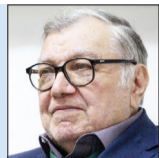
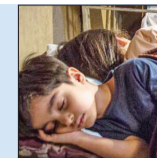
 Leader donates money to Rohingya Muslims **2**

 The proper Islamization of humanities will prevent wars and massacres **9**

 Iran reach FIFA U-17 World Cup quarters **15**

 "Isolation" to compete at Camerimage **16**

Iran had no role in Kirkuk operation: Velayati

Non-oil GDP growth at 7% in 6 months

ECONOMY TEHRAN — Iranian government spokesman Mohammad Baqer Nobakht said on Tuesday that the country's non-oil gross domestic product grew by seven percent during the first half of the present Iranian calendar year (March 21-September 22, 2017), IRIB news reported.

As Nobakht announced in late July, GDP of Iran, including oil sector, stood at 11.1 percent in the past Iranian

calendar year (ended on March 20, 2017), while non-oil GDP growth stood at 6.4 percent in the same time.

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

No country can terminate nuclear deal unilaterally: Mogherini

European Union foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini has said that the 2015 nuclear agreement is a deal that no country can "terminate" unilaterally. "It is a deal that no country can 'terminate' unilaterally; it is not a bilateral treaty, but a Resolution of the United Nations' Security Council," she

said in an article published on her website on Monday.

"Last Friday, after talking to U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and after listening to President Trump's speech, I recalled the European Union's full support to the deal," she added. **->2**

Macron recent stance toward JCPOA is a misreading: Professor

By Javad Heiranna
TEHRAN — Professor Farhang Jahanpour, a Senior Research Fellow at Harvard University says President Trump's recent speech on Iran was the most belligerent speech by any US president about Iran since the Iranian revolution. Former lecturer at the University of

Cambridge also adds that it is believed that President Macron recent stance toward JCPOA is a misreading.

Member of Kellogg College at the University of Oxford also adds the "The JCPOA is not renegotiable."

Following is the full text of the interview. **->7**



See page 2

EDITORIAL
By Mohammad Ghaderi
Tehran Times editor-in-chief
@ghaderi62

Trump's compassionate face in Élysée Palace

Showing new demands of United States of America "natural", as clear examples of changing nuclear deal, is a tactic that French authorities have used it like British and German officials.

In his latest statements on Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), French Foreign Minister Jean Yves Le Drian stated "negotiation can peacefully begin in post-JCPOA period."

The French Foreign Minister urged United States of America to maintain and safeguard Iran's nuclear deal dubbed "Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action."

"We believe that U.S. Congress is currently held responsible for the possible withdrawal from Iran's nuclear deal," he maintained.

To us, a landmark nuclear deal inked between Iran and world's six major powers (including five permanent members of UN Security Council plus Germany) in Austrian capital Vienna in mid-July 2015 is a good deal, he said, adding "JCPOA limits Iran's access to nuclear weapons although Iran has always reiterated that development of nuclear weapons is for peaceful purposes."

Under the JCPOA, Islamic Republic of Iran agreed to limit its nuclear activities in exchange for sanctions relief, the report added.

As long as limitation of uranium enrichment in Iran is expired, the door is open for negotiation between Iran and world's six major powers but Washington is interested in exacerbating these restrictions, he said, adding "if Iran's nuclear deal is maintained, we can start preliminary negotiation with Tehran on what will happen after 2025."

In this case, Iran can take advantage of its rights according to NPT (Nonproliferation Treaty), he opined.

He further noted that if safeguards or inspections seem essential on this date, it is possible to start talks on them. **->7**

'WFP aims to ensure food security by innovative means'

By Maryam Qarehgozlou
TEHRAN — The World Food Program (WFP) is the world's largest humanitarian agency fighting hunger worldwide, delivering food assistance in emergencies and working with communities to improve nutrition and build resilience. Each year, WFP assists some 80 million people in around 80 countries.

A WFP study published earlier this year established a link between hunger and migration. It found that countries with the highest level of hunger, coupled with armed conflict, have the highest outward migration.

For each additional year of conflict and bloodshed, an extra 40 people out of 10,000 will flee their country. It showed that people

often move several times within their own country before crossing borders, leaving behind their land, jobs and livelihoods.

As Negar Gerami, WFP Representative and Country Director in Iran, has said "In the Islamic Republic of Iran, WFP currently provides assistance to 30,000 Afghan and Iraqi refugees who have fled their countries over the past 30 years due to war and conflicts."

The Tehran times have conducted an interview with Gerami on the occasion of the World Food Day, October 16.

Below is the text of the interview.
■ How many people are suffering from hunger both worldwide and nationwide? How WFP provide people suffering from

hunger or malnutrition with food?

A: The World Food Program is the food assistance arm of the United Nations. We've been present in the country for about 30 years.

As for the number of hungry people worldwide it's more than 800 million. Luckily, in Iran we do not have people in the way that we call them hungry. We have a hunger map which maps the world as per the number of people who are suffering from food insecurity and when you look at that map Iran is in the green. [The map is color-coded] with red or dark red [indicating] locations with extreme hunger, orange [showing] areas facing a little bit of difficulty and green where the prevalence of food insecurity is minor. **->11**

Imam Musa al-Sadr launched vocational school in Lebanon to fight poverty

On anniversary of Imam Musa al-Sadr's abduction of, Tehran Times got the opportunity to republish an interview conducted with the Imam by a Lebanese TV back in 1969.

The location of the interview was a vocational school Imam had kicked off then.

Imam Musa Sadr and his two companions were kidnapped in August 1978 during an official visit to the Libyan capital, Tripoli, and the fate of the three men still remains unknown.

Imam Musa al-Sadr, head of the Supreme Islamic Shia Council, brought countless honors for the society particularly in the southern region of Lebanon. The imam was all-around good man who spared no effort in promoting knowledge among children. And to do so, he established a large vocational and technical

training school in Jabal Amel on the outskirts of Tyrus, in southern Lebanon.

Following is the text of interview.

■ Would you please tell us about the purpose of establishing a school?

A: In fact, opening a school was an initiative taken in serving our underprivileged and disadvantaged in Tyrus. Our very first step was to combat the beggary phenomenon. In other words, we deterred people to hand out money to beggars and as a result the beggery phenomenon was fast gone.

We endeavored to give these families monthly allowance for the amount they made through begging and provided them with life basics and enrolled their children in school while they stayed home with kids.

U.S. role in Saudi war on Yemen unconstitutional: Congressman

The U.S. government's support for Saudi Arabia in its brutal war against Yemen is "unconstitutional," says freshman House Representative Ro Khanna, who is working on a legislation to end the U.S. military's involvement in the deadly aggression.

Speaking to Democracy Now! in an interview published on Monday, the California Democrat said Washington's military support for Saudi Arabia in forms

of mid-air refueling flights and targeting intelligence had never been approved by lawmakers.

"Unfortunately, we have been aiding Saudi Arabia. We have been fueling the Saudi—refueling Saudi planes. We've been assisting Saudi Arabia with targeting. And none of this has been approved by the United States Congress," said Khanna.

"The question is: Do human rights matter? Are we going to stand up for basic human rights and basic values? And in the past, the United States has, in this area, taken a view that 'Let's just balance Iran, and it doesn't matter what Saudi Arabia is doing. If they're opposed to Iran, we should be for them.' But this has led to, of course, a humanitarian crisis in Yemen," the lawmaker continued. **->13**

ARTICLE
By M.A.Saki
Deputy editor-in-chief

Only two countries committing war crimes back Trump Iran policy

Only Israel and Saudi Arabia, which have both been accused of committing war crimes, have welcomed Donald Trump's de-certification of the nuclear deal and his insulting language against Iran.

Mojahedin Khalq Organization (MKO), a cult and violent group which is responsible for the death of large numbers of Iranians and joined the Saddam Hussein army in its invasion of Iran, also backed Trump's in his new Iran strategy announced on Friday.

According to the official Saudi Press Agency, in a telephone conversation, King Salman "affirmed the kingdom's support and welcomed the firm strategy announced by Trump towards Iran and its aggressive activities and support for terrorism in the region and the world."

Saudi Arabia, which unreasonably feels humiliated and cornered by the nuclear deal, has been ridiculously seeking to blame Iran for its ideologically driven policy in the form of Wahabism which its ramifications have spread almost all around the world in the form of extremism and terrorism.

The al-Saud family, whether like it or not, the name of their country is synonymous with terrorism and extremism. By leveling charges against Iran they will not succeed to white-wash their name for inflaming religious fanaticism. It is just enough to know that their country is the birthplace of al-Qaeda; the Taliban of Pakistan and Afghanistan were trained in the Saudi-funded madrassas in Pakistan; and also 15 of the 19 hijackers in the 9/11 attacks were Saudi citizens.

Also, support for Trump by the Israeli prime minister, whose regime has been repeatedly accused of war crimes and crimes against humanity against Palestinians in reports given by the United Nations, is one of the great wonders of our time. **->13**

TENDER INVITATION NO. 96/1006

IRAN ALUMINIUM COMPANY (IRALCO), Would like to invite eligible suppliers for the supply of 20 MT. Aluminium Titanium Boran (AL-Ti 5%, B1%) on tender basis.

Interested companies are allowed to send their competitive offer till **01.Nov.2017** based on our required instruction to following address:

NO.49, Mollasadra Ave., Vanak Square, Postal code: 1991614581 Tehran, Iran. Attention: Ms. Emadi, Ms. Yahyazadeh

Tel: +98 21 88049046-7 Fax: +98 21 88049045

For obtaining tender's documents and more information, please check our website www.iralco.ir.

Public Relations Department of Iran Aluminum Company



MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

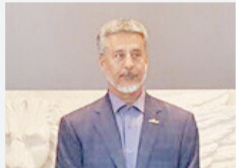


Leader donates money to Rohingya Muslims

POLITICS TEHRAN — Supreme Leader d e s k Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has donated 10 billion Rials (roughly \$250,000) to the Rohingya Muslims who have fled their homes in Myanmar amid severe government crackdown, Khamenei.ir reported on Tuesday.

It came after an official letter by the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) which briefed the Supreme Leader on the plight of the Rohingya Muslims and IRCS's humanitarian aid to the displaced minority community.

According to the UN, 537,000 Rohingya have fled Myanmar for Bangladesh over the past seven weeks.



Iranian Navy commander officially welcomed in Venice

POLITICS TEHRAN — Iranian Navy Commander d e s k Habibollah Sayyari was officially welcomed by Italian officials in Venice, Italy, on Tuesday.

Sayyari arrived in Italy on Sunday evening to attend Venice Regional Seapower Symposium for the Navies of the Mediterranean and Black Sea Countries.

The rear admiral is attending the gathering as a special guest at the official invitation of the Italian Navy.

This is the first time since the 1979 Islamic Revolution that a top Iranian military official has been invited to a European country.



Iranian websites hit by cyber-attacks: minister

POLITICS TEHRAN — Minister of d e s k Communication and Information Technology Mohammad Javad Azari Jahromi said on Tuesday that a number of Iranian websites came under cyber-attacks on Monday night.

Azari Jahromi said the attacks were foiled by cybersecurity experts who managed to trace and identify the attackers' domain, Tasnim reported.

Attaching great importance to cyber-space security, the minister said Iran plans to train some 10,000 cybersecurity specialists within the next 4 years to prevent any such attacks on the country's websites.



Iran, Canada resume talks on bilateral ties

POLITICS TEHRAN — Foreign Ministry spokesman d e s k Bahram Qassemi announced on Monday a Canadian delegation has traveled to Tehran to pursue efforts to re-establish diplomatic relations between the two countries, Press TV reported.

"In continuation of the previous rounds of talks between the foreign ministries of Iran and Canada over the past two years, a delegation from Global Affairs Canada traveled to Tehran and held discussions with officials of our country's Ministry of Foreign Affairs," Qassemi said.

He added that the two sides exchanged views with a positive approach on technical and specialized issues.



'Kurdish independence halted after Qassem Soleimani's tactfulness'

POLITICS TEHRAN — Massoud Heydar, a Kurdish representative, said on Tuesday that Iraqi Kurdistan's independence move has been halted after Major General Qassem Soleimani's tactfulness.

Heydar wrote on his Facebook page that the independence has been halted indefinitely due to the intermediary role of the Iranian commander, which came under the supervision of Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi, Sputnik News reported.

Iraq's semi-autonomous Kurdistan region held independence referendum on September 25. Kurdistan's President Masoud Barzani turned a cold shoulder to international calls against the referendum.



Iranian parliament weighing plan to counter U.S. measures

POLITICS TEHRAN — Iranian parliamentarians d e s k have drawn up a motion to counter U.S. President Donald Trump's anti-Iran rhetoric and his threat to withdraw from the 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and the P5+1 group.

Lawmaker Hossein-Ali Hajdeligani told Tasnim news agency on Tuesday that the motion is being prepared and its final version will be submitted to the Parliament's presiding board next week.

The motion includes a series of measures to deal with the Trump Administration's possible actions on the nuclear deal, he added.

Nuclear deal cannot be renegotiated or altered, Iran tells UN

Gholamali Khoshroo, Iran's ambassador to the UN, has said that the 2015 nuclear deal is an international agreement and cannot be renegotiated or altered.

"As stressed in Iran's recent statement, the JCPOA (the official name for the nuclear deal) is a valid international instrument. It cannot be renegotiated or altered. It is not a bilateral agreement that can be annulled by unilateral actions," Khoshroo said during a speech at the First Committee of the UN General Assembly on nuclear weapons on Monday.

Following is full text of his speech published by IRNA:

We reiterate our deep concern over the alarming trends of new nuclear arms race and new nuclear arms modernization race. These trends become more worrisome when a certain nuclear-weapon State wants even more nuclear weapons to remain at the "top of the pack". After over 70 years of inaction on nuclear disarmament, now it ironically states that progress is predicated on patience! These trends, with all their detrimental effects on international peace and security needs to come to an end.

While supporting the overall objective the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, we stress that it needs to be complemented by urgent conclusion of a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons. Likewise, concrete practical measures on the total elimination of nuclear weapons need to be adopted in the 2020 NPT Review Conference.

Similarly, in the current international security situation, countering the danger of Israel regime's nuclear weapons is more urgent than ever. To that end, the 2020 NPT Review Conference have



to take practical steps for the realization of the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

A few days ago, the new policy of U.S. on the JCPOA was revealed. The claim of the U.S. administration regarding Iran's non-compliance has no international relevance or credibility.

U.S. unilateral claim to extend Iran's provisional restriction as permanent runs counter to not only the letter of the JCPOA but also to the inalienable rights of States under the NPT.

U.S. unilaterally and wrongly claims that Iran is not respecting the spirit of the JCPOA, and to save the spirit, it threatens to dismantle the deal entirely.

The U.S. fulfillment of its commitments has been lackluster and deficient from the very beginning. In several cases — especially during the current administration —

it has violated both the content and the letter of the JCPOA. Iran has officially registered with the Joint Commission those violations.

As stressed in Iran's recent statement, the JCPOA is a valid international instrument. It cannot be renegotiated or altered. It is not a bilateral agreement that can be annulled by unilateral actions.

Iran will not be the first to withdraw from the JCPOA. However, if its rights and interests in the JCPOA are not respected, it will stop implementing all its commitments.

IAEA is the sole authority to verify Iran's commitment under the JCPOA. According to the statement of the IAEA Director General, dated 13 October 2017, "the nuclear-related commitments undertaken by Iran under the JCPOA are being implemented. The IAEA's verification and

monitoring activities address all the nuclear-related elements under the JCPOA. Iran is now provisionally implementing the Additional Protocol to its Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement with the IAEA, a powerful verification tool which gives our inspectors broader access to information and locations in Iran. So far, the IAEA has had access to all locations it needed to visit."

Once again I thank all distinguished delegates who called for the continued and full implementation the JCPOA. As rightly stated by distinguished High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, the Committee members should "add their voice in support of this historic agreement, as a demonstration of what can be achieved through direct engagement and a shared commitment to dialogue and cooperation in good faith".

The international community should not allow the U.S. administration to continue to mock and undermine the JCPOA, that would, in turn, undermine the non-proliferation regime as a whole. Otherwise, after each and every election in any corner of the world, we should expect undoing all decisions and commitments of previous administrations. This may serve the tactical and short-sighted advantages, but will inflict the long term and strategic liability. It means, duration of agreements will shrink to the duration of administrations; sanctity of international instruments will have no place between States; and the "withdrawal doctrine" will be a dominant factor in international relations. Therefore, we have a collective responsibility in countering such an alarming trend.

Iran had no role in Kirkuk operation: Velayati

POLITICS "The Guards has had no role in the d e s k Kirkuk operation. Majority of the Kurds are against the move taken by Mr. Barzani [president of the Iraqi Kurdistan] and the Baghdad government took control of that region without almost any clash," Velayati told reporters after his meeting with French special envoy for Syria Franck Gallet.

Velayati added, "Barzani should admit that he made a mistake and should make up for it."

Iraqi forces completed an operation to take control of the Kirkuk region on Tuesday facing no resistance from Kurdish Peshmerga forces in the city.

The independence referendum was held on September 25 in the Iraqi Kurdistan region upon an order

by Barzani despite strong opposition from the central government in Baghdad, the international community, and Iraq's neighboring countries, especially Turkey and Iran.

Velayati highlighted the importance of maintaining the territorial integrity of the countries in the Middle East region.

On U.S. President Donald Trump's Friday speech against Iran, Velayati said it was a "political game".

In declaring his new Iran strategy, Trump decertified Iran's compliance to the 2015 nuclear agreement while the International Atomic Energy Agency has confirmed for eight times that Iran has fulfilled its commitments.

To prove that its nuclear program is purely peaceful Iran has agreed to put limits on certain aspects of its

nuclear activities for some years. However, the new Trump administration is seeking a renegotiation of the nuclear deal in order to prolong limits on Iran's nuclear program, something which has been vehemently rejected by Iran.

"Iran will not accept prolongation of the implementation of the JCPOA," Velayati said, referring to nuclear deal officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

Velayati, a former foreign minister, added, "Trump is unpredictable and cannot decide whether we should have Guards IRGC or not. The Iranian people are not separated from the Guards and any comment against the Guards by any foreign official means talking against the Iranians."

Tehran, Moscow pioneer in terror fight: Larjani

POLITICS TEHRAN — Par- d e s k liament Speaker Ali Larjani said on Tuesday that Tehran and Moscow play an important role in establishing security and fighting terrorism in the region.

Larjani made the remarks upon arriving in Tehran after his visit to Russia, where he took part in the 137th Inter-Parliamentary Union Assembly (IPU) which was held in St. Petersburg, Russia, 14th – 18th Oct. 2017.

Iran and Russia have appeared as the strongest forces against terrorist groups, especially Daesh (ISIS), in Syria.

The two countries, along with Turkey, have also succeeded to arrange several rounds of talks between the opposition and the Syrian government in Astana, Kazakhstan.

"The steps we took in Syria have borne fruit," he said, stressing the need to take supplementary actions about which the two sides have exchanged views.

Addressing participants of the IPU, Russian President also reiterating his call for creating a united front against terrorism.

The fight against terrorism should be conducted without resorting to double standards and use of radicals, Putin said.

Considering the complications in the region, Larjani said the security assembly was a timely measure to hold joint discussions.

The speaker also said he had discussed important contracts and projects



during his meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin. The two met soon after the opening ceremony.

"The trip was an opportunity to talk with Russian officials," he explained. He also underlined the importance of increasing economic interactions with Russia in parallel to political ties.

Established in 1989, the IPU is the international organization of world parliaments. It is the focal point for world-wide parliamentary dialogue and works for peace and cooperation among peoples and for the firm establishment of representative democracy.

No country can terminate nuclear deal unilaterally: Mogherini

I → "This morning I spoke to the International Atomic Energy Agency's Director, Yukiya Amano: he confirmed once again that Iran is fulfilling all its commitments related to the deal, and that the IAEA continues to have full access to all sites it asks to inspect for its work of verification and monitoring."

■ Mogherini plans to visit Washington for talks on nuclear deal

Mogherini also said that she is scheduled to visit Washington in November and meet with members of the Administration and of Congress.

The European Union issued a statement on Monday after a foreign ministers meeting in Luxembourg insisting the 27-nation bloc is committed to the "full and effective" implementation of the nuclear deal.

Also British Prime Minister Theresa May and EU President Jean-Claude Juncker issued a statement on Monday saying they had had a "broad, constructive exchange" on a range of issues - including the need to preserve the Iran nuclear deal.

U.S. President Donald Trump officially announced on Friday that he will not certify Iran's compliance to the nuclear deal and used harsh language



against Iran.

Trump threatened to "terminate" the JCPOA if he could not "reach a solution working with Congress and our allies" to change the nuclear deal.

After Trump's speech, Amano reaffirmed that Iran is fully implementing its commitments under the nuclear deal.

The nuclear deal was signed during the Obama administration between Iran, the U.S., Britain, France, China, Russia, Germany, and the European Union in July 2015 and went into effect in January 2016.

Ambassador says Iran seeking to promote peace despite accusations

POLITICS TEHRAN — Mehdi Sanaei, d e s k Tehran's ambassador to Moscow, said on Tuesday that Iran is making efforts in line with promoting peace in the world in spite of all accusations and impediments.

"Promotion of peace and stability in the world is Tehran's main policy and does not bow to pressure and insult on this path," he said during his speech at a conference titled "25 Years of Cooperation between Russia and Iran in the Area of Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy: New Prospects under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, Annex III".

He also said that Iran welcomes any "constructive



activity" that leads to expansion of cooperation in helping establish peace and stability in the Middle East region.

Elsewhere, he said that anti-Iran remarks made by U.S. President Donald Trump on Friday were "insulting and far from realities which will be judged by history".

Trump officially announced that he will not certify Iran's compliance to the nuclear deal and used harsh language against Iran.

Trump threatened to "terminate" the JCPOA if he could not "reach a solution working with Congress and our allies" to change the nuclear deal.

Baghdad: Iraqi forces in full control of Kirkuk

Iraqi government forces have established security over the northern city of Kirkuk after retaking contested territory from Kurdish militants.

Police have called on the residents, who had fled in their thousands for fear of a potential armed confrontation, to return, giving assurances that the situation is stable.

