R T TEHRAN** — Iranian d e s k director Mehdi Zamanpur Kiasari's documentary "Mashti Esmaeil" will go on screen in the Fifteenth and the Last Experimental International Film Festival (FLEXIFF

2002-2022).

The film is about an old blind man named Mashti Esmaeil who works in the paddies. Mashti Esmaeil does not lose his hope despite all difficulties he faces throughout his life.

## Ferdowsi Foundation honors Si concert performers

**A R T TEHRAN** — The d e s k Ferdowsi Foundation has honored the group of musicians and thespians performing the Si concerts, which are still running in the courtyard of Tehran's Sadabad Cultural-Historical Complex.

The director of the foundation, Yaser Movahedfar, attended a performance by the group on Friday, presenting vocalist Homayun Shajarian, composer and instrumentalist Sohrab Purnazeri and stage director Ali-Asghar Dashti with the Ferdowsi Golden Statue, the foundation announced on Sunday.

The group received the honor for their concerts' focus on stories from Persian poet Ferdowsi's epic masterpiece Shahnameh.

The Si (literally meaning 'thirty' in Persian) musical drama gets its title from the Shahnameh verse reading "I toiled much over thirty years, By the Persian language I remade Iran", which refers to the fact that Ferdowsi spent 30 years writing the Shahnameh over a millennium ago.

The stories of "Zal and Rudabeh", "Rustam and Esfaniyar" and "Rustam



Vocalist Homayun Shajarian (L) and composer and instrumentalist Sohrab Purnazeri acknowledge the audience after a Si performance in the courtyard of Tehran's Sadabad Cultural-Historical Complex on August 9, 2017. (Mehr/Mohammad Moheimani)

and Sohrab" from the Shahnameh are being staged in the format of open-air performances, which have been running since August 6.

Due to popular demand, the performances have been extended twice for an extra week so far.



A scene from Mehdi Zamanpur Kiasari's documentary "Mashti Esmaeil"

## Comedian Dick Gregory, active in U.S. civil rights movement, dies at age 84



Activist Dick Gregory delivers a speech during a public viewing and funeral for legendary singer James Brown in Augusta, Georgia December 30, 2006. (Reuters/Lucas Jackson)

**NEW YORK (Reuters)** — Comedian Dick Gregory, who took an active role in the civil rights movement in the United States in the 1960s, has died at age 84, his son said on social media on Saturday.

"It is with enormous sadness that the Gregory family confirms that their father, comedic legend and civil rights activist Mr. Dick Gregory departed this earth tonight in Washington, D.C.," his son, Christian, wrote on Instagram.

Gregory, who was born in St. Louis, Missouri, gained his first major break in stand-up comedy when Hugh Hefner saw Gregory's act and hired the comedian to perform at his club in the

early 1960s.

Gregory's comedy tackled racial prejudice and he became a pioneering figure for other African American comedians. He released a number of comedy albums and appeared on television talk shows.

He also took part in civil rights demonstrations and befriended Martin Luther King Jr. Gregory was jailed in Birmingham, Alabama, during one protest in 1963.

In the early 1970s, Gregory left stand-up comedy to spend more time on political activism and in the 1980s he turned his focus to promoting healthy eating.

## Prize-winning Polish-U.S. playwright Janusz Glowacki dies

**WARSAW, Poland (AP)** — Renowned Polish-U.S. playwright and screenwriter Janusz Glowacki, who won top prizes for his bitter, ironic analysis of the difficult lives of immigrants, died Saturday at 78.

His wife, actress Olena Leonenko-Glowacka, announced his death but its cause was not immediately revealed.

Popular in New York and Polish artistic and intellectual circles, Glowacki was the author of award-winning plays "Antigone in New York" and "The Fourth Sister", which set classic themes in the contemporary world. A keen observer of reality, Glowacki's works are permeated with sarcasm but also with sympathy for the often-futile struggles of his characters.

Born in 1938 in Poznan, western Poland, he made a name for himself in the 1960s with short stories and screenplays, including for the movie "Hunting Flies" by Poland's leading filmmaker Andrzej Wajda. His dark and absurd humor was also helpful in protecting his works from censors, like the 1970 movie "The Cruise" that in a convoluted way showed the absurdities of life under communism in Poland.

He settled in New York in the early 1980s, choosing not to return to Poland after its communist authorities imposed



In this Thursday, Sept. 5, 2013 file photo, writer Janusz Glowacki poses for photographers during the photo call for the film Walesa. Man Of Hope, at the Venice Film Festival in Venice, Italy. (AP Photo/David Azia, File)

martial law. He was in London for the opening of his play "Cinders" when the clampdown was announced.

Glowacki did return to Warsaw after the 1989 ouster of communist rule.

In 1987, his drama "Hunting Cockroaches" won the Hollywood Drama League Critics Award. "Antigone in New York" was awarded the Le Balladine Award in Paris for the best play of 1997, and "The Fourth Sister" won the main Grand Prize at the International Theatre Festival in Dubrovnik in 2001.

Funeral arrangements are still pending.

Glowacki is also survived by his daughter, Zuzanna Glowacka, and his ex-wife, Ewa Zadrynska.

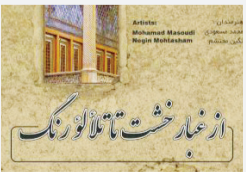
## NEWS IN BRIEF



### Photos of ancient Rasht on display at Tehran exhibition

**A R T TEHRAN** — Axkhaneh Shahr, Iran's photo d e s k museum in Tehran, is playing host to an exhibition of 39 photos the northern Iranian city of Rasht during the 19th century and early 20th century.

Kobra Alipur is the curator of the exhibition, which will run until September 21 at the museum located in Bahare Shiraz Park near Bahare Shiraz Square.



### Exhibition of paintings featuring Qajar sites underway in Tehran

**A R T TEHRAN** — An exhibition of paintings d e s k featuring a number Tehran's monuments dating back to the Qajar (1794-1925) era is currently underway at the galleries of the Saba Art and Cultural Institute in Tehran.

The gate of the National Garden, the Salute Hall in Golestan Palace, the Sahebqaraniyeh Palace and several other sites have been painted by Mohammad Masudi and Negin Mohtasham for the exhibition.

The showcase has been organized to represent the artistic grandeur of architecture from that period, the institute said in a press release on Sunday.

The exhibition named "From Clay to Color" will run until August 24.