The city is now under a night-time curfew.

Government buildings, oil fields retaken

Iraq's Alforat news agency also said army forces were now in control of all of the city's government buildings, state-owned North Oil and North Gas companies, the Kirkuk International Airport, and K-1 Airbase.

Cited by Reuters, an Iraqi army officer said government forces had also taken control of all oilfields operated by the North Oil Company in the province.

Government troops have also reopened the highway linking the Kirkuk City and the capital Baghdad, Iraq's al-Sumariyah television network reported.

Kurdish forces have been holding parts of Iraqi territory since 2014, when ISIL (Daesh) began an offensive across Iraq and the Kurds began fighting it and overrunning territory in the process.

The Baghdad government has long insisted that the Kurds pull out of the territories they had overrun. But the Kurdish militants have refused. Ever since a controversial referendum on secession in Iraqi



Kurdistan on September 25, the Iraqi government has lost patience, sending security forces to retake Kurdish-held areas.

Baghdad also ordered the Kurdistan region to swiftly hand over its border crossings and airports. The region refused and later sent thousands of Peshmerga and other militants to Kirkuk Province, which it has been claiming in its entirety for long.

Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi has ordered that national flags be hoisted on public buildings in all of Kirkuk's neighborhoods.

Crowds on the streets of Kirkuk's southern outskirts welcomed army forces as they

entered the city.

The Peshmerga have called the takeover "a flagrant declaration of war" and vowed that Iraq will pay a "heavy price."

Kurds retreat before Iraqi forces start op. near Iran border

Meanwhile, Kurdish Peshmerga forces pulled out from the area of Khanaqin, on the border with Iran, as Iraqi forces prepared to take over their positions, security sources said.

A small oil field, Khana, is located in the area.

Iraqi forces take control of Sinjar, other towns

Meanwhile, Iraqi army and Hashd al-

Sha'bi forces have taken control of the city of Sinjar in Nineveh Province following a pullout by Kurdish militants.

Government forces took control of all of Sinjar on Tuesday after the withdrawal a day earlier of Kurdish Peshmerga militants.

The Peshmerga militants also left the towns of Bashiqa and Bahzani in Nineveh.

Kurds clash with police in London

Separately, Kurdish separatists have clashed with police in front of Iraq's Embassy in London.

Iraq's Foreign Ministry reacted by saying that the protesters had engaged in "criminal" activity and demanding that the UK investigate them.

Iran closes Kurdistan border crossing

Following the referendum, Iraq demanded neighbors Iran and Turkey to close their respective borders with Kurdistan.

Iran closed its airspace with Iraqi Kurdistan at the time, and on Monday, Faramarz Akbari, the governor of Qasr-e-Shirin, said Iran had since a day earlier temporarily closed its Parviz Khan Border Crossing in Kermanshah Province, which borders Iraq's Kurdistan.

He said it would likely remain closed until Iraqi security forces replace the Kurdish militants on the borders.

This is the first time an Iranian official has confirmed the closure of a land border with Iraq's Kurdish region.

(source: agencies)

North Korea: Nuclear war may break out at 'any moment'

North Korea's deputy UN ambassador has warned the situation on the Korean Peninsula "has reached the touch-and-go point and a nuclear war may break out any moment".

Kim In-ryong told the UN General Assembly's disarmament committee on Monday that North Korea is the only country in the world that has been subjected to "such an extreme and direct nuclear threat" from the United States since the 1970s - and said the country has the right to possess nuclear weapons in self-defense.

He pointed to large-scale military exercises every year using "nuclear assets" and said what is more dangerous is what he called a US plan to stage a "secret operation aimed at the removal of our supreme leadership".

This year, Kim said, North Korea completed its "state nuclear force and thus became the full-fledged nuclear

power which possesses the delivery means of various ranges, including the atomic bomb, H-bomb and inter-continental ballistic rockets".

"The entire US mainland is within our firing range and if the US dares to invade our sacred territory even an inch, it will not escape our severe punishment in any part of the globe," he warned.

Kim's speech follows escalating threats between North Korea and the United States, and increasingly tough UN sanctions.

US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said on Sunday diplomatic efforts aimed at resolving the North Korean crisis "will continue until the first bomb drops".

Kim told the UN's disarmament committee the Democratic People's Republic of Korea - North Korea's official name - hoped for a nuclear-free world, but reiterated the

country would never surrender its nuclear capabilities.

"Unless the hostile policy and the nuclear threat of the US is thoroughly eradicated, we will never put our nuclear weapons and ballistic rockets on the negotiating table under any circumstances," Kim said.

The US is not ruling out the eventual possibility of direct talks with North Korea, Deputy Secretary of State John J Sullivan said on Tuesday after Kim made his comments. "Eventually, we don't rule out the possibility of course of direct talks," Sullivan said in Tokyo after talks with his Japanese counterpart.

"Our focus is on diplomacy to solve this problem that is presented by the DPRK. We must, however, with our allies, Japan and South Korea and elsewhere, be prepared for the worst should diplomacy fail."

(Source: Al Jazeera)

Duterte: Marawi 'liberated' from ISIL-linked fighters

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte declared a southern city "liberated from terrorist influence" a day after government troops killed two top commanders of an armed alliance linked to ISIL.

Duterte made the announcement on Tuesday despite a military general saying dozens of fighters, including foreign nationals, were still battling Philippine troops in Marawi.

"I hereby declare Marawi city liberated from the terrorist influence. That marks the beginning of rehabilitation," he said during a visit to the city.

The president did not indicate when he will lift the martial law declaration he issued for the entire island of Mindanao when fighting broke out in May.

Brigadier-General Restituto Padilla, an army spokesman, told reporters the military operation in Marawi continues "until armed elements are dealt with".

Padilla said between 20 to 30 fighters, who he referred to as "stragglers", remain. It is believed they are holding at least 20 hostages.

Reports said a Malaysian doctor, Mahmud Ahmad - identified as a financial backer of the group - was also on the run.

Al Jazeera correspondent Jamela Alindogan, reporting from Marawi, confirmed there were still "pockets of fighting" in the beleaguered city.



On Monday, Isnilon Hapilon - top commander of the Abu Sayyaf group - and Omarkhayam Maute of the Maute group, as well as seven of their fighters, were killed during a major assault on their hideout. During that operation about 17 hostages were also reportedly rescued by the military.

Both Abu Sayyaf and Maute had declared allegiance to the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL, also known as ISIS), later joining forces to rampage through the university town in Mindanao.

The five-month battle of Marawi has

killed more than 1,000 people and displaced as many as 600,000 while leveling the historic city.

Richard Heydariyan, a political analyst, said the success of the Philippine military can be partly attributed to assistance from US special forces, which provided intelligence as well as equipment during the fighting. Australia, China, and Russia also provided military hardware to Philippine troops.

"The Philippines can now claim that the threat of an ISIL is under control," Heydariyan said, though he warned fight-

ers could shift to pinpoint attacks on government forces as well as civilians.

While the deaths of Hapilon and Maute and the declared liberation of Marawi dealt a major blow to the rebellion in Mindanao, a retired general criticised the government's handling of the operation.

In an interview with Al Jazeera, the former military official who asked not to be named said the fighters "practically held the nation and military hostage for several months".

"The Marawi conflict proved to be a serious challenge to the government and its security apparatus and has grave implications for the Philippines' war against terrorism," he said.

Meanwhile, Marawi residents told Al Jazeera that unless "historical injustices" against the impoverished Muslim communities are righted, the problem will persist.

Alindogan reported it is likely that new leaders will emerge from the armed groups.

"If we look at the history of rebellion in the Philippines, death of leaders does not necessarily mean an end to the presence of these groups," she said.

"This is why peace negotiations with these groups are critical."

(Source: Al Jazeera)

Spain: Top court officially rules Catalan referendum illegal

Spain's top court on Tuesday officially ruled that Catalonia's disputed independence referendum was illegal because a regional law that backed it was against Spain's constitution.

The Catalan regional parliament passed the so-called "self-determination referendum law" in early September. Regional leaders went on to stage the Oct. 1 referendum on whether the region should separate from Spain. They say the "Yes" side won and that the result gave the region a mandate to declare independence.

Spain's Constitutional Court had earlier suspended the law temporarily while judges assessed the Spanish government's objection to it. In its ruling Tuesday, the court says the law was against national sovereignty and the "indissoluble unity of the Spanish nation."

The court says that the parliamentary session that approved the law also violated the country's constitution.

The ruling was not surprising - Spain's government had already repeatedly insisted the vote was illegal.

"We are facing an executive power in the state that uses the judiciary branch to block the legislative," Catalan government spokesman Jordi Turull told reporters shortly after the ruling was announced.

Catalan President Carles Puigdemont made an ambiguous statement about the region's future last week, saying he has the mandate to declare independence - but would not immediately move to put it into effect to allow time for talks and mediation.

Puigdemont now has until Thursday to backtrack on any steps the region has taken toward secession. If he refuses, the central government has said it would invoke constitutional authority to restrict or revoke the areas of self-governance Catalonia has now.

Tuesday's ruling came a day after a Madrid judge provisionally jailed two Catalan independence leaders, Jordi

Sanchez and Jordi Cuixart, in a sedition probe.

The judge ruled they were the orchestrators of massive demonstrations Sept. 20-21 in Barcelona that hindered a police operation against preparations for the Oct. 1 independence referendum.

Protesters were gathering for a fresh round of demonstrations in Barcelona Tuesday to demand their release.

Some 500 students left classrooms in one of Barcelona's main universities to join the demonstrations.

"We urge the release of our political prisoners and call on Catalan authorities to revoke the suspension of the independence declaration and proclaim the Catalan republic," said Aina Delgado Morell, a representative of Universitat per la Republica, a pro-independence student organization.

Students would keep protests going to "stop the repression by the Spanish state," she added.

(Source: AFP)

Taliban attacks kill at least 71 across Afghanistan



Taliban suicide car bombers and gunmen attacked a provincial Afghan police headquarters on Tuesday, killing at least 33 people, including the police chief, and wounding 160, in the deadliest of a series of attacks across the country, officials and militants said. The attack targeted a police training center attached to the headquarters in Gardez, the capital of Paktia province, and the death toll was expected to rise.

At least five attackers were also killed, the Interior Ministry said in a statement.

Three officials told Reuters that the provincial police chief was among the dead. Both civilians and security forces were among the casualties, deputy public health director Hedayatullah Hameedi said.

The Taliban, seeking to impose strict law after their 2001 ouster by U.S.-led forces, claimed responsibility.

The militant group also attacked a district center in neighboring Ghazni province on Tuesday, an offensive that included detonating armored Humvee vehicles packed with explosives near the provincial governor's office.

Provincial officials said at least 15 government security forces were killed and 12 wounded in the Ghazni attacks, with 13 civilians killed and seven wounded.

The Taliban said they had killed 31 security forces and wounded 21 in those clashes.

Elsewhere in western Afghanistan, Farah Province's police chief Abdul Maruf Fulad said the Taliban had attacked a government compound in Shikho district and killed at least three security forces. The Taliban have claimed responsibility for all the assaults.

The militants have warned that there will be no let-up in their attacks until foreign forces fully withdraw from Afghanistan. Afghanistan is still suffering from insecurity and violence years after the United States and its allies invaded the country as part of Washington's so-called war on terror. The invasion removed the Taliban from power, but militancy continues to this day.

(Source: Reuters)

UK says reaching limit of first stage of Brexit talks



Britain and the European Union are "reaching the limits of what we can achieve" in divorce talks and should move on to the next stage of negotiations, Brexit minister David Davis said on Tuesday.

He urged EU leaders meeting at a summit later this week to "recognise the progress made" and give their chief negotiator Michel Barnier a mandate to discuss Britain's future relationship with the bloc.

"We must be able to talk about the future. We all have to recognise that we're reaching the limits of what we can achieve without consideration of the future relationship," Davis told the House of Commons.

He added: "At the European Council later this week, I hope the leaders of the 27 will recognise the progress made and provide Michel Barnier with a mandate to build on the momentum and spirit of cooperation we now have."

Davis and Prime Minister Theresa May travelled to Brussels on Monday evening for dinner with Barnier and European Commission chief Jean-Claude Juncker.

In a joint statement issued afterwards, May and Juncker said they agreed to "accelerate" efforts for a deal.

May's spokesman said Tuesday that the meeting was "productive, it was a friendly discussion" and the pair "agreed on the need to make swift progress".

During the summit in Brussels on Thursday and Friday, EU leaders are due to decide if "sufficient progress" has been made in divorce talks to move the discussions onto the future trading relationship. The EU side has indicated they will postpone their decision to a summit in December as the talks are deadlocked, particularly over Britain's financial settlement.

The EU has also demanded progress on the rights of three million European citizens in Britain, and on the future of the border between Northern Ireland and Ireland.

Updating MPs on the progress in Brexit talks, Davis said progress was being made on citizens rights, but claimed Britain's proposals "go further" than those made by Brussels.

He warned that specific financial commitments "can only come later", and said that on the Irish border issue, talks had progressed "possibly as much as we can".

Davis also denied his government was talking up the prospect of leaving the EU in 2019 without a deal in place.

While repeating that Britain was preparing for all eventualities, he said: "We are seeking to get a deal. That is by far and away the best option."

(Source: AFP)

Joint Russia-N. Korea projects won't be frozen, yet no new projects

Russia's and North Korea's existing projects in trade and economics will not be frozen but new projects will not be implemented, Russian Far East Development Minister Alexander Galushka said Tuesday.

"Most likely no projects will be frozen. They were already frozen earlier. New projects which could have been implemented will not be implemented in these conditions. The projects and directions of cooperation where cooperation was developing earlier, will continue to develop," Galushka, who chairs the Russia-North Korea intergovernmental commission, told reporters.

The statement comes after Russian President Vladimir Putin signed a decree on measures needed to implement UN Security Council sanctions on North Korea on October 16. According to the document, Russia will cease cooperation with Pyongyang on science and technology and close bank offices in North Korea. North Korea should also cease using any property in Russia for anything other than diplomatic or consular activities.

The European Union on the same day adopted a new package of its own sanctions against North Korea, including a total ban on EU investment in the country, the sale of refined petroleum products and crude oil to North Korea, as well as a cap on personal remittances transferred to North Korea from 15,000 euros (\$17,700) to 5,000 euros.

The UN Security Council adopted new, toughest yet, sanctions on North Korea on September 11, capping crude oil import and banning textile exports from North Korea. The move followed Pyongyang's sixth nuclear test carried out on September 3, with North Korea claiming to have successfully tested a hydrogen bomb. (Source: Sputnik)

Nigerian inflation sticky in Sept. as food costs rise

Nigerian inflation was little changed in September as food prices continued to rise, limiting scope for the central bank to ease policy before the end of the year.

The inflation rate in Africa's most populous nation decreased to 15.98 percent from 16.01 percent in August, the Abuja-based National Bureau of Statistics said in an emailed report on Tuesday. That median of 13 economists' estimates compiled by Bloomberg was 16 percent. Prices rose 0.8 percent in the month.

While inflation slowed for the eighth consecutive month, it has been outside the central bank's target range of 6 percent to 9 percent for more than two years even as policy makers raised the key lending rate to a record high of 14 percent. A drop last year in the output and price of oil, Nigeria's biggest export, caused a dollar shortage and led to a weaker naira and increased import prices. This contributed to the economy contracting for five straight quarters before expanding 0.6 percent in the three months through June.

While the inflation rate has decreased, it's "still high for central bank to loosen policy," Ayodele Akinwunmi, head of research at Lagos-based FSDH Merchant Bank Ltd. Said by phone from Lagos. "That will probably happen next year as inflation further decelerates."

Dollar supply has improved since the central bank started easing currency-trade controls, and introduced a window where portfolio investors and importers can buy foreign currency at market-determined rates. Floods in Benue state last month have kept food prices high, negating some of the benefits of the increased availability of foreign exchange.

Food inflation

Food prices rose 20.32 percent from a year earlier, compared with 20.25 percent in August, driven by the costs of potatoes, meat and oils and fats, the statistics office said.

"A spike in food price inflation, due to poor harvest in some parts of the country, offset the declining inflationary effect of the currency weakness," the World Bank said last week.

The International Monetary Fund projects Nigeria's economy to grow by 0.8 percent this year, and 1.9 percent next year from a contraction of 1.6 percent in 2016 and sees inflation staying above target through 2018.

The "central bank will continue to use open-market operations, and work with the debt management office to adjust Treasury-bill yields so as to encourage banks to increase lending to the private sector and support growth," Akinwunmi said. (Source: Bloomberg)

Details of a massive trade deal among 11 heavyweight economies may be announced next month

Ten months after President Donald Trump abandoned what was pegged as the world's biggest trade deal, its surviving participants may be close to a new agreement.

Details of a new Trans-Pacific Partnership treaty could emerge next month at an Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, or APEC, meeting — the agreed upon deadline by the accord's remaining participants.

There's "a reasonable chance" that leaders will actually sign a piece of paper in November or say they will sign one, Alan Bollard, executive director at the APEC Secretariat, told CNBC on Tuesday.

For months, the eleven members, known as TPP-11, have held talks on how to keep their vision of a free-trade bloc alive without the United States. But tensions between countries have stalled progress — Vietnam and Malaysia, in particular, have voiced concerns now that broad access to U.S. markets is off the table.

Japan pressing the action

Led by Japan, the discussions also are dealing with how ratification would work. The original framework, which included the U.S., required formal consent by six nations that account for 85 percent of members' combined gross domestic product. In light of Washington's absence, that condition now needs changing. (Source: cnbc)

Trump should let U.S. oil companies do business in Iran: Zanganeh

ENERGY TEHRAN — Iranian Oil Minister Bijan Namdar Zanganeh said that U.S. President Donald Trump should allow American oil companies to do business in Iran, IRNA reported.

Zanganeh's comments on Tuesday come as Americans and U.S. companies are still barred from directly doing business with Iran. That's even with the 2015 nuclear deal being in place.

"If they want to, we are ready to negotiate American companies about development of oil and gas resources," the minister said.

He added: "We have not closed doors to American companies."

Trump last week refused to re-certify Iran's compliance with the nuclear deal with world powers, and criticized Europeans for their participation in Iran's energy projects. French oil giant Total SA has entered the Iranian market following the deal.

Iran signed a \$4.8-billion deal with Total in July for developing phase 11 of Iran's supergiant South Pars gas field (shared with Qatar in the Persian Gulf).

After signing the deal, Total Chief Executive Officer Patrick Pouyanne said, for Total, the risks are worth the potential rewards of signing a 20-year agreement.

"I will come back to Iran again because this contract is the first of many," he added.



Austria to construct solar farms in Iran

ENERGY TEHRAN — According to an agreement signed between Fars Province Investment Services Center, the Austrian Solar & Benefit Corporation will construct four solar farms in the southwest Iranian province of Fars, IRNA reported on Tuesday.

According to Deputy Head of Fars Province Investment Services Center Babak Daiee, the four solar farms which will built in the northern parts of Fars, using €100 million of investments, will produce 70 megawatts of energy. These solar farms include two



10-megawatts farms and two 25-megawatts ones, he elaborated, and will be constructed within seven months.

Iran plans to boost condensate exports in Nov.

ENERGY TEHRAN — Iran plans to boost gas condensate exports by one percent in November from a five-month low in October, a source with knowledge of the country's preliminary tanker schedule announced.

The increase in exports will come although maintenance at the South Pars field (Iran shares with Qatar in the Persian Gulf) will continue to drag on supply, Reuters reported on Tuesday.

Iran plans to load a total of about 297,000 barrels per day (bpd) of condensate for export in November, up slightly from around 295,000 bpd this month, said

the source, who declined to be identified as he was not authorized to speak to media.

Shipments of condensate are being delayed by a "technical problem" at South Pars field, with maintenance expected to take 1-2 months to complete, National Iranian Oil Company's Director of International Affairs Saeid Khoshrou told Reuters in late September.

Exports of condensate, used in petrochemical production, will return to about 450,000 bpd after the maintenance, although that is still well below the 550,000 bpd average over the last 15 months, the official said.

China and emerging markets have to stay 'vigilant' to possible risks

As the International Monetary Fund's annual meeting drew to a close over the weekend, Tao Zhang, the deputy managing director of the fund, outlined his view on the global economy in his first interview with an international media organization since joining the IMF from the People's Bank of China.

Zhang joined the IMF in 2016, having formerly been deputy governor at the Chinese central bank, so his words carry considerable weight.

On the eve of the Party Congress in

Beijing, Zhang told CNBC that the world's second largest economy is undergoing big changes as it moves towards a consumption-led economy that's less dependent on exporting cheap goods to the rest of the world.

"It's already happening, it should continue, and of course during the process the rapid credit expansion needs to be paid closer attention to, and we observe the authorities are taking measures, and these measures actually already have early, posi-

tive results," he said.

'Huge development needs' for emerging markets

There is concern among investors that rising borrowing costs in the United States will have big knock-on effects for China and other emerging markets in Asia.

Zhang said there are still huge development needs to be addressed.

"We recognize in terms of development of these emerging-market, low-income countries, is they have huge development

needs, but they also need to pay attention to how to better use these monies in a smart way (and) make sure these public sector spending or new borrowings can be sustainable."

During the IMF meeting, Managing Director Christine Lagarde referenced JFK's warning that people should mend the roof while the sun is shining, in anticipation of the rains to come. According to a large number of geopolitical and policy risks, such as tensions over North Korea. (Source: cnbc)

Keep close to EU or face long-term decline, OECD warns UK

Britain must secure "the closest possible economic relationship" with the European Union after Brexit to prevent the economy suffering a long-term decline, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation & Development (OECD) has said.

The thinktank to the world's richest nations, which has predicted the UK's growth rate will fall to just 1% next year, said a "disorderly" exit from the EU single market and customs union in 2019 "would hurt trading relationships and reduce long-term growth".

But the report said that the reversal of the Brexit decision by a change of government or a second referendum would have a "significant" positive impact on the UK's growth.

Entering the debate over Brexit at a crucial stage in negotiations, the OECD added that steep falls in the UK's productivity performance relative to other major economies allied with the failure of its export industries to grab a slice of expanding world trade have left it in a weak position to operate outside the EU.

The warning follows a week of shuttle diplomacy between London and Brussels. The UK government says it has gained a commitment from EU leaders to speed up talks, although there has been no progress in crucial areas, including the divorce bill.

EU leaders have made it clear that agreements on the divorce bill, the border with Northern Ireland and the rights of EU citizens living in the UK need to be reached before they are prepared to discuss a trade deal. With time running short before the March 2019 deadline, the OECD said it was likely that the loss of "frictionless trade with the EU would prove damaging to the economy's health".

Officials at the OECD have adopted one of the gloomiest outlooks for the UK in their annual health check of the British economy with an assumption that a trade deal with the EU would take four years to negotiate following Brexit, leading to further uncertainty and lower growth.

"In the absence of a free-trade agreement in 2019, switching to World Trade Organisation (WTO) rules would cut UK growth by 1.5 percentage point that year. This assumption underpins the projections in this survey, given the large uncertainty about the outcome of negotiations," it said. (Source: The Guardian)

IN THE NAME OF GOD

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN BROADCASTING

EXTENSION OF INTERNATIONAL TENDER NO. 96-07/131

Tender Holder:
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN BROADCASTING (IRIB)

Subject of Two-Stage Tender:
Providing CDN Infrastructure and Cloud Storage Space (IRIB, Tehran) according to the tender documents

Deadline of Receiving Documents:
As of publishing second announcement of advertisement latest by the business hour dated on **Wednesday Oct. 25, 2017**.
Place of Receiving Documents:
Secretariat of Tenders' Commission, Technical Purchasing (KALA) Dept., Media Technology and Development Deputy Office, Bldg. No. 2, IRIB, Jam-e Jam St., Vali-e Asr Ave., Tehran

Type and Amount of Guarantee for Participating in Tender:
The amount of **USD 223,529** which should be in the form of extendable bank guarantee
Time and Place of Delivering Priced Bid:
The sealed A, B & C packages/envelopes should be submitted within one main envelope marked with tender number no later than **15 p.m. on Saturday Dec. 2, 2017** and submitted to the Secretariat of Commission of Tenders.

Time and Place of Opening Envelopes
The date of opening envelopes A&B is at **8:30 a.m. on Monday Dec. 4, 2017** in the office of Vice President of IRIB Planning and Financial Resources and opening of envelope C will be after technical evaluation.
It should be noted that bidders should hold license from the authorized bodies.

For more information, please contact the following phone numbers: 0098-21-22166313
It is obvious that cost of publishing two advertisements shall be borne by the winner of tender.

Public Relations Dept. of IRIB

Oil prices firm as Iraq tensions escalate, shares extend rally

TOKYO (Reuters) — Oil prices clung to this month's high on Tuesday after Iraqi forces seized the oil-rich city of Kirkuk from largely autonomous Kurdish fighters while Asian shares held firm on optimism about upcoming earnings.

Short-term U.S. bond yields and interest rates jumped after a report U.S. President Donald Trump favored Stanford economist John Taylor to head the Federal Reserve.

Oil prices held near their highest levels in almost three weeks after Iraqi government forces captured the major Kurdish-held oil city of Kirkuk in a response to a Kurdish independence referendum, raising worries about oil supply.

As Iraqi forces advanced, Kurdish operators briefly shut some 350,000 barrels per day of oil output at two large Kirkuk fields, citing security concerns, oil ministry sources on both sides said.

Although production resumed shortly thereafter, concerns about supply disruptions and further escalations in the confrontation between Baghdad and the Kurds kept investors on edge.



U.S. crude traded at \$51.78 a barrel, down slightly on the day, after having hit a high of \$52.37 on Monday, a rise of 6.7 percent from its three-week low of \$49.10 hit on Oct 6.

Brent crude fetched \$57.84 per barrel, flat on the day after having risen to as high as \$58.47 on Monday.

U.S. short-term interest rates and bond yields jumped on Monday after Trump met Stanford University economist John Taylor to discuss the job of Federal Reserve Chair as Trump seeks candidates to succeed current Janet Yellen next year.

Taylor is known as a proponent of a rule-based monetary policy and according to his formula, known as Taylor rule, the Fed funds rate needs to be much higher than the current target of 1.0 - 1.25 percent.

The policy-sensitive two-year yield jumped to as high as 1.546 percent, its highest since 2008, while Fed funds rates futures contract for settlement in late 2018 to early 2019 posted one of their biggest falls so far this year.

Higher oil prices may not be so temporary

Oil prices have been subject to big swings this year. Since June, though, fundamental demand factors have been supportive, and with global economic growth firming, the outlook for oil is bright.

The significant -- and surprising -- midyear crude oil price selloff was triggered at the beginning of June by China's Caixin PMI for May, which showed a contraction in monthly manufacturing activity for small and medium-sized manufacturers. The risk that Chinese growth might stall was too great for oil traders to ignore, and prices fell hard. But the country's manufacturing has been on an expansionary path since. And the outlook for

the biggest net importer of crude has strengthened.

This has been a good week for Chinese and global economic outlooks, which improved as the International Monetary Fund revised upward its global GDP forecasts for 2017 and 2018 by 0.1 percentage point to 3.6 and 3.7 percent, respectively. More importantly, there were upward revisions to Chinese GDP growth forecasts for 2017 and 2018, which followed previous upward reassessments to the IMF's China forecasts in July.

There is wide suspicion of China's GDP numbers, which is why I prefer to look at the monthly Caixin Manufacturing PMI to gauge the health of manufacturing

-- and its implications for commodity demand and prices. But two consecutive upward revisions to IMF forecasts of Chinese GDP provide confirmation of the improvements in the Caixin and other data. That is why the improved expectations reflected by these upward revisions are likely to be important for industrial commodity and oil prices.

In addition to trading technicals, and improved global growth, the supply side of the oil market has also become supportive of prices. Inventories have been falling and the potential for global inventories to decline is high. There has been wide compliance with combined OPEC and non-OPEC oil production cuts. Plus, even Depart-

ment of Energy reports show that U.S. petroleum inventories are down through the week ending Sept. 6 compared with a year earlier.

Aside from modest year-on-year declines in gasoline and crude oil inventories, U.S. distillate inventories (which include diesel and heating oil), are 14.7 percent below 2016 levels, and they are below the average distillate level between 2012 and 2016. This deficit is likely to ensure that the changes in U.S. petroleum product inventories will remain important through the winter. In fact, these distillate inventory dynamics were among the highlights in OPEC's October Oil Market Report.

(Source: Bloomberg)

China needs tougher clean fuel targets to meet Paris climate pact: report

China's capacity for renewable energy, including hydro, wind and solar, will significantly exceed Beijing's own target set in the five-year plan to 2020, according to the report jointly issued by China National Renewable Energy Centre (CNREC) and the Energy Research Institute of Academy of Macroeconomic Research.

The world's top energy consumer pledged to install 340 gigawatts (GW) of hydropower capacity, 210 GW of wind and 110 GW solar by 2020 in the five-year plan.

But to meet commitments agreed to in 2015 in the Paris global pact to fight climate change, China should raise its target for non-fossil fuel to 26 percent of its total energy mix from a current target of 15 percent by 2020, the report said.

"The Paris agreement of reducing the global temperature by two degrees puts pressure on the short-term energy transition from coal and oil to non-fossil fuels," said Wang Zhongying, deputy director general at CNREC.

China, the world's second-largest economy, overtook the United States as the world's biggest emitter of greenhouse gases in 2007.

China pledged to bring its carbon emissions to a peak by 2030 or earlier as part of a joint pledge made with the United States ahead of the 2015 Paris talks.

If current government policy is enforced properly, non-fossil fuels should account for 60 percent of energy supply by 2050, higher than an official government target of reducing coal alone to just half the report said.

Still, getting stranded clean power in the west to urban users has been a major headache for the government as Beijing seeks wean the nation off coal, the nation's favorite fuel.

An official at the National Energy Administration said at the conference on Monday he reckons the country will solve the problem of wasted energy by 2020.

(Source: Reuters)

Iraq says in full control of Kirkuk oil fields

All oil fields and facilities in Kirkuk province are now under the full control of Iraq's Oil Ministry, a ministry spokesman said Tuesday.

"The ministry now holds also oil wells and facilities in Kirkuk," Asim Cihad told Anadolu Agency.

On Monday, Iraqi forces captured Kirkuk, three weeks after the Kurdish Regional Government (KRG) held a referendum on the secession of northern Iraq's Kurdish region.

Oil-rich Kirkuk is claimed by both Baghdad and Erbil.

In 2014, Kurdish forces took control of much of the province when the Daesh terrorist group swept through northern Iraq and the army collapsed.

(Source: Anadolu Agency)

60 YEARS OF ADVENTURE AND DISCOVERY

superOcean
HERITAGE
SINCE 1957

BREITLING
1884

SARMAN Co.
TEL +98 21 22 61 37 52

INSTRUMENTS FOR PROFESSIONALS™

Under Trump, America surrenders

Americans have long struggled with the question of whether this country should be more involved in world affairs, or less. The contest of ideas between internationalists and isolationists has been particularly fierce among Republicans, going all the way back to Teddy Roosevelt and William Howard Taft and continuing on to the beginning of World War II.

But since the end of that war, whatever the differences in their priorities and points of emphasis, every president has chosen engagement rather than retreat, sometimes with surprising and positive outcomes. Richard Nixon forged relations with communist China; Ronald Reagan, having consigned the Soviet Union to "the ash heap of history," went on to negotiate arms control treaties with Mikhail Gorbachev. Even those like Dwight Eisenhower and Barack Obama who argued in various ways for scaling back America's commitments overseas insisted on a leadership role, if not the leadership role, in building an international system grounded in democratic and free-market principles.

There have been plenty of mistakes and unforeseen developments that have tested the United States and raised questions about the wisdom of its policies. But, on the whole, the world has benefited greatly from America's guidance and its willingness to engage with allies at every step of the way. NATO, the United Nations, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund are all part of the architecture of global security and development that American presidents helped create.

■ Gratuitous confrontations

Trump is now taking a sledgehammer to that system. His argument, if that term can apply to such an inchoate position, is that America for too long has been "losing," a situation he has set out to correct with nonnegotiable demands and gratuitous confrontations. He promises both to achieve more and to retrench. He promises to put "America first" while at the same time condemning it to a secondary role in global deliberations. It is a bizarre and contradictory policy: In seeking to liberate the United States from international obligations, and in waging war on multilateral institutions, he is not only destroying America's reputation as a trusted ally but also ceding the future to the very same aggressive powers that he purports to protect Americans from. Meanwhile, his running feuds with the free press, the courts and Congress are diminishing America's standing as a bastion of constitutional liberties.

The latest assaults occurred last week, when, in the space of a few days, Trump walked away from or threatened to walk away from an important agreement on Iran, a relationship with UNESCO and the North American Free Trade Agreement, painstakingly negotiated in the first Bush and the Clinton administrations.

For more than a year Trump denigrated the Iran deal, under which Iran would substantially halt its nuclear program in exchange for the lifting of sanctions. On Friday he formally disavowed it by refusing to certify that Iran is in compliance. While he stopped short of explicitly killing the accord or rewriting it, the president did it great harm and kicked its fate to Congress, where its future is uncertain.

He did so despite the advice of his top people — the secretaries of defense and state and his military and intelligence chiefs — who say the agreement is in America's interest; and despite the assurance of the International Atomic Energy Agency, which monitors Iran 24/7 under a robust verification regime, that Tehran is abiding by its terms.

The countries that negotiated the deal with Obama — Britain, France, Germany, China and Russia — also begged the White House to stick with it. But Trump demonstrated once again that he can't abide his predecessor's accomplishments, that he will not be persuaded by facts and that he places little or no value on the idea that honoring national commitments safeguards confidence in America's word. Why would North Korea negotiate with the United States over its nuclear stockpile when it sees how little store the Trump administration sets by diplomatic accords?

■ America's European allies

America's European allies, outraged by Trump's decision, have since reaffirmed their commitment to the deal, which includes encouraging European companies to invest in Iran. (Emmanuel Macron is reportedly considering a visit to Tehran, which would be a first for a French president since the 1970s.)

Trump's decision to withdraw from UNESCO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, because of its anti-Israel bias, is not likely to be nearly as consequential as his opposition to the Iran deal, although it extends his war on international obligations. And his threat to tear up NAFTA is still just a threat, albeit an ominous one.

Most economists agree that NAFTA contributed to some job losses in manufacturing but that abandoning it would hurt the economy over all. Even American industries that brought some production back within the borders would probably use fewer workers than in the past, because of automation. Further, other sectors of the economy, like agriculture and services, would stand to lose business if Canada and Mexico imposed higher tariffs on American imports. Whatever gains the United States might enjoy by torpedoing NAFTA are unlikely to be enough to justify alienating two of its most important allies and neighbors.

If revoked or substantially renegotiated, NAFTA would join an already sizable list of agreements on which Trump has reneged, including the Paris accord on climate change and the Trans-Pacific Partnership, another trade agreement. He has meanwhile raised doubts in various speeches and off-hand remarks about his commitment to the United Nations and to NATO. And to what end? The stock answer is that he is seeking to placate and energize his "base" — the voters troubled by economic decline — by building a wall not just against immigrants but against economic competition and foreign entanglements, thereby making their lives and livelihoods more secure. In an economically interdependent world, that is a false promise. It also undermines critically important global relationships, erodes American credibility and cedes influence and the investment opportunities that go with it to ambitious nations like China that are only too happy to fill the role.

America First, Trump says. America last is more like it. (Source: The NYT)

Turkey claims 'no need' for U.S., EU as Western ties deteriorate

Even as tensions with the United States continue to churn, Turkey has turned its ire on European partners, with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan accusing Brussels of double-dealing and daring it to unilaterally end Turkey's decades long membership bid ahead of a summit this week. Relations with the United States hit a nadir after Washington suspended non-immigration visas in Turkey on Oct. 8 following the arrest of a second consular employee. Turkey responded in kind, and Erdogan spent much of last week blasting Washington. "We are not beholden to you," he thundered.

Then Erdogan lashed out at the European Union, which Turkey has long hoped to join, angry that he is hit with "a new assault every day." Erdogan accused both the EU and the United States of speculative attacks on Turkey's economy and using Kurdish militants to undermine the country in an address of provincial leaders of the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) on Oct. 13.

"Those who are unable to bring Turkey to its knees politically, socially and diplomatically appear before us with a new game," he said. "Europe continues to stall, but we remain patient. You will be the ones to leave the table, not us. If you are honest, make your statement and let's finish this. We have no need for you," he said, going on to add that the need must be mutual.

Indeed, Europe is Turkey's biggest source of direct investment and its main trading partner. U.S. and European aircraft use Turkish air bases to fight the Islamic State (ISIS), and Turkey's army, the second-largest in NATO.

But Western capitals have questioned Turkey's loyalty as its foreign policy, especially on Syria, appears to align more closely with Moscow and Tehran's, as well as its commitment to human rights amid a clampdown on civil society in the wake of a failed coup last year. For its part, Turkey is fuming over U.S. support for Kurdish rebels in Syria, widely seen as linked to militants who have waged war against Turkey.

"From a cultural and political standpoint, Erdogan thinks the EU and the U.S. are detrimental to his long-term ambitions," Aaron Stein, a senior fellow at the Atlantic Council, told Al-Monitor. "He's



From a cultural and political standpoint, Erdogan thinks the EU and the U.S. are detrimental to his long-term ambitions," Aaron Stein, a senior fellow at the Atlantic Council, told Al-Monitor.

also in a rhetorical cul-de-sac [in which] it is easier to deflect attention from his own faults if it appears the international community is against him."

■ The strained relationship

Erdogan's taunting comes ahead of this week's EU summit, at which European leaders are expected to discuss the strained relationship. Germany, the EU's biggest member with the most clout, is outraged over the detentions of at least 11 of its citizens for "political reasons," including two journalists and a human rights activist, in Turkey's post-coup crackdown, and Chancellor Angela Merkel said last month membership talks with Turkey should end.

The Turkish leader may also be trying to sway party members uneasy with an overhaul of the AKP ahead of the 2019 elections or the post-coup crackdown that has persisted for 15 months to close ranks.

"Turkey's foreign policy is viewed as a resource to address the needs of domestic policy," Ilter Turan, professor emeritus of international relations at Bilgi University in Istanbul, told Al-Monitor. Pointing out grievances abroad, he said, "puts the strife he is leading inside on the back burner. It can be assessed as an uncomplicated political tactic."

In a sign of conciliation, a U.S. State Department delegation is due to hold talks in Ankara Oct. 17. Deputy Prime Minister Bekir Bozdag said Oct. 15, "Turkey has no intention of withdrawing from the [EU] process," which Ankara formally began in 2005 but has concluded only one of 31 negotiating chapters.

But in his speech, Erdogan revived criticism of the EU for failing to honor its pledge to scrap visas for Turks and deliver a full 6 billion euros (\$7 billion) of financial aid in exchange for Turkey stemming irregular migration flows to Europe.

Erdogan also said that Europe and the United States were seeking to divert Turkey's focus and energy away from regional matters, perhaps a reference to his military's latest incursion into northern Syria.

Despite a half-dozen high-profile meetings, Erdogan and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin remain at odds over agricultural exports and a missile defense system Ankara wants from Moscow. Confusion persists about whether Turkey, an outspoken critic of the Syrian government, could switch sides.

"If the EU is a goal for Turkey, that entire policy has collapsed. If managing relations with the United States is a goal, that too has collapsed," said Stein. "If you peel back the facade with Putin, you have disputes. Erdogan has run Turkish foreign policy into the ground. I have never seen Turkey this isolated."

(Source: Al Monitor)

The winners and losers in the reconstruction of Syria

There is a growing debate within Western and regional political circles about the reconstruction of Syria. The European Union has been studying reconstruction options closely, while some Western and non-western governments are preparing themselves to play a role in the process. Regional states are also strengthening their activities in this regard, as no one wants to miss the boat when the time comes for Syria to step beyond the current conflict.

However, this debate seems to be based on the assumption that post-war reconstruction plans will target Syria equally as a whole and that all Syrians will be treated equitably in this process. The reality suggests that this assumption is erroneous.

Reconstruction is already being discussed even though Syria, according to a recent report by the International Committee of the Red Cross, is witnessing the highest level of violence since the fall of eastern Aleppo. Discussions are also taking place while plans for the de-escalation zones are announced. At the same time, civilians continue to be "collateral damage" in the air campaign of the international coalition against Daesh in Al-Raqqa.

The military strategy of the campaign is similar to that used to liberate Iraqi cities from Daesh control, which led to the extensive destruction of the infrastructure therein. Continued violence on this scale will inevitably raise the cost of post-war reconstruction beyond the current estimate of \$200-350 billion.

There is a consensus in international policy circles that Russia and Iran cannot afford this financial burden alone, and that international donors must be involved.

■ Key mediator

With Russia playing the role of key mediator in the reconstruction of Syria, some regional states have taken steps to maintain lines of communication with Moscow despite political differences over the conflict. Individuals of special interest from across the political spectrum in Syria's neighboring countries are also knocking on Russia's doors. Recent visits to Moscow by Lebanese politicians even included persons from the March 8 and March 14 alliances.

These political manoeuvres will have a direct impact on how to implement reconstruction plans inside Syria. Russia will inevitably seek to make the Syrian government the main distributor of reconstruction funds. Although the areas controlled by the regime were less affected than the areas controlled by the opposition in terms of physical destruction, it is likely that the Syrian government will channel most of the funding to areas considered to be loyal to the Assad regime.

Those with special interests are likely to turn a



These political manoeuvres will have a direct impact on how to implement reconstruction plans inside Syria.

blind eye to any unequal distribution of funds and reconstruction projects to protect their business interests. Regional actors will follow a similar course in order to maintain political interest in this process. Syrian businessmen, already part of the political elite, have begun to form new companies so that they can put themselves in the front row in the process of implementing reconstruction projects. All this means that the whole process stands to be unfair.

The Syrian government wants to reward its loyalists through using reconstruction funds to improve their areas.

With donors and foreign actors forced to adjust their political positions in an attempt to remain within the circle of Syrian affairs, now primarily managed by Moscow, these neglected areas are likely to be left with no one to defend them.

■ Realistic prospects

This is likely to keep the thousands of refugees who fled from these areas in Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey; they will have no homes to return to and no realistic prospects for restoring their livelihoods within Syria. In their absence, the smaller population in these areas

will make it easier for the Syrian government to control them, providing another incentive for the government to keep such places unfit for sustainable living.

The debate over reconstruction in Syria has been dominated by whether the West will be able to use it as a means of influencing the Syrian regime or not. However, the main issue is that with or without the West, the demographic structure in Syria will be affected by this process, and so will the situation of refugees in neighboring countries.

European countries are looking at incentives for Turkey to keep Syrian refugees within its borders to deter them from crossing into Europe. Combined with the efforts of Lebanese stakeholders to provide their country as a reconstruction platform in Syria to benefit from foreign aid sent to Beirut to ease the pressure of Syrian refugees, pro-regime elites in Damascus, as well as non-Syrian actors, will benefit from the unequal implementation of reconstruction plans. The biggest losers, as is so often the case in such scenarios, will be the ordinary Syrian people, regardless of their political and religious inclinations.

(Source: middleeastmonitor.com)

President Macron recent stance toward JCPOA is a misreading: Professor

1 → President Trump has decertified the JCPOA. How important is this decision for the survival of the nuclear agreement?

A: President Trump's recent speech on Iran was the most belligerent speech by any US president about Iran since the Iranian revolution. However, its importance for undermining the nuclear agreement should not be exaggerated. As everybody knows, the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) was not a bilateral agreement between Iran and the United States. It was an international agreement between Iran and five permanent members of the Security Council, plus Germany, supported by the European Union and given the force of law by the Security Council Resolution 2231. Therefore, one member of the agreement cannot unilaterally destroy it. As the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs Federica Mogherini has rightly said: "The U.S. president has many powers, but this is not one of them."

It should be pointed out that certification is not a part of the agreement, but an internal US issue. That certification has no international validity. Trump has given a long list of contentious issues about Iran's alleged malign influences in the region, but none of those issues has anything to do with the nuclear agreement. So Trump's decertification of the deal will not kill it.

In the short time that he has been in power, Trump has reversed some of President Obama's major domestic and international achievements.

Domestically, Trump has fallen out with American intelligence, comparing them to the Nazis. He has attacked most of the media as "being the greatest enemy of the people" and producing fake news.

He has attacked "the so-called judges" for trying to block his unconstitutional executive order banning Muslim refugees or immigrants from seven Muslim-majority countries.

He scrapped the critical health care subsidies to hit Obamacare, while the bill that he sent to Congress was not approved.

In foreign policy, he has taken America out of the Paris Climate Accord, which is an agreement within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, which 195 members have signed and 168 members have already ratified.

He has taken the United States out of the Trans-Pacific Partnership, and on 11 October he announced that the US would drop out of the North American Free Trade Agreement.

The United States and Israel announced that they would withdraw from UNESCO because of its alleged anti-Israeli bias.

However, despite all those major de-



isions, the sky has not fallen down and international agreements are continuing without the United States. All that he has achieved so far has been to isolate America in the international community.

■ What were the reasons for his decertification of Iran's compliance with the nuclear deal? What signal did he want to deliver by doing so?

A: Of course, the decertification of Iran's compliance with the agreement does not make any sense, since Trump had twice certified it before, and nothing had changed during the intervening period. In fact, as recently as 14 September 2017, Trump waived certain

continued. "Of course they understand the volatility that we're dealing with and the tremendous amount of work that it takes by people around him to keep him in the middle of the road." This is very strong criticism by a senator who has to approve Trump's foreign policy initiatives.

Internationally, the threat of terrorism in the Middle East has not yet ended, the US-supported Saudi Arabia's disastrous war against Yemen is still continuing killing and wounding scores of people in that poverty-stricken country every day, and above all Trump's threat of "fire and fury the like of which the

In the short time that he has been in power, Trump has reversed some of President Obama's major domestic and international achievements.

sanctions against Iran as required under the terms of the deal.

During the campaign Trump often criticized the agreement as the worst agreement in history and promised that he would tear it up. In his inaugural address to the UN General Assembly, he called it as "an embarrassment to the United States." So, by taking this step he wants to reassure his base that he is implementing at least one of his promises.

This decision comes at a time when his administration is in disarray, and when some of the leading figures in his own Republican Party have strongly criticized him. One of the most influential Republicans, the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee Bob Corker in an interview with the New York Times said that Trump's volatility could spark World War III. He added: "He would have to concern anyone who cares about our nation." He went on to say: "Look, except for a few people, the vast majority of our caucus understands what we're dealing with here," Corker

world has never seen" against North Korea and the promise that he would totally destroy that country have not worked and that dangerous standoff still continues. Therefore, I believe that his policy over Iran is a way of diverting attention from his growing failures.

■ Has his policy received much domestic or international support?

A: Many prominent U.S. officials, such as former presidential candidate Hillary Clinton, former Secretary of State John Kerry who negotiated the agreement, as well as some leading figures in his own administration, including Secretary of State, Secretary of Defense, and chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff have said that Iran had been compliant with the agreement and Trump should have certified it.

On the international arena, in addition to Russia and China that have strongly condemned Trump's decision, some of America's closest allies in Europe too have spoken openly against him. As the former German ambassador

to the United States Wolfgang Ischinger said, Trump's decision "will show total disrespect for America's allies." Shortly after Trump's speech, in a joint statement the leaders of Britain, France, and Germany expressed alarm at Trump's decision and reaffirmed their total commitment to the Iran deal. "Preserving the J.C.P.O.A. is in our shared national security interest," Prime Minister Theresa May, President Emmanuel Macron, and Chancellor Angela Merkel said. "The nuclear deal was the culmination of thirteen years of diplomacy and was a major step towards ensuring that Iran's nuclear program is not diverted for military purposes." They noted that the deal was "unanimously endorsed" by the U.N. Security Council, and appealed to the Administration and Congress to "consider the implications to the security of the United States and its allies before taking any steps that might undermine the J.C.P.O.A." This level of open opposition to the policies of US president by his closest allies is unprecedented.

■ It is believed that President Macron has said that it would be necessary to include some articles pertinent to human rights and missile issues within JCPOA. Is this a diversion from common European stance towards the agreement?

A: No, this is a misreading of what President Macron said. Some of the deal's critics have seized on Macron's willingness to supplement the agreement by addressing ballistic missiles and extending the duration of some constraints on Iran's nuclear program. However, like leaders of all other P5+1 states, Macron has repeatedly emphasized the primary importance of preserving the JCPOA, but he has said that if there are other issues that the United States is concerned about, they could be discussed separately in a similar forum as 5+1. That was in no way an endorsement of Trump's policy. The JCPOA is not renegotiable.

■ In your view, how should Iran respond to that provocation?

A: I believe that the Iranian response has been wise, measured and dignified. President Rouhani was absolutely correct to say: "Today the United States is more than ever isolated in its opposition to the nuclear deal and in its plots against the Iranian people. What was heard today was nothing but the repetition of baseless accusations and swear words that they have repeated for years." He said of Trump: "He has not studied international law. Can a president annul a multilateral international treaty on his own? Apparently he does not know that this agreement is not a bilateral agreement solely between Iran and the United States." Therefore, Iran should continue with the JCPOA by strengthening ties with Europe and other allies, regardless of Trump's decision.

Trump is president with mentality of child: ex-WH official



By Javad Heirannia

TEHRAN — A former assistant director for national security in the White House Office of Science and Technology says unfortunately, we have a president (Trump) "with the mentality of child who is very egotistical and very competitive with President Obama."

"Trump thinks that, since the Obama Administration negotiated the JCPOA, it must be a very bad deal and he (Trump) could do much better," Frank N. von Hippel tells the Tehran Times in an exclusive interview.

He adds that "58 Senators originally voted against the JCPOA (60 were required to defeat it) but enough additional Senators feel that the United States should not renege on an agreement without a good reason that I don't think that there are 50 now who would vote to reactivate the U.S. nuclear sanctions (50 plus the Vice President, a simple majority, would be required this time)." Following is the full text of the interview:

■ Despite much internal and external opposition, Trump decertified the JCPOA. What were the reasons behind his very decision? What signal did he want to deliver both internally and externally by doing so?

A: Unfortunately, we have a president with the mentality of child who is very egotistical and very competitive with President Obama. Trump thinks that, since the Obama Administration negotiated the JCPOA, it must be a very bad deal and he (Trump) could do much better.

■ Reimposing Iran's sanctions by Congress is in fact tantamount to the violation of JCPOA. Then, Trump makes Congress responsible for the scrap of the very deal. Do you believe Congress Reimpose Iran's nuclear deal waiver before?

A: 58 Senators originally voted against the JCPOA (60 were required to defeat it) but enough additional Senators feel that the United States should not renege on an agreement without a good reason that I don't think that there are 50 now who would vote to reactivate the U.S. nuclear sanctions (50 plus the Vice President, a simple majority, would be required this time).

■ In Europe, a single voice concerning the violation of JCPOA cannot be heard. French President, Macron, had underlined before that it would be necessary to include some articles pertinent to human rights and missile issues within JCPOA. This is somehow similar to Trump's word. Do you think Europe will follow suit?

A: Macron and others may want additional agreements with Iran but I don't think that they would cooperate in destroying the JCPOA.

■ Iran's FM, Zarif, has underscored so far that JCPOA is deemed a deal when all parties are committed to it. What is Iran's reaction to the US withdrawal from the deal?

A: I don't think that the U.S. will withdraw but, if it does, I hope that Iran, Europe, Russia and China will continue with the deal. It is in the interests of all countries to do so even if the U.S. President does not understand that.

Trump's compassionate face in Élysée Palace

1 → Given the above issue, remarks stated by French foreign minister can be termed as compassionate version of recent statements of U.S. President Donald Trump with regard to Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

It should be noted that U.S. President Trump met and held talks with French President Emmanuel Macron on the sidelines of UN Annual General Assembly meeting, held in New York. The two sides conferred on the possibility of renegotiating about Iran's nuclear deal.

Currently, French authorities have accepted two of three requests of Trump as a completely ordinary and usual issue.

At this juncture, French officials state the possibility of renegotiating on the extension of restrictions predicted on JCPOA after 2025 as if any talks have not basically been done between the involved parties.

As mentioned in above, showcasing new demands of U.S. "natural and ordinary", as clear-cut examples of changing nuclear deal, is a tactic that French authorities have manipulated it like British and German officials.

The interesting point here is this that when nuclear talks were underway between Iran and 5+1 in Swiss City of Lausanne and Austrian capital Vienna between 2013 and 2015, the then French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius had been at the focal attention of many media and analysts pertaining to JCPOA as a controversial personality.

He even hindered temporary signing and sealing of JCPOA, so that stringent and tough position of France was proven for all in nuclear talks.

Although Laurent Fabius has not currently present in foreign policy of France, his successors follow the same previous approach but with kind and compassionate countenance.

What is certain is that foreign policy and diplomacy of our country should emphasize on this position that renegotiating on any of paragraphs and contents of nuclear deal is impossible.

To put it in a nutshell, adoption of any change or interpretation on JCPOA, whether within the framework of annexation, amendment or reinterpretation of paragraphs such as Clause "T" of 1st attachment of nuclear deal, is synonymous with the withdrawal of the opposite party from JCPOA.

Extremist edition for JCPOA; a scenario to impose secondary talks on N-deal

By Mohammad Ghaderi

TEHRAN — Apparently, U.S. authorities have come to this conclusion that they have to set aside and ditch the current Iran's nuclear deal in practice and conclude a secondary agreement in this respect in order to secure multiple concerns of U.S. President Donald Trump with regard to this deal.

John Bolton, former U.S. Envoy to the United Nations, is one of the main opponents to Iran's nuclear deal who in his latest remarks has emphasized that JCPOA cannot be changed basically and fundamentally.

(Bolton is an American lawyer and diplomat who has served in several Republican administrations. Bolton served as the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations from August 2005 until December 2006 as a recess appointee by former President George W. Bush.)

Bolton has acknowledged that a landmark nuclear deal inked between Iran and world's six major powers could not be reformed and also a paragraph cannot be added to it.

He emphasized "adding sub-clauses to this deal is not the main issue, rather, the principle of this agreement is wrong from the beginning, so that the deal cannot be amended at all."

Given the above issue, Bolton's statements can be juxtaposed with the recent remarks of U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson. He, who is one of the main apparent opponents for violating nuclear deal by the White House, has recently talked about the possibility of conclusion of "secondary deal" between Iran and 5+1.

In a recent interview with CCN TV Network, Tiller-



son emphasized that the White House has shown a green light to U.S. Congress, claiming that U.S. government is not after imposing new sanctions on Iran and said "If an agreement is not taken after in this regard, U.S. President Donald Trump insists on withdrawing from the deal. However, Trump wants a more comprehensive strategy towards Iran."

For a long time and especially in the previous government, "we have limited our relations with Iran only to a nuclear deal. This agreement has some shortfalls and weaknesses that we not only want to address them but also we want to examine a lot of other threats that Iran has brought about in the region," he said.

We have agreed with other parties involved in the

deal to resolve some shortfalls in this regard, so that these cases can be included in the secondary agreement.

It seems that Trump's legal advisers have come to this conclusion that imposition of new restrictions on JCPOA within the framework of an amendment is not basically possible. Because, any amendment should not be considered as a violation of basic provisions and paragraphs of a deal.

This is while Trump emphasizes on amending the paragraphs dubbed "Sunset" which means changing the original text of the agreement.

Under such circumstances, U.S. authorities have come to the conclusion that existing deal should be set aside practically and a secondary agreement should be concluded in return provided that U.S. President Trump's multiple demands on the deal should be met completely.

It is obvious that there is a complete harmony between Bolton's statements about the unchangeable nature of JCPOA and Tillerson's statement on the possibility of conclusion of a secondary agreement in this regard.

It should be noted that many discussions have been held in the U.S. Review Committee in recent weeks on the way and method of adoption of change on the nature of nuclear deal dubbed "Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action."

What is certain here is this that meeting Trump's demands on JCPOA is not basically important for the Islamic Republic of Iran, so that any attempt and move taken by the United States on changing the nature of nuclear deal is unacceptable by our country.

Pars Diplomatic Real Estate

Apartment

Apt in Zafaranih
106 sq.m, 2 Bdrs., fully furn
very good location & access
nice balcony **\$2200**
Ms.Sara 09128103207

Luxury Apt in Ajoodanieh
1th floor, 160 sq.m, 3 Bdrs.
modern, new building
luxury furn, spj, lobby
gym saloon, roof garden
\$4500
Suitable for Foreigners
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Apt in Jordan
270 sq.m, 3 Bdrs., 2 Apts
available in the same building
best location, fully furn
peaceful building **\$3000**
Ms.Sara 09128103207

New Apt in Zafaranih
500 sq.m, 4 Bdrs., 1 master
garden, spj, big balcony
gym saloon
Suitable for Residency of
Ambassadors & Diplomats
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Apt in Elahieh
15th floor, 320 sq.m, 3 Bdrs.,
excellent view, spj, lobby
nice balcony, gym saloon
diplomatic building, good
access to highway
furn & unfurn, **\$7000**
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Villa

Villa in Aqdasieh
duplex, 700 sq.m built up
5 Bdrs., nice garden, outdoor
pool, parking, completely reno
vated, servant quarter
**\$13000 Suitable for
Residency or Embassy**
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Super Luxury Villa in Elahieh
1500 sq.m, 900 sq.m built up
duplex, green garden, outdoor
pool, renovated, furn & unfurn
**\$15000 Suitable for
Embassy & Residency**
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Unbelievable Villa in
North of Tehran
7000 sq.m land, 2200 sq.m
built up, duplex, 7 Bdrs., big
saloon green garden, renovated
waterfall **Suitable for
Embassy or Residency**
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Super Luxury Villa in
Farmanieh
800 built up in 1200 land
duplex, completely renovated
7 Bdrs., 2 level, green garden
outdoor pool, high security
equipment kitchen
**Suitable for
Residency of Ambassadors**
Ms.Diba: 09128103206



Holder of
ISO 9001:2008
ISO 10004:2012
ISO 10002:2014

From Oxford Cert Universal

**Best Consultation,
Best Services, Best Result**

Section Manager "Tina 09128440154"
Tel: 22662452-8, Fax: 22667173

Hot Line: 28141
info@parsdiplomatic.com

Building & Office

New Commercial Building
in Saadat Abad
totally around 10000 sq.m built
up, unbelievable building, each
floor 1500 sq.m, flat, 180 parking
Suitable for foreign companies
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Whole Building in Kamranieh
20 unit Apt, 60 Bdrs., each Apt
around 210 sq.m, with 3 Bdrs.,
lobby, 37 parking & more, spj,
too many storage rooms,
renovated good access to highway
**Ready for Renting to foreign
Companies & Residency**
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Whole building in Jordan
legal registered, 126 sq.m each
floor, duplex shop & store
with full glass, smart A/C
furn & unfurn, storage
parking of 900 sq.m
Ms.Sara 09128103207

Commercial Building in Fereshteh
120 sq.m 250 sq.m, flat
modern, **reasonable price**
Ms.Ava: 09128440156
Whole Building in Jordan
15 Apts, 25 Bdrs., new,
excellent furn, lobby, parking
good access to Modarress
highway, good condition ready
for renting to residency of companies
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Ideal Offers

Limited Offer
in Shariati-Soheil
170 sq.m, 3 Bdrs., sauna
pool, jacuzzi, nice & clean
furn, **\$2500**
Ms.Sara 09128103207

Apt in Elahieh
Just 5 floors, each floor one Apt,
2th floor, 270 sq.m
4 Bdrs., fully furn, lobby
parking, spj, nice balcony **\$4200**
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Commercial Building in
Valiasr _ Park Melat
130 sq.m, 3 rooms, almost new
lobby, security, guest parking
good access to highway
full of foreign companies
Price reasonable
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Very Nice Office in Jordan
88 sq.m, furn/unfurn Only **\$1200**
Ms.Sara 09128103207

Apt in Elahieh
170 sq.m, 2 Bdrs., full furn
big balcony, **\$1500**
Ms.Ava: 09128440156

Luxury Apt in Jordan
70 sq.m, 1 Bdr., good access
top floors, **\$1500**
Suitable for foreign Companies
Ms.Diba: 09128103206

مالکین محترم

ملک های فروش و اجاره ای خود را (آپارتمان،
ویلا، مستغلات، اداری و تجاری) به ما بسپارید.

بهترین مشاوره، برترین سرویس، بالاترین رضایت

مالکین محترم املاک مبیل و غیر مبیل، مسکونی، اداری و تجاری، ویلا و مستغلات
شما را جهت اجاره به سفارتخانه ها و شرکت های خارجی نیازمندیم.

مالکین محترم

ویلاهای شما را جهت اجاره به منزل سفیر و مدیران
شرکت های بین المللی در مناطق شمالی تهران
نیازمندیم.

**FIRST
CHOICE
REAL
ESTATE**



Mr. Ghanizadeh
Nobody does
it better

آژانس املاک انتخاب اول در خدمت شماست
TEL: 22041212 - 09121081212
APARTMENT - VILLA - OFFICE
PROPERTY@FIRSTCHOICECO.COM
WWW.FIRSTCHOICECO.COM

Don't Waste Your Time

Visit our website to choose your desired rental Properties

www.DeltaHOME.ir
The Most Specialized Website for Foreigners

HOME
Real Estate

Member of DELTA Real Estate Group
(021) 88888865

ISF-EHSANI Real Estate
IRAN-SARAYE-FERESHTEH

1- 450 sq.m villa, green yard, open pool, fully furnished, duplex, 4 bedrooms, 3
parking lots, located in Elahieh
2- 280 sq.m, modern apartment, in 5th floor, 3 bedrooms, full of light, 2 parking lots,
with full facilities, located in Shemiranat-Elahieh **Ehsan 0912 4388634**

Tel: (021) 22022920 Fax: (021) 26201855
www.maskanfereshteh.com maskanfereshteh@gmail.com
Add.: No. 18, Hojjat Bldg., Sharifimanesh Intersection, Fereshteh, Elahieh

IraniaHOME
Real Estate



SH.LAVASANI

09123103526

Tel: 88888007

Fax: 88675936

www.iraniahome.com

Email: info@iraniahome.com

مالکین محترم: ویلا و آپارتمان مبیل شما

را جهت اجاره به سفارتخانه ها نیازمندیم

AP: 1 to 4 rs, fom 1500\$

Villa : 3 to 7 rs, from 5500\$

Building and offices are available

SHANON
Shanon_zt@yahoo.com
+989121907875
Tel : 88510081

Elahieh (\$3400)
200sq.m, 3bdrs
S/p, S, J, & F.F

Farmanieh Apts
(\$2000) 2bdrs, F.F
(\$3200) 3bdrs, F.F
(\$3800) 4bdrs, F.F
with all facilities

Jordan (\$10000)
2000sq.m, 6bdrs
S/p, S, J, & yard

Velenjak (\$5000)
300sq.m, 4bdrs
S/p, S, J, & pkg

Sa'adat abad office
(\$45 per sq.m)
400sq.m, 3storey

REAL ESTATE
PORSALEH

Darrou

190 sq.m, 3 bedrooms, modern and different,
fully furnished, close to metro station,

high material

Babak (0912-6507011)

A.B.A. the Ultimate in Real Estate
Sharak gharb: duplex villa, 700 SQ.M land, 550 SQ.M building 5 rooms, exelet
for embassy building 12.500 U.S.D
Velenjak : 1150 SQ land, 1000 SQ.M infrastructure, 11 rooms, 7car parking suitable
For guest house 18000 U.S.D
Pls. call: Mr. Kordestani
0912-4304280
kavenkordestani@gmail.com

TEHRAN TIMES
Iran's Leading International Daily
Advertising Dept
Tel: **021 - 43051 450**
times1979@gmail.com

TEHRAN
INTERNATIONAL DAILY
TIMES
times1979@gmail.com
Explore a Brand New Market
in Iran for Goods & Services

Servicecorp Workspace Solutions
© +98 21 7598 1700

- Fully furnished office suites
- Prestigious business address
- Coworking spaces
- Trilingual support team
- Receptionist to manage calls
- 5 star meeting rooms

First Month
Virtual Office
FREE!
No further
obligations

Levels 7, 8 & 9 Park Building, Kaj Abadi ValiAsr Street, Tehran
Australia Dubai Doha London Tokyo Hong Kong Singapore Paris
30 locations across the MiddleEast, 155+ locations worldwide

maharaja
Indian Restaurant
**FIRST INDIAN RESTAURANT
IN IRAN**
PRIVATE PARKING LOT
Jahan Hotel (Exelsior) - Rahimzade Alley - Taleqani
Crossroads - Valiasr St. **Tell: 66476855**

The proper Islamization of humanities will prevent wars and massacres: Dr. Golshani

By Sara Faraji & Somaye Rezaei

TEHRAN — Nowadays, for those who have the opportunity to go abroad for studying and living, it is rare not to leave the country. This minority believe that if they leave, then no one would remain and serve the country. Dr. Mehdi Golshani is among those who had numerous opportunities to leave Iran and live a comfortable life in the United States or European countries. But he has preferred to remain in Iran, and continue his work in reading, teaching and research in his simple office in the Science Building of the Sharif University of Technology. He has been introduced to the Iranian Science and Culture Hall of Fame (Chehreh-haye Mandegar) in physics, but continues to learn and read after years of studying and believes that there are still many things that he does not know. The following is our heartfelt interview with him.

■ First, please tell us about your youth and your school days.

A: I was brought up in Isfahan in a religious family. When I entered high school, I was fortunate enough to have a calligraphy teacher who had studied philosophy. First, he asked me to study Arabic with him and then Islamic philosophy. For 5-6 years, I used to go to the Grand Jaddeh School before sunrise and learn Islamic philosophy from him. Later, I had a classmate who is now a clergyman in Qom. One of the great clergymen of Isfahan was Aystollah Mofid, a philosophy teacher who taught Manzoozeh Sabzeh-vari (Sabzeh-vari's Book of Poems). I studied Manzoozeh with him for a while. After these classes and graduating from high school, I immediately went to the University of Tehran and studied physics.

■ I wonder why you chose physics when you were interested in philosophy.

A: Fortuitously, the reason that I chose physics was philosophy. Because, one talks about humanity and nature in philosophy, and I had found the answers to some of

Arabic. To use original Islamic texts, one must know Arabic. If you do not know Arabic, you have to quote others, but there are differences of opinion in translations and interpretations. Therefore, it is better to access the sources first hand. I have always insisted on using original sources, either in religion, or in physics or philosophy. In my first year of high school, I learned Arabic from my philosophy teacher in the span of a year and a half.

■ When you became the dean of the physics department at the Sharif University, Dr. Nasr was the president of the university, was he not?

A: Yes, it was 1352/1973.

Please talk about your acquaintance with Dr. Nasr and your relationship with him.

I did not know Dr. Nasr at all. He became the president in 1352/1973, while I had entered the university in 1349/1970. Dr. Amin, the president of the university at the time, had decided that every department should choose the dean by itself and he then would issue the dean's [appointment] order. I was introduced as the dean when Dr. Nasr was president. He issued my order immediately and after that I got to know him.

I did not know him beforehand, but later we had a close relationship, in a way that whenever I had to discuss an issue about the department I called him. Right now, although we are far apart, I send him an email when something comes up. He does not use the computer personally, but his secretary prints my emails for him. He writes the answer down and the secretary sends me the scanned copy.

■ You had different posts and jobs and still have different responsibilities, among them is being the founder of the philosophy of science major at the Sharif University. Why was establishing this major necessary and how did you come up with the idea?

A: The reason was that I had felt that our science departments lacked a conception of science. They thought

the ministry of science would not comply with this. I wrote a letter to the minister at the time. The ministry answered that you should establish this center in Allameh Tabatabayi University. You can see how stereotypical their viewpoint was and how disappointing their answers were.

■ So have you given up on establishing the center and is turning it into an international center out of the question?

A: It is not yet out of the question; but with the prevailing attitude in the university management, no progress is possible. The pace is so slow. If we had started the center four years ago, we could have graduates now. I had the idea of turning this center into an international one, and I had, as I mentioned, two reasons: because we are well-known outside of Iran and as a result, we can easily invite famous people. Besides, we have a plan and the requirements to implement it. This has happened long before in Indonesia and Malaysia; but here an engineering/technical way of thought is dominant and everybody thinks in terms of tools and machinery. The majority of high ranking government employees are also engineers. There is a difference between Iran and the U.S. in the sense that they have engineers with broader horizons. There, contrary to our country, the engineers accept the fundamental sciences and humanities.

■ You have studied and lived abroad in the best universities in the world, you have been the student of great professors like Watson. Please explain about your educational experiences abroad.

A: Professor Watson, a famous and outstanding physicist was my supervisor. First, I started my thesis with Professor Glashow, whose views I agreed with. He was later awarded the Nobel Prize in physics. He went to Harvard University in 1365/1986, therefore, I started working on my thesis with Professor Weinberg, with whom I had classes before. But, after a semester, he left for Harvard, because his wife wanted to do her PhD in law there. Next, I joined an experimental particle physics group, whose head was the outstanding physicist, Professor Thrilling. He was among the best teachers of mine. He taught nuclear physics, in a way that you did not need to read any textbooks, attending his course was enough.

I was there for a year and a half, but Professor Thrilling left for Cern in Geneva and I no longer enjoyed doing experimental work. Therefore, I sent a letter to Professor Thrilling and got his permission to leave the particle physics group. Immediately, I started my work under the supervision of Professor Watson. He was one of the best in his field. It was such a good era, especially that many first-rate academics used to come to Berkeley and hold lectures there. Physicists like Oppenheimer, Compton, Gamow, Feynman and also Malcom X gave speeches.

■ Did you study at Harvard as well?

A: No, I had a research opportunity at the University of Pennsylvania. I went there in early Farvardin of 1355/March 1976 and returned in early summer in 1356/1977. The University of Pennsylvania was really good. I worked with Professor Segre and we published an article together. I also published an article independently. In Berkeley, we had outstanding professors like Weinberg, Glashow, Cho, Segre, Thrilling and Lepore. I enjoyed the classes of Weinberg, Lepore and Thrilling over all other.

■ Did you have classes with Dr. Hessabi?

A: Yes, I had classes with him for two years.

■ How was your relationship?

A: It was formal during my student years, but when I came back from America, it became friendly.

■ What about other professors?

A: In addition to Dr. Hessabi, I had a very close relationship with Dr. Jenab. Besides, we had a distinguished professor called Dr. Khamsavi who passed away a few years ago. He was chosen to be introduced into the Science and Culture Hall of Fame, but passed away before receiving the prize. He was really an outstanding professor whose class handouts were really self-sufficient, and he was really knowledgeable. I visited him whenever I had problems; especially he very good-tempered. As it was mentioned before, you have been to different countries and well-known universities, and you had ample opportunities to stay and live abroad.

■ Why have you not chosen to do so?



The Founder of the Philosophy of Science in Iran

Have you ever liked to stay abroad and live there?

A: No.

■ Why?

A: First, I loved and love my country immensely. Second, I loved my father and mother immensely and did not like living apart from them. Besides, I think that when one is brought up in a country and has received everything there, he is obliged to return to his country after his studies. This is a problem I have detected in the Iranians that leave the country to continue their studies and never return. If they are supposed to leave and remain abroad, what is to become of this country?

■ But right now, the Sharif University has the highest rate of students who leave and never return...

A: Yes, it is because the government does not really work on attracting the outstanding people. When our students leave for the United States, they receive between 1200 to 2400 dollars on a monthly basis. But here, the government does not agree to support the student with the poultry amount of 8 million Rials to 10 million Rials (200 to 250 dollars). It is obvious that the students will leave and stay abroad. When I was a student, Dr. Jenab had concerns as to where every student goes and what he does after graduation. For instance, he had concerns that I do not go to the University of Colombia, but to Berkeley. However, these kinds of treatment is almost non-existent today. But one cannot compare the number of students today with earlier times. Not really, there were a lot of us back then, almost 40-50 students sat in classes. But back then, there was no country-wide university entrance exams. Every university had its own exam. It was different times with a different culture. The teachers were concerned and their treatment of the students was different. In return, the students treated their teachers differently. The reason was that the culture was different. Right now, the culture is neither western, nor eastern, nor Islamic. It is confusing.

In the debates, a party calls the other one illiterate, and the other replies with calling the first one illiterate, etc. Thus, we can see the reproduction of lack of culture and morality. In the first session we had with President Rouhani in the Supreme Council of Cultural Revolution, I told him that if we compare the existing moral atmosphere with eight years ago, we can see how the level of morality has declined. Let's consider our social environment, there are few drivers nowadays who would allow other drivers priority. When a person enters the society and is no longer an individual, he/she will have certain responsibilities. Currently, in our society people are raised as individuals; they only consider themselves. It is due to lack of culture.

■ You believe that we have misunderstood science. What do you mean by that?

A: What I mean is that science should give one insight and influence one's behavior. Knowledge is light and must enlighten the person. There must be some difference between an illiterate person and an educated one. Sometimes, I see people who do not have higher education but they are much more cultured than the educated ones. The reason is that they have been brought up in a cultured environment. However, unfortunately in our country science has become a means of becoming wealthy. Everyone wants to have a PhD. This is not very prevalent in other countries.

■ Why do you think getting a PhD is so trendy now?

A: Necessarily, there is no rational justification for what becomes fashionable. Some fashions are the result of the prevalence of some professions, and some stem from outside influence, so that we become immersed in the trend. If education and university was so beneficial, we did not need foreign imports to this extent.

■ What do we necessarily need humanities?

A: The necessity lies within the fact that everyone considers human beings as physical and material beings, but Islamic humanities tells us that humans have a spiritual aspect too. In fact, this is the viewpoint that makes humans nobler than the animals. A few decades ago, when I was in Berkeley, humans did not have this status. But right now, even in the West, humanities are very important and there is a surprising interest in spirituality and religion. Of course, there are some odd things as well, like the fake mysticisms. These fake mysticisms exist because of a sense of lacking that contemporary humans have.

■ According to you, if we have the right Islamic humanities, we will have less wars and challenges, is that so?

A: Yes, if [Islamic humanities] is implemented rightly, we must not have wars and these strange massacres. Under any circumstances, the humanities should not allow the construction of bombs and microbes that lead to the annihilation of humanity. After the WWI, Bertrand Russell, who was the strongest proponent of science and believed in nothing but science, was worried about the future of human civilization, because he found that science is controlled by the people in power. He said that science is controlled by the ones who have power and wealth and they would lead it to any direction they want.

■ In 1358/1980, you had a meeting with Imam Khomeini about the Islamization of science, didn't you?

A: Yes, in khordad 1358/June 1980, when I was the deputy of the Sharif University in educational and student matters, I visited Imam Khomeini in Qom

and did not happen, and scattered efforts did not result in forming an original movement.

■ Among the approaches to science, there is the post-modernist approach of people like Feyerabend, which does not accept the modern science, believing that the modern science has turned into something sacred, similar to religion; therefore, there is no such a thing as modern science. Do you agree with him or not?

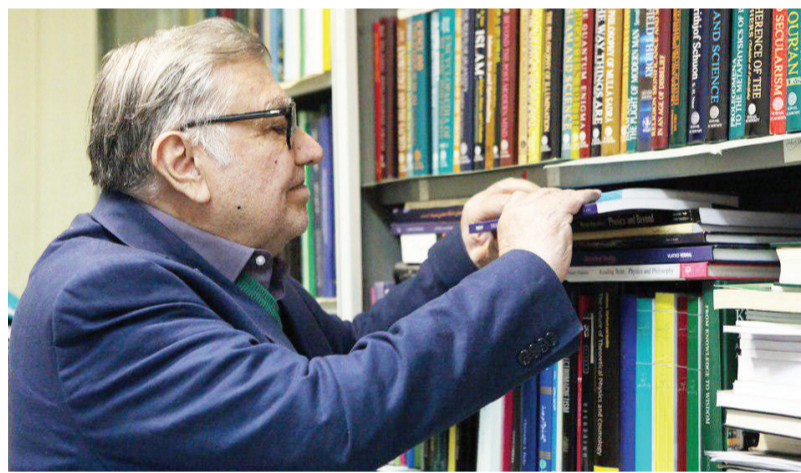
A: Essentially, I believe that the post-modernists have gone astray because of overstatements. However, personally, I believe that Feyerabend is not among them. I believe that his behavior is a reaction to the ones who gave science such an extreme value, who considered it sacred. I agree with Feyerabend that sacredness of science is exaggerated, but I do not agree with him that because of some exaggerations, we should reject science completely. I believe that science is a way of getting to truth, but not every scientific claim is absolute. If science had no way of getting to truth, we did not have computer, electricity, etc. now. Science is progressive and leads to truth. If it does not, then it is not valuable.

■ Why do you think, we write less [original material] and translate more?

A: It is because we do not believe in ourselves. I believe that one of our most important problems is our inferiority complex toward the West. More importantly, when a foreigner comes here, there is no limit to raising his/her importance. Like the Japanese, we should learn to take ourselves seriously. We should think like that Japanese student who went to Europe to study in 19th century. He wrote home to his professor that these Europeans are not superior to us. We only translate and comment now, our articles are commentaries on what the westerners are writing and have no originality. The reason is this inferiority complex and that we do not believe in ourselves.

■ In the beginning of our conversation, you said that you decided to study science and physics to make sense of the world. Have you made sense of the world after all these years?

A: As Avicenna says "my knowledge



my questions about humanity and nature in the sixth grade physics book at high school. Therefore, I chose physics to make sense of the world. Although, the previous year I had won the first place in a country-wide exam in literature—a success resulted from my studies in philosophy—I chose not to study philosophy in university. I could find the answers to some of my questions in physics, therefore, I got interested in it.

I enrolled in the physics department of the University of Tehran and graduated with distinction. Later I went abroad and continued studying physics. However, I always continued to read philosophy. I have never regretted my choices, because I have been able to combine the two things that I wanted. When I finished my PhD in physics in the United States, philosophy was gradually gaining significance in physics. Of course, it was not the case when I was a student, but it gained importance and gradually provided the opportunities to have philosophical discussions in physics.

This significance led to my work in this interdisciplinary area; and of course, philosophy has played an important role in my going deeper into issues in physics. When you want to interpret an experiment in physics, you have to deal with whys, for which you have to consider some assumptions; hence the need for philosophical assumptions. Thus, I found the interaction between these two disciplines very important. Later, I learned that people like Einstein and Heisenberg, always thought in terms of philosophy and physics. This [information] helped me to become interested in this interdisciplinary area more and more. In addition to Farsi, you are fluent in English and Arabic. How come you endeavored to learn Arabic?

You cannot study Islamic philosophy and jurisprudence (fiqh) without knowing

everything stems from experience and all theories result from experience. But if experience was efficient, why would there be different theories in economics, psychology, physics, etc.? Therefore, experience is just a part and the other part is the theorization of the physicist. The physicist examines different aspects and makes generalizations and that is how the physicist's assumptions comes into play. The combination of these elements led me to feel that there are many misconceptions about scientific extrapolation and I thought that establishing the center for philosophy of science can help solve the problems.

■ In an interview, you have stated that you are trying to turn the institute for the philosophy of science into an international center similar to the one that Naghib al-Atas has founded in Malaysia...

A: Yes, I have wholeheartedly tried to do this, especially that I have very good international connections and I am a well-known person. But, the reality is that the engineering or technical way of thinking is dominant in our university and many other universities of technology. Although, on numerous occasions I have informed the presidents of the Sharif University that this university is built based on the M.I.T model. M.I.T. is a university of technology, but now it has a department of humanities and philosophy. Therefore, if they want to imitate, they should imitate this aspect as well. In the department of philosophy, we do not have enough resources and there are a lot of hostilities. I was planning to establish a center similar to the center that Naghib al-Atas has established in Malaysia. Incidentally, it would be easy to do so here, not only we have the background of the Islamic philosophy, but also we are strong in scientific aspects. Four years ago, the president of the university said that



reached such level/that I know that I know nothing." Although I have learned a lot, there are still so much left to learn.

■ Is there something left that you want to achieve?

A: Lots of things.

■ For instance?

A: More knowledge.

■ Are you still seeking knowledge?

A: Yes, there are so many articles piled on my desk that I like to read as soon as possible and increase my information and knowledge.

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** Alphabet brings burritos-by-drone delivery to Australia. The Project Wing team has been busy helping fill the bellies of people living in rural Australia.
- 2** KRACK is not the only security flaw you should be concerned about. Adobe has patched a zero-day vulnerability used by the BlackOasis APT to plant surveillance software developed by Gamma International.
- 3** Verizon announces 'accelerated' 5G trials and launch. Verizon has announced that it will be moving to have its 5G network ready by the end of 2019 with ecosystem partner Qualcomm, with the latter calling the timeline 'aggressive but possible'.
- 4** Google is ditching a planned feature for Maps following criticism on social media. The update was tied to directions and displayed how many calories you'd burn if you were to walk to your destination. By clicking on the walking option, you'd even be shown the calories in equivalence to mini cupcakes (of all things).
- 5** Explore (most of) the solar system in Google Maps. Google first added the moon and Mars to Google Maps back in 2014 to commemorate the Curiosity rover's second year exploring the red planet.
- 6** Business Insider reports that Facebook appears to be testing a LinkedIn-like résumé/CV feature. The new addition was spotted by web developer Jane Manchun Wong and screenshots of the feature were posted on Twitter by The Next Web's Matt Navarra.
- 7** Microsoft delays its 'Age of Empires' remaster to 2018. Microsoft has pushed back the launch of the remastered real-time strategy collection at the last minute, anticipating a launch sometime in early 2018. The developers pin the sudden delay to a desire to tweak the game as much as possible.
- 8** Lawsuit claims Essential stole modular accessory tech. A company backed by Nest co-founder Tony Fadell is taking Andy Rubin's startup to court.
- 9** Huawei unveils the Mate 10 and Mate 10 Pro. The Huawei Mate 10 Pro has a 6" AMOLED panel with a wider 18:9 ratio. The new all-glass design of the Mate 10 Pro is beautifully symmetrical with one exception – the reflective band that holds the new dual camera. Co-developed with Leica, the camera setup has a 12MP color sensor and a 20MP monochrome sensor. The Huawei Mate 10 Pro runs the new EMUI 8.0, based on Android 8.0 Oreo.

- 10** New Nokia smartphone to be unveiled on October 19. The event will take place in China. It's either the rumored Nokia 7 or the improved version of Nokia 8 with 6GB RAM inside.

Qualcomm's new chip brings ultra-wide screens to mid-range phones

Qualcomm introduced the Snapdragon 636 processor, an upgrade to the mid-tier 630 whose centerpiece is support for extra-tall FHD+ resolution (roughly 2,160 x 1,080) screens. You should get a reasonably speedy, dramatic-looking phone without making your bank account cry for mercy. It supports Assertive Display, too, so you can expect better visibility in less-than-ideal lighting.



The Adreno 509 graphics are only about 10 percent faster when you stack them up against the 630, but the Kryo 260 CPU is about 40 percent faster -- you're probably going to notice the difference with intensive tasks. Don't expect a complete revolution when the 630 was still brand new half a year ago, though. You're still getting the familiar 600Mbps LTE support, and the Spectra 160 image signal processor delivers the same photo-taking quality. This is ultimately a speed bump, it's just one that will have a very visible effect on mid-range Android phone designs.

Qualcomm isn't naming customers, but it's shipping the 636 to phone makers in November. And importantly, companies can use it on boards that were originally intended for the 630 or 660.

(Source: Qualcomm)

'All wifi networks' are vulnerable to hacking



The security protocol used to protect the vast majority of wifi connections has been broken, potentially exposing wireless internet traffic to malicious eavesdroppers and attacks, according to the researcher who discovered the weakness.

Mathy Vanhoef, a security expert at Belgian university KU Leuven, discovered the weakness in the wireless security protocol WPA2, and published details of the flaw on Monday morning.

"Attackers can use this novel attack technique to read information that was previously assumed to be safely encrypted," Vanhoef's report said. "This can be abused to steal sensitive information such as credit card numbers, passwords, chat messages, emails, photos and so on."

Vanhoef emphasised that "the attack works against all modern protected wifi networks. Depending on the network configuration, it is also possible to inject and manipulate data. For example, an attacker might be able to inject ransomware or other malware into websites."

The vulnerability affects a number of operating systems and devices, the report said, including Android, Linux, Apple, Windows, OpenBSD, MediaTek, Linksys and others.

"If your device supports wifi, it is most likely affected," Vanhoef wrote. "In general, any data or information that the victim transmits can be decrypted ... Additionally, depending on the device being used and the network setup, it is also possible to decrypt data sent towards the victim (e.g. the content of a website)."

Vanhoef gave the weakness the code-name Krack, short for Key Reinstallation Attack.

Britain's National Cyber Security Centre said in a statement it was examining the vulnerability. "Research has been published today into potential global weaknesses to wifi systems. The attack-

er would have to be physically close to the target and the potential weaknesses would not compromise connections to secure websites, such as banking services or online shopping.

The United States Computer Emergency Readiness Team (Cert) issued a warning on Sunday in response to the vulnerability.

"The impact of exploiting these vulnerabilities includes decryption, packet replay, TCP connection hijacking, HTTP content injection and others," the alert says, detailing a number of potential attacks. It adds that, since the vulnerability is in the protocol itself, rather than any specific device or software, "most or all correct implementations of the standard will be affected".

Crucially, the attack is unlikely to affect the security of information sent over the network that is protected in addition to the standard WPA2 encryption. This means connections to secure websites are still safe, as are other encrypted con-

nections such as virtual private networks (VPN) and SSH communications.

However, insecure connections to websites – those which do not display a padlock icon in the address bar, indicating their support for HTTPS – should be considered public, and viewable to any other user on the network, until the vulnerability is fixed.

Equally, home internet connections will remain difficult to fully secure for quite some time. Many wireless routers are infrequently if ever updated, meaning that they will continue to communicate in an insecure manner. However, Vanhoef says, if the fix is installed on a phone or computer, that device will still be able to communicate with an insecure router. That means even users with an unpatched router should still fix as many devices as they can, to ensure security on other networks.

Alex Hudson, the chief technical officer of subscription service Iron, said that it is important to "keep calm".

"There is a limited amount of physical security already on offer by wifi: an attack needs to be in proximity," Hudson wrote. "So, you're not suddenly vulnerable to everyone on the internet. It's very weak protection, but this is important when re-viewing your threat level."

"Additionally, it's likely that you don't have too many protocols relying on WPA2 security. Every time you access an HTTPS site ... your browser is negotiating a separate layer of encryption. Accessing secure websites over wifi is still totally safe. Hopefully – but there is no guarantee – you don't have much information going over your network that requires the encryption WPA2 provides."

Different devices and operating systems are impacted to differing degrees based on how they implement the WPA2 protocol. Among the worst hit are Android 6.0 (Marshmallow) and Linux, due to a further bug that results in the encryption key being rewritten to all-zeros; iOS and Windows, meanwhile, are among the most secure, since they don't fully implement the WPA2 protocol. No tested device or piece of software was fully immune to the weakness, however.

The international Cert group, based at Carnegie Mellon University, informed technology companies of the flaw on 28 August, meaning that most have had around a month and a half to implement a fix. The Guardian has asked Apple, Google, Microsoft and Linksys the status of their patches. Google said: "We're aware of the issue, and we will be patching any affected devices in the coming weeks." Microsoft said: "We have released a security update to address this issue. Customers who apply the update, or have automatic updates enabled, will be protected." No other vendor has replied at press time.

(Source: Guardian)

The robot revolution has already happened in many industries

By Greg Nichols

According to a new analysis by Inkwood Research, the global market for collaborative robots is on track to generate a net revenue of about \$9.27 billion by 2025.

That's up from \$263 million in 2016, a compound annual growth rate of 49.14 percent, and it represents an astounding pace of adoption for a class of technology that largely didn't exist until 2008, when Universal Robots brought UR5, an early collaborative unit, to market.

It also suggests that more small- and medium-sized companies are turning to robots as a way to drive down labor costs and increase productivity. Many so-called cobots cost around \$30K.

What are cobots? Cobots are small, typically single- or double-armed devices that can be programmed on the fly to do a number of mundane tasks, from picking and placing items to precision assembly.

The robots themselves are platforms. By kitting out base models from companies like ABB and Universal Robotics with an array of sensors and end effectors (such as grippers or suckers), end-users can easily customize units for a huge array of tasks.

Currently, the most common use cases include packaging, assembling, material handling, machine tending, and quality testing.

End-users include customers in industries such as au-



tomotive, electronic and semiconductor, food and beverage, plastic and polymer, aerospace, and metals and machining.

The key features that differentiate cobots from previous industrial robots is that they're task agnostic and can safely operate alongside humans. Designed with force sensors and other safety mechanisms, they will abort an action if any unexpected contact occurs, such as bumping into a worker on an assembly line.

That means they don't have to live in safety cages. Why it matters This is the robot revolution in motion. It probably feels more subtle than you thought.

But the proof is in the sales. There's increasing demand for small, flexible robotic platforms in numerous industries. One reason is that there's a lack of skilled workers in the market, a problem summed up in this New York Times piece.

Cobots are proving incredibly popular for small to medium-sized companies because they offer short integration time and require a low initial investment. They also bypass a huge problem for smaller businesses, which is employee turnover and the attendant re-training costs.

Cobots, by comparison, can be trained once, don't take holidays, and don't require benefits. It's user-friendly automation at a price-point that even mom and pop shops can swallow.

For better or worse, that is absolutely a game changer. Don't be surprised in the coming few years if your local market has a robot restocking shelves.

Other factors responsible for the surging market and stiffening competition include widening applications of collaborative robots, falling sensor and platform prices, and heavy investments by robotics companies over the past decade in research and development.

(Source: zdnet)

Apple ordered to pay \$440 million to FaceTime patent troll



An Eastern District of Texas court has denied all of Apple's motions to end the case in a non-infringement ruling or retrial, leaving the tech giant with a final judgment that orders it to pay VirnetX \$439.7 million. That's much more than the \$302.4 million Apple was told to pay last year. VirnetX, widely considered a patent troll, is unsurprisingly "elated" at having won its third jury battle against Apple. However, it can't re-

ally rest on its laurels -- that judgment isn't as final as it seems at first blush.

The judgment could still raise concerns for companies affected by other VirnetX-held patents, as it might set a higher bar for payouts in future cases. Microsoft "only" had to pay \$200 million, for example.

However, VirnetX may have more trouble winning lawsuits going forward. (Source: techcrunch)

Uber 'very likely' to close Softbank deal



An Uber-Softbank deal is "very likely" to occur within the next week, according to Arianna Huffington, who spoke at Wall Street Journal's DLive event in Laguna Beach, CA. She wouldn't disclose the price -- it seems they're still working out the details -- but she did say that the Softbank investment would involve primary investing at the last valuation of the company, as well as secondary investing in additional

shares. This means that the Japanese company could end up with at least 14 percent of Uber's shares.

Huffington also talked about how Dara Khosrowshahi, Uber's new CEO, is making the company leaner by ending problems that burn too much cash, such as its car leasing program. It's part of the grand preparation plan for Uber's eventual IPO in 2019.

(Source: engadget)

'WFP aims to ensure food security by innovative means'

1 → Having said that this does not mean that there are not any hungry people in Iran. What it means is that the number of hungry people does not require international assistance. In Iran we are mandated to assist refugees. And we have been doing this for over thirty years now. The refugees are mostly from Afghanistan and a small number from Iraq. These are the extremely vulnerable who are living in camps or settlements in 20 different locations in thirteen provinces in Iran.

What we do is providing a monthly ration to them consisting of the staple commodities; wheat in the form of flour or bread depending on the location and if they have the facilities to bake in their own shelters or it goes to a bakery inside the settlement, rice, oil, sugar, and pulses. This food basket is a dry one and it provides 2,158 kilocalories, the nutritional requirement per person per day.

At the moment we are on the cusp of redesigning our project during which as of 2018 we will continue with wheat flour distribution to the refugees again but we will be replacing the remaining commodities with a cash component allowing the refugees to decide for themselves what it is that they want to buy and giving them the option of diversifying their food intake. As you know all of us eat more than just rice, wheat flour, pulses, oil and sugar.

So this is a global trend wherever markets are available but the purchasing power of the people is compromised WFP goes for cash and replaces the traditional way of food distribution.

We aim to ensure the food security of the people and we do it by innovative means. We do not stick with what we have done for 50 years and Iran is one of those places where the markets are stable, available, and accessible and it's just the matter of not having the purchasing power.

■ How much money do WFP spend on the projects delivering food assistance to the refugees in Iran? What are those projects?

A: Currently our project is valued at around \$4 million per year. In the new project as of 2018 we have budgeted for \$6 million. The \$6 million is going to be spent on 30,000 refugees living in those settlements but alongside of that we also promote the education of refugee girls, so we will be giving their families an incentive to send their girls to school.

We also will have a livelihood component in our project targeting women-headed households who are usually economically insecure because for refugee women the opportunity of work is very limited.

Due to their cultural issues they do not usually travel outside the settlement so we have come up with an idea of developing a livelihood activity whereby we will be giving them a start-up money and they will produce handicraft items which they usually do and we take and sell those items and we give the profit to refugee women themselves.

This way a little bit of business will sort of be promoted. We hope that it is successful and if it is successful these women will then train other women with the same skills and we hope to cascade this to others as well.

■ You mentioned giving incentive for refugee girls to attend school as one of your projects; what's the significance of sending girls to school in ensuring refugees' food security?

A: We believe that education is one of the keys to ensure food security in a family. These girls will grow up to become women and mothers and we

invest in the future of these girls. The Afghan society is a very traditional one. The refugees who have been here come from a very traditional background. They did not put much emphasis on the education of the girls. We decided to overcome that by giving them an opportunity to send their girls to school.

This project started in 1999. When we were visiting the camps and when we were doing the food distribution we realized that although there were schools in the camps majority of the girls were not being sent to school. So it wasn't because of lack of schools or facilities or unavailability. We dug deeper and spoke to the families and they said what the use of sending a girl to school is. If a girl stays at home she will be able to learn a skill and also contribute to the economy of the household.

Girls were usually either learning Kilim weaving from their mothers or embroidery, carpet weaving or shelling pistachios and the money was contributing to the family household.

So we said how about we give that money as a form of an incentive and back then we were only doing food distribution. The most expensive item in our food basket was the vegetable cooking oil. We said how about we give a tin of oil you send your girls to school after one month they bring back the oil and they all said yes. And this is how it all started. Now for almost two decades we've been doing this. [Back then] only 32 percent of girls who were eligible to attend school were actually going to school; now those statistics have risen to well over 80 percent, so this means that the girls are educated and empowered. This means that they will either be up for a career or take their education further, but at any case these girls will become women who are educated and will be better mothers for the family, will be better able to organize the household expenditure and all of these will contribute to the food security of the family. So it's a long term investment, but it does pay off.

■ Where does WFP Iran's funds come from?

A: WFP is completely and 100 percent funded by governments, private sector, individuals and institutions. In Iran we've been lucky to attract the at-



© TEHRAN TIMES / Majid Haghdoost

tention of a number of donors. Germany, the Republic of Korea and China are large donors to the WFP, specifically to the WFP Iran.

We prepare proposals, we go and present our project to the donors, and I do that myself through the embassies and ambassadors here. We explain to them what it is that we do we ask for the money that is required to feed these many refugees for this amount of time. The proposals are reviewed and then sent to the capitals and depend-



© TEHRAN TIMES / Majid Haghdoost

ing on the availability of fund then the money is earmarked for WFP to spend in Iran. The money is earmarked at our headquarters and we receive the funds and we usually do local procurement here.

So the money that we get we invest in buying food inside the country. The reason why we do that is because there is a thriving food supply in Iran. The suppliers are quite well equipped to do business with us. The leap time, the time from the moment we actually get the money up until the moment we can deliver the food to the refugees is much shorter when we buy it locally and quality issues do not arise because this is the food that is being produced locally here and goes through the rigorous institutes of standards regulations and is readily available. So the majority of the food we buy here locally.

■ How about the government of Iran. Do they make any contributions to WFP? What about Iranian NGOs?

A: The government of Iran is our implementing and cooperating partner. We are here to complement the assistance of the government of Iran to the refugees. When you look at the broader picture there are more than a million

registered refugees in Iran majority of them live in the urban areas almost all of them benefit from primary education as well as healthcare. These are all investment of the government of Iran. We are providing food assistance, so we are helping with that and we are doing it through the government.

Our implementing partner is the Bureau of Aliens and Foreign Immigrants Affairs. It's a department within the Ministry of Interior that has been mandated to assist with all refugee

related matters. We have a very close partnership and cooperation with the government.

We are not currently working with any NGOs. For our new cash component we will be engaging with the private sector and the banking sector so these will be our new partners as of 2018.

■ The second of the seventeen proposed Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is "end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture by 2030". Is it actually possible to achieve zero hunger by 2030?

A: We do firmly believe that achieving zero hunger is doable in our lifetimes. We do believe that there is enough food around the globe to feed everyone. It is not being utilized in the right way, so sustainable food systems is also an issue. This is a global issue which requires a collective approach.

If all the countries who have signed up to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) specifically SDG 2 put in their effort we do believe that it is possible to achieve zero hunger in our lifetimes and hopefully by 2030. Iran is in a much better state than other countries but Iran is also contributing at global level to the goal of achieving zero hunger.

■ What are your plans for commemorating the 30th year of WFP presence in Iran?

A: There will be series of events to commemorate our presence. It's not good to be in this business for so long. This means that there are still issues to be tackled with. Nevertheless we believe that during these 30 years we had a number of success stories, a number of happy endings that is good to hear about. In this day and age when you always hear about conflicts, displacement and things that are very sad I think that there is a very good story to tell about Iran.

We will be commemorating our 30th anniversary through series of events. I won't say much because I want it to be a surprise but we are planning to do something big and to raise awareness on not only issues related to Iran but again in the general discourse of zero hunger and SDG 2. It will be in second half of November.

The media has been one of our most trusted and favorite partners because you spread our word. Usually when we are working we are so involved in the work itself that we forget to talk about it. The media has been very kind to spread the word on our behalf and to raise awareness.

Scientists document 'opportunistic' alligators eating sharks

It's a dog-eat-dog world out there, or in the case of the southeastern United States, it's an alligator-eat-shark kind of a world, according to an unsettling new study from Kansas State University scientists.

The American alligator, also known as Alligator mississippiensis, is an "opportunistic feeder," which is exactly what it sounds like. These gators prefer to munch on crustaceans, snails, and fish, but they won't turn down an exotic meal if one suddenly presents itself.

As new research published in Southeastern Naturalist shows, American alligators—in an example of predator-on-predator action — periodically snatch and consume sharks. The new study, authored by Kansas State University researcher James Nifong and IMSS wildlife biologist Russell Lowers, is the first to provide scientific evidence showing that this behavior is real, and that widespread interaction exists between the two species.



For the study, Nifong temporarily captured 500 living alligators and pumped their stomachs to see what they'd been feasting on (so, you wanna be a scientist? ...) He and Lowers documented four different species of sharks, including the nurse shark, and even stingrays (another previously undocumented prey animal). These sharks, or elasmobranchs, may not be as big as many of the ones featured on Shark Week, but they're sharks nonetheless.

This all seems wildly improbable given that alligators are a freshwater species, and sharks a saltwater species, but it's not uncommon for sharks and rays to venture into freshwater areas.

"Alligators seek out fresh water in high-salinity environments," said Nifong in a statement. "When it rains really hard, they can actually sip fresh water off the surface of the salt water. That can prolong the time they can stay in a saltwater environment."

The researchers also equipped the gators with GPS transmitters to track their movements. They watched as the reptiles traveled between freshwater sources and estuaries, i.e. a partially enclosed coastal water body where freshwater and saltwater mix.

(Source: Gizmodo)

Bank Pasargad Wins a Deserving Status among Top Knowledge Organizations in Asia

According to the evaluation of World Foundation of Top Knowledge-Based Organization (MAKE) conducted in 2017, Bank Pasargad managed to win the top rank in Asia in the field of knowledge-based organizational leadership, the Public Relations Dept. of the bank reported.

With due observance to the said issue, performance of Bank Pasargad has been evaluated "successful" in two topics of total eight topics as defined by MAKE.

In very tight competition with top knowledge-based companies in Asian continent such as Toyota, Tata, LG, SAMSUNG and Beijing Capital, Bank Pasargad stood at 20th place.

It should be noted that World Foundation of Top Knowledge-Based Organization (MAKE) is considered as the largest and most authoritative reference in the field of knowledge-based management, the bank concluded.

Refah K. Bank's Share Promoted in International Arena

Member of the Board of Directors of Refah Kargaran Bank Farshi Farrokhnejad said that the bank's share has been promoted in international arena, the Public Relations Dept. of the bank reported.

Speaking at the 2nd Nationwide Seminar of Chief Executives of the bank, he expounded on the measures taken by the bank in international field and said: "Fortunately, Refah K. Bank has been one of the successful banks in the field of "finance" and "refinance". In the same direction, market share of bank has been promoted in international and currency affairs."

Farrokhnejad pointed to the significance and necessity of paying attention to the international rules and standards such as regulations related to the risk and adaptation and said: "We should move forwards along with international rules and regulations."

Elsewhere in his remarks, the Board member added: "Necessary services should be designed with comprehending the macroeconomic conditions and planning of government in order to gain satisfaction of customers."

It is hoped that the bank will make all its utmost effort to materialize most of its objectives in the current year, he concluded.

IME's Arabic Website Unveiled

Arabic website of Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME) was unveiled in the presence of secretary general of Iran and Iraq Joint Chamber of Commerce, the Public Relations Dept. of IME reported.

Active and constructive presence of Iran in Iraq's strategic and valuable market has always been considered as one of the significant discussions among public and private managers of the country.

As main supplier of various industrial, mineral and petrochemical products as well as oil and agricultural products, IME has initiated feasibility studies for promoting trade and business ties and taking advantage of high capacities of financial markets in order to facilitate export of Iranian goods to neighboring Iraq.

Setting up Working Group at IME for the promotion of exports to neighboring Iraq, participation of IME's trade and business delegation in Iraq, conducting feasibility studies in Iraqi lucrative market, holding expert-level meeting in IME and negotiating with Iraqi officials for development of economic ties between the two countries are of salient measures taken by IME in recent years.

Given the above issue, the Arabic website of Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME) was launched concurrent with the organizing Iran and Iraq Business Forum in order to offer quality services to the traders and merchants.

Interested individuals may log on the following



website at: <http://arime.co.ir> in order to view the latest Arabic news of IME.

Answering the call of October 17 to end poverty: A path toward peaceful and inclusive societies

This year also marks the 30th anniversary of the Call to Action by Father Joseph Wresinski—which inspired the observance of October 17 as the World Day for Overcoming Extreme Poverty—and the recognition by the United Nations of the day as the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty.



A boy sits outside his house in Cite L'Eternel, a poor neighborhood of Port au Prince, Haiti (UN Photo/Marco Dormino)

On October 17, 1987, defenders of human and civil rights from every continent gathered on this plaza. They paid homage to the victims of hunger, ignorance and violence. They affirmed their conviction that human misery is not inevitable.

They pledged their solidarity with all people who, throughout the world, strive to eradicate extreme poverty.

“Wherever men and women are condemned to live in extreme poverty, human rights are violated. To come together to ensure that these rights be respected is our solemn duty.”

The theme for this year’s commemoration reminds us of the importance of the values of dignity, solidarity and voice underscored in the Call to Action to end poverty everywhere.

These values are also evident in the United Nations’ Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development which sets poverty eradication as the overarching objective and obligated all countries to end poverty in all forms, through strategies that guarantee the fulfillment of all human rights and ensure no one is left behind. The importance of public awareness, voice and the active participation of people living in extreme poverty is recognized both in the Agenda itself and in the process of consultations led by the United Nations that ensured the concerns and priorities of millions of people, especially those living in extreme poverty, were included and heard. The active participation of those living in extreme poverty will be critical to the success of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The achievement of a world free from poverty provides a path towards the achievement of peaceful and inclusive societies as envisioned in Goal 16 of the Sustainable Development Goals. One of the key targets of the Goal 16 is to ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels. Goal 16 therefore underscores a key element of the Call to Action of October 17, which is to encourage people living in extreme poverty to break the silence of poverty and to act in solidarity with those who aspire to be their partners in the fight against poverty.

(Source: un.org)

LEARN ENGLISH Getting a Nanny

Grace: Hey Mel! Are you up for some tennis today? Mel: Sorry, I can't! I have to go to work, pick up Jake and Maddie from school, and make them an afternoon snack, then take Jake to soccer practice and Maddie to dance class. Grace: You sound exhausted. Maybe you should hire a nanny to help you out! She can pick the kids up and take them to their after-school activities. She can also help you do some household chores, and run some errands. Mel: Oh, I don't know... it's hard to find the right nanny. You have to consider her previous work experience, the responsibilities you give her, and how she interacts with the kids. I would love to have someone to help me out, though. Grace: I think you should definitely consider it! This way you won't have to juggle such a busy schedule, and you'll still get to spend time with the kids in the evenings. I can refer you this great nanny Amy. She used to work for my neighbors, before they moved away. She's very responsible, a good cook, and great with kids. Mel: Oh, that's great. Thanks Grace. Can you give me her number? I'll talk it over with Dan and give her a call tomorrow. Maybe this way I won't be so tired every day, and Dan and I might even get to go on a date once in a while.

Key vocabulary up for something: willing to do something or interested in doing something exhausted: very tired hire: to give work nanny: a woman who is paid to care for a young child chore: a small job that is done regularly errand: short journey that you take to do or get something juggle: to do several things at the same time refer: to send someone to a person or place for treatment Supplementary vocabulary babysitter: a person that looks after kids when their parents are not home domestic help: any person that is hired to work at a residence minimum wage: the lowest legal wage a person can earn either hourly or monthly maid: a woman that helps with the household chores such as cleaning and cooking butler: a man that helps with the household chores such as cleaning and cooking (Source: irlanguage.com)

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

Iran advances in health-related SDGs index

SOCIETY TEHRAN — Iran Disease ranks 69 amongst 188 countries in health-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) index from highest to lowest in 2016, according to a study conducted by The Lancet, the world's leading independent general medical journal.

As part of the Global Burden of Diseases, Injuries, and Risk Factors Study 2016 (GBD 2016), The Lancet study measured 37 of the 50 health-related SDG indicators over the period 1990–2016 for 188 countries, and then on the basis of these past trends, that is projected indicators to 2030. According to the study, the rank of Iran has increased from 106 in 2015 to 69 in 2016.

The study explores performance on the health-related SDG index, Millennium Development Goal (MDG) index, and non-MDG index, and 37 individual health-related indicators, by country in 2016.



Indices and individual indicators are reported on a scale of 0 to 100, with 0 representing the worst levels from 1990 to 2030 and 100 reflecting the best during that time.

ing that time. The rank of Iran in alcohol use, vaccine coverage, and household air pollution is reported 100.

The worst position of Iran is in road injury mortality with the point 14.

Meanwhile, Iran ranks 55 in disaster mortality, 68 in child overweight, 74 in maternal mortality ratio, 75 in HIV incidence, 87 in family planning need met with modern contraception methods, 70 in universal health coverage index, 50 in air pollution mortality, and 65 in mortality attributable to unsafe water.

SDGs are grounded in the global ambition of “leaving no one behind”.

Globally, the median health-related SDG index was 56.7 in 2016 and country-level performance markedly varied, with Singapore, Iceland, and Sweden having the highest levels in 2016 and Afghanistan, the Central African Republic, and Somalia recording the lowest.

Everything has a temperament: Age range and their suitable lifestyle

ARTICLE By Seyed Mahdi Mirghazanfari, MD, PhD part 6

TEHRAN — Temperaments, or to use the Persian term Mizaj, lay basis for Iranian traditional medicine.

However, human beings are not the only ones with distinguishing temperaments, everything around us has a temperament. Exercises, sleeping, wakefulness, psychiatric conditions, flavors, climates, colors, seasons, day and night, and body organs have defining temperaments which have been explained in previous articles.

Last but not least the temperament of the age range will be discussed in details in this article.

Age range

Although each person is born with a fixed and unique temperament, also called inherent or main Mizaj, with the passage of time the main Mizaj is subjected to fluctuation. For example someone's Mizaj might get drier but this doesn't mean that they are suffering mal-temperament.

Taking that into account, in addition to the main Mizaj, one must take heed of the temperament of the age as well and take necessary actions to stay healthy.

Growth period

Based on Iranian traditional medicine since one is born until the age 25 to 30 is called the “growth period” with the preponderance of warmth and wetness. To keep teenagers and children healthy they are recommended to consume food stuff with warm and wet Mizaj. Eating bread, meat, rice with bran, fruits especially apple and sometimes banana is good for them. However, one should be careful to avoid excessive warmth.

As one is growing up in this period they need to consume more food and increase their nutrient intake. Eating diverse types of foodstuffs and high quality food is of importance to this age group.

Youth

From age 30 to 40 is called “youth” when the wetness will dwindle and the warmth and dryness will be more dominant. One should not use much food stuff with warm and dry Mizaj as it increases the yellow bile in the body.

Many might break out in pimple, get irritable, and suffer sleep deprivation. Such people should abstain from spices, pepper, spicy food stuff, sweets, salty and deep fried food items. Instead they should use food stuff with cooling characteristics such as pomegranate, pomegranate juice, sour cherry, peach, lemon, lime juice, barberry juice, verjuice, lettuce, sekanjabin (Iranian drink made of honey, mint and vinegar), vegetable soups and dairy products such as yoghurt to moderate the warmth and dryness in the body. They can also use lifestyle tips for people with choleric temperament.

During growth period and youth one has a strong digestive system and can easily digest heavy food such as meat.

Middle age and old age

Between the age 40 to 60, called “middle age”, warmth and wetness will plummet and instead, coldness and dryness will be predominant in the body. After the age 60, also called “old age”, abnormal wetness may occur in the body so the Mizaj will become cold and wet. And due to the excessive wetness for many old age is synonymous with puffy eyes and face, loose skin, drowsiness and loss of memory.

In some other cases coldness and dryness will be more predominant in the body. Therefore, the coldness and dryness affiliated with the old age would cause wrinkles, curvature of the spine, drop in body temperature, poor digestive system, and puffy eyes and face.

Generally with the old age, comes decrease in warmth and wetness and the temperament of people aging over 60 will get colder and drier compared to their main Mizaj. That's why lifestyle tips for people with melancholic or phlegmatic temperament would also suit people age over 60. Due to their poor digestive system the elderly



should abstain from fatty food, leftovers, deep fried foods, fast foods, tomato paste and sauces, and preserves and instead they should consume high calories and low volume foods. They should also cut back on water, dairy products, fruits with cooling characteristics, and sour food items.

They had better eat vegetables, celery, chives, fig, grape,

GENERAL PROCUREMENT NOTICE Islamic Republic of Iran MAZANDARAN SANITATION IMPROVEMENT PROJECT Iran Water and Wastewater Sector



اعلامیه عمومی جمهوری اسلامی ایران پروژه فاضلاب استان مازندران بخش آب و فاضلاب ایران



Mode of Financing: Instalment Sale The Islamic Republic of Iran has applied for financing in the amount of Euro 281.27 Million from the Islamic Development Bank toward the cost of the MAZANDARAN SANITATION IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds to payments for goods, works, related services and consulting services to be procured under this project.

- The project will include the following components: 1) Wastewater treatment Plants in the cities of Amol, Mahmoodabad, Qaemshahr, Tonekabon and Ramsar for about 457,000 RE (Total Capacity of 93,790 m3/d) 2) Wastewater Collection Networks in the above cities including: a) Collection Networks b) transmission lines c) Pump and lift stations 3) Project Management Consultant 4) Project Implementation Support

Procurement of contracts financed by the Islamic Development Bank will be conducted through the procedures as specified in the Guidelines for Procurement of Goods and Works under Islamic Development Bank Financing (May 2009-Amended February 2012), and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the guidelines. Consulting services will be selected in accordance with the Guidelines for the Use of Consultants under Islamic Development Bank Financing (May 2009-Amended February 2012).

The infrastructure related components (1 & 2) will be procured through National Competitive Bidding (NCB), using IDB procurement procedures, with the exception of the WWTPs in Amol and Qaemshahr, which will be procured through International Competitive Bidding limited to IDB Member Countries (ICB/MC). The Consultancy services for components 3 & 4 will be selected according to IDB procurement procedures, through shortlists of local consultancy firms, to be agreed on between the Bank and MWWC. Prequalification of contractors will be required for all the contracts under components 1 & 2.

Interested eligible bidders who wish to be included on the mailing list to receive invitations to prequalify/bid under NCB or ICB/MC procedures, and interested consultants who wish to receive a copy of advertisement requesting expressions of interest for consultancy contracts, or those requiring additional information, should contact the addresses below.

National Water and Wastewater Engineering Company Contact: Mr. Alipour, Address: No. 6, Shahid Abdullah Zadeh Ave. Keshavarz Boulevard, Tehran, IR of Iran Phone: +98 21 89602918 Fax: +98 21 88990190 E-mail: alipour@nww.ir Mazandaran Water and Wastewater Company Contact: Mr. Hosseini Address: Corner of Mivehchin Alley, Khazar Blvd., Sari, Mazandaran, IR of Iran Phone: +98 11 33260291-4 Fax: +98 11 33246473 E-mail: hosseini45@yahoo.com

Notice: potential bidders desiring additional information on the procurement in question or the project in general should, unless indicated otherwise, contact the project agency and not the IDB.

روش تأمین مالی: فروش اقساطی جمهوری اسلامی ایران درخواست تأمین مبلغ ۲۸۱/۲۷ میلیون یورو جهت تأمین بخشی از هزینه های پروژه فاضلاب مازندران را به بانک توسعه اسلامی ارسال و قصد دارد بخشی از این مبلغ را صرف کالا، کار و خدمات مرتبط و همچنین خدمات مشاوره ای مورد نیاز این پروژه نماید.

اجزاء پروژه به شرح ذیل است: ۱) احداث تصفیه خانه فاضلاب در شهرهای آمل، محمود آباد، قائمشهر، تنکابن و رامسر برای جمعیتی معادل ۴۵۷,۰۰۰ نفر (ظرفیت کل معادل ۹۳,۷۹۰ متر مکعب در شبانه روز) ۲) شبکه های جمع آوری فاضلاب در شهرهای مذکور شامل: الف- شبکه های فاضلاب ب- خطوط انتقال ج- ایستگاه های پمپاژ و بالابر ۳) مشاوره مدیریت پروژه ۴) امور پشتیبانی اجرای پروژه

تدارک قراردادهایی که توسط بانک توسعه اسلامی تأمین مالی می شوند مطابق با شیوه نامه های خواهد بود که در دستورالعمل تدارک کالا و کار بهره مند از منابع مالی بانک توسعه اسلامی نسخه مه ۲۰۰۹ - بازنگری شده فوریه ۲۰۱۲ درج شده است و شرکت در آن برای کلیه مناقصه گران واجد شرایط تعریف شده در دستورالعمل آزاد است. خدمات مشاوره مطابق با دستورالعمل انتخاب مشاور در پروژه بهره مند از منابع مالی بانک توسعه اسلامی نسخه مه ۲۰۰۹ بازنگری شده فوریه ۲۰۱۲ انتخاب خواهد شد.

اجزای زیر ساختی (۱ و ۲) از طریق مناقصه داخلی و با اعمال مقررات تدارکاتی بانک توسعه اسلامی احداث خواهد شد به استثنای تصفیه خانه های شهر آمل و قائمشهر که از طریق مناقصه بین المللی محدود به کشورهای عضو، تدارک خواهد شد. خدمات مشاوره (۳ و ۴) مطابق با مقررات تدارکاتی بانک توسعه اسلامی و از میان فهرست کوتاهی از مشاورین داخلی که مورد توافق بانک و شرکت آب و فاضلاب استان مازندران می باشد، انتخاب خواهد شد.

تمامی پیمانکاران متقاضی قراردادهای اجرایی مرتبط با اجزای ۱ و ۲ مشمول مراحل پیش صلاحیت خواهند بود. مناقصه گران واجد شرایط علاقمند به دریافت دعوت به پیش صلاحیت/مناقصه تحت مقررات مناقصه داخلی و یا مناقصه بین المللی محدود به کشورهای عضو، و نیز مشاورین علاقمند به دریافت فراخوان اعلام آمادگی برای خدمات مشاوره ای و نیز کسانی که تمایل به دریافت اطلاعات بیشتر دارند می توانند به نشانی های ذیل مراجعه نمایند.

شرکت مهندسی آب و فاضلاب کشور تماس: آقای علی یور نشانی: جمهوری اسلامی ایران - تهران - بلوار کشاورز - کوچه شهید عبیدالله - زاده - پلاک ۶ تلفن: ۰۲۱ - ۸۹۶۰۲۹۱۸ نمابر: ۰۲۱ - ۸۸۹۹۰۱۹۰

پست الکترونیکی: alipour@nww.ir شرکت آب و فاضلاب استان مازندران تماس: آقای حسینی نشانی: جمهوری اسلامی ایران - استان مازندران - ساری - بلوار خزر - نیش کوچه شهید میوه چین تلفن: ۰۱۱ ۴۰۳۲۶۰۲۹۱ نمابر: ۰۱۱ - ۳۳۲۴۶۴۷۳

پست الکترونیکی: hosseini45@yahoo.com تذکر: مناقصه گرانی که نیاز به اطلاعات بیشتر در رابطه با روند تدارکات مرتبط و یا درخصوص کل پروژه دارند، به استثنای مواردی که اعلام خواهد شد، باید به مجری پروژه مراجعه و از تماس مستقیم با بانک توسعه اسلامی پرهیز نمایند.

ISIL ousted from Syria's strategic city of Raqqa

The so-called Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), a ragtag grouping of militants backed by the United States, says it has fully taken control of Syria's northern city of Raqqa from Takfiri Daesh terrorists.

"Everything is finished in Raqqa, our forces have taken full control of Raqqa," SDF spokesman Talal Sello told AFP.

"The military operations in Raqqa have finished, but there are clearing operations now under way to uncover any sleeper cells there might be and remove mines," he said, adding that "an official statement" would soon be put out.

Raqqa was overrun by ISIL (Daesh) terrorist group in March 2013 and was declared the terrorist groups "capital" the next year.

The SDF, which does not coordinate with the Syrian government and military, announced an operation against the terrorists in the city some four months ago.

Earlier, a deal was reached between the SDF and a US-led coalition on the one side and Daesh terrorists on the other to allow the terrorists out of the city and move them to the neighboring Dayr al-Zawr Province, where Syrian government forces are already fighting Daesh.

The SDF claimed that, despite the



deal, it was facing resistance from the terrorists.

Situation in Dayr al-Zawr

Separately, Syrian government forces have reportedly liberated more than 80 percent of the eastern city of Dayr al-Zawr from the control of the Takfiri Daesh terrorist group.

The so-called Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said on Monday that 81 percent of Dayr al-Zawr is now under the control of Syrian forces.

Daesh overran large parts of Dayr al-Zawr Province, including its many oil fields, in mid-2014 as it seized swathes of land in Syria and neighboring Iraq.

By early 2015, the Takfiri terrorists were in control of some parts of the city of Dayr al-Zawr and had besieged the remaining parts. Syrian government forces and their allies last month broke that siege.

The UK-based observatory said on Tuesday that Daesh had lost control of 10

strategic areas in eastern Syria in the past 48 hours.

According to the report, the Syrian army and its allies, backed by Russian and Syrian aerial cover, gained control of the town of Albu Leil and Muhassan City and their surrounding areas in Dayr al-Zawr Province.

The recapture means the area stretching between the cities of Dayr al-Zawr and Mayadin, which was liberated from Daesh on Saturday, is now under the control of the Syrian government.

The Syrian military operation reportedly forced Daesh terrorists to withdraw from the western bank of the Euphrates to the river's eastern bank. An unspecified number of terrorists were also killed during the ground and aerial attacks on their positions on the western bank.

The group earlier reported that Syrian forces had taken control of the villages of Zabari, Sa'lu, Toub, and al-Aliat, northwest of the region of Bouqras, which itself was retaken by the army on Monday.

Syria has been gripped by foreign-backed militancy since March 2011. (Source: agencies)

WFP shelved Rohingya report under Myanmar pressure

A report has revealed that the UN World Food Program (WFP) withdrew a critical report on spiraling food crisis in Myanmar's Muslim-populated areas under pressure from its government.

The six-page report, compiled by the UN food agency in July, voiced alarm over severe hunger among Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar's Rakhine State, saying more than 80,000 children under the age of five "wasting" due to rapid weight loss. The Guardian reported on Tuesday.

The report was, however, withdrawn from the WFP's website "following a request by the government to conduct a joint review."

The document was then replaced with a statement, saying Myanmar and the WFP were "collaborating on a revised version," and that the initial report should not be cited in any way.

The UN food aid agency later noted that, the "WFP stands by its original assessment, which was conducted jointly with local authorities in Rakhine state ... However WFP recognizes that in a dynamic and evolving situation, it is important to coordinate closely with all partners, including the government."

Speaking on condition of anonymity, a consultant with the UN's Myanmar office said the WFP's in-country team was already seriously concerned about the report getting too much attention.

The assessment indicated that controversial WFP

food aid cuts to internally displaced Rohingya over the previous two years had left people in dire need of help, according to the consultant.

"They knew it was potentially damaging. It was all to do with the fact that internally, there was a belief that the decision made to stop feeding some of the [internally displaced people] was actually causing people serious harm, in terms of food security, hunger and even starvation," the source said.

"There was a real sense that they had things to hide in their work in Myanmar. Things had not been going to plan there," he added.

The WFP report called for further humanitarian assistance for more than 225,000 people, after the agency only found one-third of all homes in one district, Maungdaw, were facing extreme food deprivation.

According to UNICEF, nearly 150,000 Rohingya women and children refugees need urgent support to prevent malnutrition or to recover from it. UNICEF and other agencies estimate that 60 percent of the refugees are children, thousands of them being unaccompanied.

The Rohingya Muslims in Rakhine have been subjected to government-backed violence by soldiers and Buddhist mobs since October 2016. The violence has seen a sharp rise since late August.

Over the past weeks, there have been numerous reports of systematic violence against Rakhine-based Muslims, including random shootings, rape and arson

attacks, in what is censured by the UN as an ethnic cleansing campaign against the minority group.

According to the latest UN figures, some 582,000 Rohingya refugees have now fled Myanmar for Bangladesh since late August, while between 10,000 to 15,000 others have amassed near a crossing point, waiting to join the makeshift camps on the Bangladeshi border.

On Monday, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCR) released aerial footage, showing huge columns of thousands of refugees snaking through Anzuman Para and Palong Khali in the Chittagong Division.

The refugees are seen carrying their belongings on foot along narrow paths flanked by rivers.

The fleeing Muslims say the Myanmar army has increased pressure on the remaining Rohingya to drive them out of their villages.

The UN and other agencies have also warned about humanitarian problems that could occur in crowded refugee camps in Bangladesh, especially given the high number of vulnerable children and women living in those areas.

Rohingya Muslims, recognized by the UN as the world's most persecuted minority group, are denied Myanmar citizenship as country's leadership and Buddhist majority brand them illegal Bangladeshi immigrants.

(Source: The Guardian)

UK firm launches 1st major arms fair in Bahrain

A British company has launched a first international arms fair in Bahrain, ignoring rights groups' criticism of Manama's repression of dissent and participation in a Saudi-led coalition waging war on Yemen.

British company Clarion Events kicked off the so-called Bahrain International Defense Exhibition and Conference (BIDEC) 2017 on Monday.

The event is due to continue until Wednesday.

The exhibition drew condemnation from human rights groups and opposition MPs in the UK.

Leading anti-arms group Campaign Against Arms Trade said in a statement, "The UK public do not want our taxes to be spent promoting weapons sales to Bahrain and the other human-rights abusing regimes attending BIDEC."

"The UK's promotion of arms exports at BIDEC will be seen as a show of support for the Bahraini regime. As well as jailing and torturing human rights and pro-democracy activists, the government of Bahrain is part of the coalition current-

ly bombarding Yemen, leaving millions of Yemenis on the edge of starvation and at risk of cholera," the group added.

Since March 2015, Yemen has been under heavy military strikes by a Saudi Arabian-led coalition, which included Bahrain. Latest tallies show that the war has so far killed over 12,000 Yemenis and wounded thousands more. The Saudi-led aggression has also taken a heavy toll on the country's facilities and infrastructure, destroying many hospitals, schools, and factories.

Britain's opposition Labor Party also slammed the exhibition.

Fabian Hamilton, an MP from Labor and the shadow minister for peace, said, "We should not be selling weapons to any state that uses, or could potentially use, weapons we supply for internal repression or for foreign wars."

According to data from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, Britain has sold at least \$85 million worth of arms to Bahrain between 2000 and 2016.

The Bahrain Institute for Rights and Democracy (BIRD) has called on arms



companies not to attend BIDEC.

"It is extremely concerning that companies could be content to advertise and sell arms to Bahrain, a member of the Saudi-led coalition whose bombing of Yemen has helped to create the world's worst man-made humanitarian crisis," Sophie Baggott, of BIRD, said.

"Not only could these weapons be used? ?against? ?Yemeni? ?civilians? ?but? ?also? ?against? Bahrain's own ?citizens whose freedoms have been

curtailed drastically over the past 18 months??"

Anti-regime protesters have held numerous demonstrations in Bahrain ever since a popular uprising began in the kingdom in February 2011.

The Manama regime has harshly cracked down on dissent. On March 14, 2011, troops from Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates were also deployed to Bahrain to assist Manama in the crackdown.

(Source: Press TV)

Imam Musa al-Sadr launched vocational school in Lebanon to fight poverty

➔ What training courses are offered in this school and what are the terms and conditions for registrations?

A. Jabal Amel School is made up of several centers, one for the poor or orphan students, vocational and technical center for trainees with elementary school or junior high certificates.

One center of the vocational school offers programs in electricity, carpentry decoration, agriculture mechanics, handicrafts, Persian carpet and carpet weaving in general. Another center has several disciplines in food industry such as dried foods, improving food quality and juicing and other related courses.

The third is Islamic science education center and the fourth, most successful of them all, is about homemaking skills like cooking, sewing, and embroidery for girls and the last center is a nursing school.

Does the school accept any donations or receive any funds?



A. Welfare organization injected 290 thousands lire (today amounts to almost \$200,000) for the launch of school and the rest was donated by the Lebanese living inside and outside of the country.

Thus, the first year people themselves paid the cost of running the school which amounted to 1.2 million lire (\$800,000 in today's rate). This year, the French govern-

ment has pledged to provide the school with machineries and technical equipment estimated at 1.2 million francs.

The school expenses are fully covered for this year and I would like to take the opportunity to express my gratitude to the French government for their support and generous donation.

What's the significance of the school for general public in the south?

A. Well, naturally educating children and offering technical skills to workers, trainees, and girls can flourish people's lives in the south. In other words, it restores the credibility of citizens of the south and provides dynamic economy for the city.

According to statistics, we believe that if the school uses all its potential, i.e. admitting 4 percent trainees annually, in twelve years we can totally eliminate poverty in Tyrus and Bint Jbeil.

All in all, I will do my utmost to help boost the school and serve parts of the south that are in my jurisdiction.

U.S. role in Saudi war on Yemen unconstitutional: Congressman

➔ Earlier this month, Khanna and three other senators introduced a resolution under the War Powers Act, which gives Congress 15 days to vote on Washington's involvement in the devastating war which has killed over 12,000 Yemeni civilians since it began in March 2015.



Approved in 1973, the War Powers Act is intended to check the president's power to commit America to armed conflicts without congressional consent.

While the U.S. military started helping the Saudi-led conflict under command of then President Barack Obama, the cooperation grew dramatically larger under his successor, Donald Trump, who secured major arms deals with the oil-rich kingdom during a trip in May.

Extent of refueling mission

According to U.S. Air Forces Central Command (AF-CENT), American flying tankers, such as KC-135 Stratotankers and KC-10 Extenders, have participated in 2,363 sorties over the Horn of Africa region since April 2015, offloading some 80 million pounds (40,000 tons) of fuel in the process.

The U.S. military has provided refueling services to some 10,400 aircraft in that region, according to data provided by military.com on October 9.

Khanna said in his interview that ordinary Americans "would be appalled" if they knew "what we were doing."

"And so, what this resolution is doing is actually bringing this for a debate. That's why the War Powers Act said it has to be Congress that makes these decisions, because Congress is more accountable to people," he added.

(Source: Press TV)

Suspected U.S. drone strikes kill 31 on Pakistan-Afghanistan frontier

Two suspected U.S. drone strikes on Tuesday killed 11 people on the mountainous Pakistan-Afghanistan border, following a strike a day earlier that killed 20, government and militant sources said.

The attacks came days after a Canadian-American couple held hostage by the Taliban were freed from the area in Pakistan's northwest, striking a rare positive note in the country's often-fraught relations with the United States.

On Friday, U.S. drones were seen hovering near where American Caitlan Coleman, her Canadian husband, Joshua Boyle, and their three children, all born in captivity, were freed, after having been kidnapped by the Haqqani network while backpacking in Afghanistan in 2012.

"Four unmanned drones fired six missiles in Monday's attack, and four more were dropped in two strikes on Tuesday," Baseer Khan Wazir, the top administrative official in the Kurram Agency, part of Pakistan's restive Federally Administered Tribal Areas, told Reuters. The drones fired missiles on Taliban hideouts, killing at least 31 people over two days, he added, with all three attacks taking place on the Afghan side.

"Twenty people were killed yesterday, mostly from the Afghan Taliban, and 11 more were killed in today's attacks," Wazir told Reuters.

Taliban sources said 18 members of the Pakistan-based Haqqani militants and three of the Taliban, were killed in Monday's strike and six in one of Tuesday's attacks.

"There were some mud-built houses which were being used by the mujahideen (Afghan Taliban fighters)," said a member of the Afghan Taliban, who asked not to be identified.

No prominent militants were in the area when the drones targeted two or three different compounds, he added. Another Taliban source said two commanders were killed in Monday's attack, however.

Witnesses said they heard the drones and saw plumes of smoke before seeing 20 makeshift coffins moved out of the area. Residents of the area said the strikes were no more than 300 meters (yards) from the Pakistan side of the border.

"There are always drones hovering over this border area, but this was the first time four drones were noticed at the same time," said Kurram resident Gulab Sher.

(Source: Reuters)

Only two countries committing war crimes back Trump Iran policy

➔ The supports by these two countries show the extreme degree of imprudence that President Trump and some of his loyalists have taken toward Iran, particularly their approach toward the 2015 international nuclear agreement which has also been endorsed by a UN Security Council resolution.

However like himself, Trump's inner circle are extremely biased and stupid. For example, the State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert wrote a tweet on Oct. 15 surprisingly saying support by Israel and Saudi Arabia showed that "we are doing something right."

It is shameful and regrettable that Trump is being praised by a regime who has taken the Palestinians' lands in contravention of international law and a Medieval-run kingdom who is both the ideological mother and logistical supporter of terrorism through its abundant oil money.

Juventus are not in any kind of crisis, says Allegri

Massimiliano Allegri insists Juventus "are not in any kind of crisis" despite their rare home Serie A defeat at the hands of Lazio. Juve face Sporting CP, who sit ahead of them on goal difference in Champions League Group D, in a crucial contest in Turin on Wednesday.

The Italian champions go into the game after a shock 2-1 reverse to Lazio, a result which ended an astonishing 57-match unbeaten run in front of their own fans.

That result was preceded by an away draw against Atalanta, meaning Juve are already five points behind early Serie A leaders Napoli. Allegri, though, remains calm, even though he has urged his side to improve their focus, starting against Sporting. "We are not in any kind of crisis," Allegri said at his pre-match media conference. "We are working towards being in a strong position on all fronts come the spring."

"Against Lazio, we were playing well, but paid for a couple of mistakes at the start of the second half."

"We are working to put right our mistakes. We need to improve our game management and concentration."

"We need to continue to move the ball around quickly and with clarity of mind, whatever happens in matches."

With Barcelona three points clear at the top of Group D, Juve cannot afford a slip-up against Sporting.

Allegri said: "We have respect for Sporting and we need to play a strong match both technically and mentally."

"Sporting are full of talented, technical and fast players with a strong overall organization. They took Barcelona to the wire on match day two, so it will be a very tough match for Juve. "If we win these two games against Sporting we are through to the Champions League knockout stages. That is our aim. "We are aware of how important this game is for our Champions League campaign and we want to do well."

Midfielder Miralem Pjanic, who has not played since scoring in the derby victory over Torino a month ago due to a thigh injury, is in contention to feature.

Allegri added: "Miralem Pjanic is OK. He is in good shape and has had time to rest. I will decide if he plays after training."

"Having someone by his side who runs and presses like Blaise Matuidi obviously helps him greatly."

(Source: Goal)

Laurent Blanc in frame for USA job?

Former Paris Saint-Germain boss Laurent Blanc is reportedly in line to take over as manager of the USA national side.

The 51-year-old has been out of work since leaving Les Parisiens in June 2016, having guided them to three back-to-back Ligue 1 titles, three League Cups and two French Cups. The States, meanwhile, are in need of a new manager after Bruce Arena's resignation last week, three days after they failed to secure qualification for next summer's World Cup in Russia. According to France Football, Blanc is now top of the USA's list to succeed Arena and they have been courting him since September.

The Frenchman is a former World Cup winner, albeit as a player in 1998, and has international management experience with a two-year spell in charge of his country from 2010 to 2012.

Other names in the frame for the US job include Under-20s coach Tab Ramos, Sporting KC manager Peter Vermes and Gerardo Martino of Atalanta United.

(Source: Sportsmole)

My career's gone - Redknapp flags likely retirement



Harry Redknapp has indicated he is unlikely to return to club management following his departure from Birmingham City last month. The 70-year-old took over at St Andrew's in April and succeeded in keeping the relegation-threatened Blues in the Championship.

He signed a one-year deal to stay on in May, but was dismissed following a run of six successive defeats in all competitions early this season.

The former West Ham and Tottenham boss suggested shortly after his departure that he could retire, and Redknapp's stance appears unchanged a month on from his sacking.

"My career's gone," he told Sports Gazette.

"I've had a long spell managing. I've done roundabout 150 games or something crazy."

"I don't see myself going back into football."

A consulting role or international post would still be of interest to Redknapp, although he expects the Scottish Football Association to look close to home when they replace Gordon Strachan. "I'm sure they'll go with a manager from Scotland," he said. "David Moyes is in for it. There's lots of good lads up there who could do a good job. Gordon did a good job. He couldn't have done any more than he did really."

Redknapp also had his say on Wales who, like Scotland, failed to qualify for next year's World Cup.

"Hopefully Chris Coleman doesn't leave - he's done a great job," he said.

"If he did leave, they'd go and get another Welsh boy in. Ryan Giggs or someone."

(Source: Daily Star)

IOC 'disappointed' by Innsbruck snub, still hopes for good bids

The International Olympic Committee on Tuesday said it was disappointed by the referendum defeat of Innsbruck's plan to bid for the 2026 Winter Olympics, with some in the movement saying another dual Games award could be on the cards.

The IOC has been struggling in recent years to convince potential hosts of the benefits of hosting the Games and about a dozen cities have pulled out of bidding for the 2022, 2024 and 2026 Olympics.

In an effort to secure the long-term future of the Games the IOC in September awarded the 2024 and the 2028 Summer Olympics to Paris and Los Angeles after they were the only remaining bidders.

"The IOC would have liked to continue its preliminary exploratory talks with Innsbruck," an IOC spokesman said. "The IOC shares the disappointment for the Austrian Olympic Committee, the many supporting athletes and the promoters of the project who worked on it with so much energy and commitment."

"This would have been a solid foundation to develop an excellent candidature for sustainable Olympic winter Games." The Austrian Alpine city, venue of the 1964 and the 1976 Winter Games as well as the 2012 winter youth Olympics, saw its 2026 plans derailed on Sunday when 53 percent of voters in a local referendum voted against the planned candidacy.

"The IOC will continue its exploratory talks with interested NOCs and cities from America, Asia and Europe within the framework of its new candidature process," the IOC official said.

"We are certain that an excellent host city for the Olympic Winter Games 2026 will emerge from this process." Bids from Switzerland, Kazakhstan, Turkey, Japan, Canada and the United States are still likely for 2026 with the candidacy process to start in 2018 and a decision to be taken in 2019.

However, the Austrian refusal is a further slap in the



face for the IOC's Agenda 2020, a set of reforms introduced in 2014 and aimed, among other things, at reducing the size and cost of the Games to make them more attractive to potential hosts.

It has so far failed to deliver on that front with four cities pulling out of the 2022 campaign and two more bids killed off at referendum stage. Four cities stopped their bids in mid-race for 2024 before Innsbruck's refusal for 2026.

"Auf Wiedersehen Innsbruck and Austria," IOC member Richard Peterkin posted on Twitter.

"Another Olympic bid falls by the wayside following a referendum rejection. Not even close. Disruptive."

"It's a setback for the Olympic Games. Not insurmountable, and somewhat understandable, but new

initiatives and responses issues affecting public unease and displeasure with sports organizations need urgent closure." The outspoken Peterkin, who has repeatedly urged the IOC to take stronger action against the flagging interest in the Games, said a dual awarding such as that for the 2024 and 2028 Olympics was an option, even if it was supposed to have been a one-off.

"Dual award now looking possible for 2026 if two strong bids remain in the running," he added.

"It worked once, and could work again. Horses for courses in these troubled times."

The United States Olympic Committee last week said they would want to be in the running again in case of a dual awarding.

(Source: Reuters)

UEFA's 2018 World Cup Play-Offs Set

DRAW RESULTS	
EUROPEAN PLAY-OFF DRAW	
NORTHERN IRELAND	SWITZERLAND
CROATIA	GREECE
DENMARK	REPUBLIC OF IRELAND
SWEDEN	ITALY

Italy have been drawn to face Sweden in the World Cup play-offs, while the Republic of Ireland face Denmark.

Northern Ireland take on Switzerland and Croatia meet Greece after Tuesday's draw, which was made by Spain great Fernando Hierro in Zurich.

Switzerland, Italy, Croatia and Denmark were the four seeded teams in the play-offs, with Northern Ireland, Sweden, Republic of Ireland and Greece unseeded.

Italy finished as runners-up to Spain in qualification Group G and must now pass a tough two-legged test against Sweden if they are to reach a 15th consecutive World Cup, with the 2018 edition in Russia beginning next June.

Republic of Ireland face the lowest-ranked of the seeded teams in Denmark, who lost out to Poland in their qualifying group.

Northern Ireland finished behind world champions Germany but ahead of nations like the Czech Republic and Norway in the group stage. They now

face a tough test against the Swiss, the highest-ranked team in the play-offs at number 11.

Croatia meet near neighbours Greece, who at 47 in the world were comfortably the lowest-ranked of all eight sides in the draw.

The first leg of the play-off ties will be played over November 9-11, with the second legs promptly following on November 12-14.

Four nations will emerge from the ties to join France, Portugal, Germany, Serbia, Poland, England, Spain, Belgium, Iceland and hosts Russia as the 14 European representatives at the tournament.

As well determining the seedings for the play-offs, the latest batch of FIFA rankings will be used for the main World Cup draw in December.

Spain and England will be in pot two for the World Cup, as will Italy if they progress against Sweden. It means those major nations could face top-seeded sides like Germany, Brazil and Argentina at the event.

(Source: Soccerway)

Shrewsbury to become first English club with safe standing section



Shrewsbury Town are set to become the first English club to introduce safe standing at their ground after a crowdfunding campaign raised £65,000 to pay for alterations at their Montgomery Waters Meadow stadium. More than 1,000 fans donated to the cause, with their offerings bolstered by the donation of an online betting company.

The League One club have applied to have rail seats at the 10,000 capacity ground before the end of the current season and is on course to achieve that aim. This could set an example for Premier League clubs to follow, with more than half thought to be open to the idea of standing areas, which have been banned in the top two divisions of English football since the 1990 Taylor Report into the Hillsborough disaster.

The Premier League wrote to all 20 of its clubs on June to assess if they would be interested in trialing safe standing.

Clubs that have played for three seasons in the top two tiers of the football

pyramid are required by law to provide all-seat stadiums. But Shrewsbury do not come under this condition and are supported in their quest by the Football League.

Jon Darch, operator of the Safe Standing Roadshow which campaigns for safe standing areas across the country, said: "This is a major milestone for safe standing."

They can now look forward to a ground-breaking launch of their safe standing area early next year. Celtic have shown that safe standing works in Scotland. Now Shrewsbury are going to show that it will work in other-wise all-seater grounds in England and Wales too."

Celtic have pioneered the use of safe standing and introduced rail seating areas at the start of last season. The Scottish club were granted permission from authorities in 2015 to introduce the safe-standing area, which was based on versatile seating common at German grounds.

(Source: Guardian)

NFL weighs protesting players' passion against Trump rebukes

National Football League officials will weigh the fervor of players who protest racism by kneeling for the national anthem against the anger of U.S. President Donald Trump at their two-day autumn meeting beginning on Tuesday in New York City.

Trump's unflinching criticism of the symbolic gesture as unpatriotic, which he repeated as recently as Monday, has only made the practice more widespread. His calls for fans to boycott games if players persist is an unwelcome prospect even for the world's highest-grossing sports league and have forced the topic high up the regularly scheduled meeting's agenda.

An NFL spokesman said ahead of the meeting that the president may not see an outright ban on the act soon, if ever.

"I anticipate a very productive presentation of things we can do to work together," Joe Lockhart, the spokesman, told reporters ahead of the gathering of team owners, players and their union's leaders at a Manhattan hotel. "Beyond that I don't anticipate anything else."



Trump wants the league to punish players with suspension if they kneel during the pre-game renditions of "The Star-Spangled Banner," saying on Monday the players were disrespecting the country. His vice president, Mike Pence, walked out of the stadium in Indianapolis earlier this month as players began kneeling, which Trump said he had instructed Pence to do.

Some team owners, including Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones, sympathize with the president. Jones said he would punish players who kneel by keeping

them off the field.

The league was more inclined to seek a compromise that allowed an outlet for the players' political activism rather than to compel them to stand during the anthem, Lockhart said.

The small but growing number of players who have taken to kneeling say they are protesting against the police killings of unarmed black men and boys across the United States and racial disparities in the criminal justice system. More than half of all NFL players are black.

Players, along with their union the NFL Players Association, have bristled at Trump's assertion they are unpatriotic. Though still a minority, more players have begun kneeling since the new season began, and some sympathetic teammates have linked arms with the kneelers while standing themselves.

Former San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick, who first popularized the gesture last year, said he settled on kneeling as a form of protest because it is widely seen as a gesture of respect.

(Source: Reuters)

Iran reach FIFA U-17 World Cup quarters

S P O R T S Iran defeated Mexico 2-1 on Tuesday to reach the 2017 FIFA U-17 World Cup quarter-finals.

The Prince of Persia will face Spain in the quarter-final on Sunday.

Mohammad Sharifi put the Iranian team into the lead just seven minutes into the match from the penalty spot.

Allahyar Sayyadmanesh extended Iran's lead four minutes later, chipping the ball over the Mexican goalkeeper Cesar Lopez.

Roberto De La Roda pulled a goal back in the 37th minute after Iran goalkeeper Gholamzadeh failed to clear the ball in his own area.

The CONCACAF representatives continued to look the more dangerous team throughout the second half with Diego Lainez going close and Jairo Torres rattling the post near the hour mark.

Iran recovered in the end and exerted their prowess, holding the ball well in the Mexican half to close out the match and reach their first-ever quarter-final in this event. It was a difficult contest, but they maintained their momentum heading into their clash against the European champions.

Iran had previously defeated Guinea 3-1, Germany 4-0 and Costa Rica 3-0 in the group stage.



Iran to celebrate National Paralympic Day



S P O R T S The Iran National Paralympic Committee (NPC) will celebrate its National Paralympic Day on 18 October, promoting sport for people with an impairment, at the Milad-e Noor Sport Complex in Tehran.

Around 35,000 participants are expected to partake at the event.

There will be a video message from Andrew Parsons, International Paralympic

Committee (IPC) President, in supporting the event.

It is the 10th edition of Iran's National Paralympic Day, which will be celebrated in different parts of the country, including school children with their parents and teachers.

As part of the celebration, the audience will be invited to participate in exercises and para-sports at the Paralympic Day.

Iran continue to dominate FIFA rankings as Asia's best



Islamic Republic of Iran remain the best Asian team in the latest FIFA Rankings released on Monday.

Despite dropping nine spots to 34th, Team Melli - who have qualified for the FIFA World Cup Russia 2018, maintain their position as Asia's top team.

After securing a narrow win against Syria in the FIFA World Cup Continental Play-off, Australia climbed seven positions to 43rd to overtake

Japan (44th) for second place.

China PR continue to rise up in the rankings, moving five spots to 57th, while Korea Republic and Saudi Arabia are at 62nd and 63rd respectively.

United Arab Emirates remained unchanged at eighth place, ranking 72nd, with Uzbekistan (76th), Syria (77th) and Iraq (80th) to complete Asia's top 10.

(Source: the-afc)

Froome faces Dumoulin duel in 2018 Tour route full of surprises

PARIS (Reuters) — Tom Dumoulin should be Chris Froome's main rival as the Briton targets a record-equaling fifth title in the 2018 Tour de France, the route for which was unveiled on Tuesday.

Dutchman Dumoulin won the Giro d'Italia this year before Froome claimed a fourth Tour triumph, both relying mainly on their time-trialling qualities.

Next year's Tour will feature a 35km team time trial in Cholet and could be decided in a hilly 31km individual effort against the clock on the penultimate day in the Basque country.

"A contest between Chris Froome and Tom Dumoulin, two riders with similar qualities, wouldn't displease me," Tour director Christian Prudhomme said. "It would force one of the two to try something different in order to surprise the other."

"We're looking at a new generation that wants to entertain. I think that if Christopher Froome is up against Tom Dumoulin they will want to do that. They will be more or less equal in the time trials. That's something very exciting."

There will be many challenges on the course, however, with 21.7 kilometers on cobbles on the ninth stage to Roubaix, where the Queen of the Classics, also known as the "Hell of the North" finishes each year.

That will be followed by a rest day before the riders tackle three punishing stages in the Alps with a summit finish at top of the iconic Alpe d'Huez.

"That's a special challenge for the riders as they will need to switch from flat-stage mode to mountain-stage mode," Tour competitions director Thierry Gouvenou told Reuters.

The course is full of surprises, with a 1.9-km gravel

path at the top of the Plateau des Glières in the first Alpine stage, which will take the peloton from Annecy to Le Grand Bornand.

"It's going to be a nervous race," Froome said.

"The Alpe d'Huez stage will be the Queen stage. It's going to be a very big challenge. I don't know if it's a Tour that suits me, I just know I'll have to adapt."

One of the trickiest stages might be the 17th from Bagneres de Luchon to Saint-Lary Soulan as it is only 65 kilometers long, making it very hard to control for the favorites. It will be the Tour's shortest stage since 1971.

The race is likely to be decided in the 20th stage, a 31-km hilly individual time trial.

Dumoulin is the reigning time trial world champion, both individually and with his Sunweb team, but Team Sky's Froome has experience on his side.

Jose Mourinho: I may tell truth about 2008 Barcelona link one day

Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho has said he will "one day tell the truth" about his potential move to Barcelona that fell through in 2008.

In 2013, former Barcelona president Joan Laporta revealed that Mourinho had wanted to coach the club after leaving Chelsea.

He emerged as a possible replacement for Frank Rijkaard but instead joined Inter Milan after Barca decided Pep Guardiola was better suited to the job.

And speaking to Telefoot, he said: "Maybe one day I'll be able to reveal the truth. No, no [not today]."

"These are things in my career which I prefer to keep to myself. Maybe I will reveal them one day, when I will be old, old, old. Maybe."

In 2013, Laporta said Mourinho "wanted to come to Barcelona, but it wasn't possible because we had decided to sign Guardiola as coach."

Mourinho had worked at the Camp Nou from 1996 to 2000 as part of the staff under Bobby Robson and then Louis van Gaal.

While Mourinho remained coy



about Barcelona, he opened up about his departure from Real Madrid in 2013 after three years at the club.

"It was my decision. My decision," he said. "My daughter was going to study in London and at that moment, we thought it was very important to have the family united."

"For me it's very important to be happy. My best results in football came when I was happy. At that moment -- in my third year at Madrid -- I wasn't happy."

(Source: ESPN)

La Liga rights holders want Barcelona to stay regardless of Catalan vote

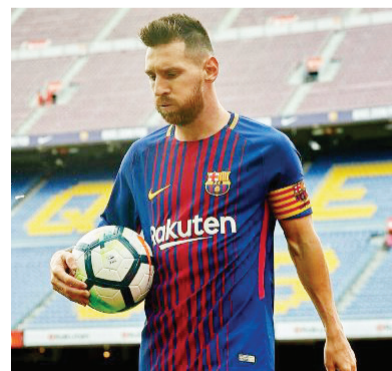
Barcelona's place in La Liga should not be affected by any moves toward Catalan independence, according to Jaume Roures of Mediapro, current international rights holders for the Spanish league.

With recent events having seriously focused minds on the possibility of Catalonia breaking away from Spain, the issue of where Catalan teams, including Barca's fellow Primera Division peers Espanyol and Girona, would then play their football has been hotly debated.

La Liga president Javier Tebas has said that these clubs would no longer be able to play in the Spanish league should a new independent Catalan state be established.

However Catalonia-based Roures told the World Football Summit in Madrid on Monday that the "love-hate relationship" between Barca and Real Madrid was one of the major driving forces that sold Spanish football around the world.

"This is an issue for the government to resolve," Roures said. "But like [Zinedine] Zidane I cannot conceive of the possibility of a Liga without Barcelona



and Madrid, independently of what happens politically speaking.

"Barca and Madrid have a love-hate relationship. They need each other, they need La Liga and Spanish sports needs [their rivalry]. It would not be the same if there were no Clasicos, with the global repercussion of that game."

Real Madrid coach Zidane said last month that as a football fan he found it difficult to envision a La Liga without the 24 times Primera Division champions Barca.

(Source: ESPN)

Baghini appointed to World Archery's Medical and Sport Sciences Committee

Press TV — The World Archery has appointed a member of the presiding board of the Islamic Republic of Iran Archery Federation to its Medical and Sports Science Committee.

During the 52nd edition of World Archery Congress in Mexico City, Dr. Ahmad Shojaei Baghini was named to the committee.

The committee also includes Martin Bauer from Germany, Canadian Anne Smith, Carlos Hermes from Argentina and Italian physician Fiammetta Scarzella.

Shojaei Baghini is an ophthalmologist. He is currently a member of the presiding board of the Islamic Republic of Iran Archery Federation and the Medical and Sport Sciences Committee of the World Archery Asia (WAA) — formerly known as Asian Archery Federation (AAF).

The appointment comes as the Islamic Republic of Iran Archery Federation already has 4 international and 7 Asian judges.



Sharapova loses to Rybarikova in Kremlin Cup return

MOSCOW (Reuters) — Maria Sharapova lost 7-6(3) 6-4 to Slovakia's Magdalena Rybarikova at the Kremlin Cup on Tuesday in her first match in Russia since returning from a doping ban this year.

The five-time grand slam champion looked tired and committed several unforced errors in the first-round match as she was cheered on by a large crowd cheered who chanted "Masha! Masha!" and loudly clapping her every winner.

Sharapova's first appearance at her home WTA event since 2007 came two days after she won her first WTA title in more than two years, the Tianjin Open.

The former world number one, now 57th in the rankings after rising 29 places following her Tianjin victory, returned to the tour in April after serving a 15-month doping ban for testing positive for melonin at the 2016 Australian Open.

She was unranked by the WTA upon her return but received wildcards to many tournaments for which a ranking is usually required to compete, a situation that prompted criticism from her rivals.

Canada's Eugenie Bouchard in April called Sharapova a "cheater" and criticized the WTA for sending the wrong message by welcoming her back.

In Russia, Sharapova has been portrayed as a victim of what officials have said is the unfair targeting of the country by international sports bodies that regulate anti-doping.

Russia's athletics federation, Paralympic Committee and anti-doping agency have been suspended over WADA-commissioned reports that found evidence of state-sponsored doping.

Craig Shakespeare sacked by Leicester City

Premier League side Leicester City have sacked manager Craig Shakespeare.

The Foxes have only won one in eight matches so far this season and are currently 18th in the table. They have decided to part company with Shakespeare after their slow start to the season. It is the second managerial casualty this season after Crystal Palace sacked Frank de Boer after just four games.

Shakespeare, 53, took over Leicester half way through last season after Claudio Ranieri was harshly sacked. The Foxes were struggling in the season after they won the title and Shakespeare came in and steadied the ship by keeping them in the league rather comfortably. He joined Leicester in 2008 as the assistant to Nigel Pearson. He left to join Pearson at Hull City in 2010 but returned to Leicester in 2011. Taking over Leicester last season was his first managerial job.

Shakespeare was in charge of the Foxes for 26 games, winning 11 and drawing 6. Last night's draw to West Brom was the final straw for the owners. It is a harsh decision to sack Shakespeare but being a football manager is like living on a volcano in modern football. Teams want immediate success and it is obvious that the Leicester board were not willing to give him more time.

It will be interesting to see who gets the job at Leicester now. It is likely that people like Eddie Howe and Sean Dyche will be linked. However, it would not be surprising if they opt for a foreign name this time, potentially Roberto Mancini. One thing that is for sure is that they will have a tough job on their hands. There is a lot of expectation that comes with managing Leicester, especially after their title win, but you feel they need a reality check and need to keep their feet firmly on the ground.

(Source: Daily Mail)



INTERNATIONAL DAILY
www.tehrantimes.com

Managing Director: Ali Asgari
Editor-in-Chief: Mohammad Ghaderi

Editorial Dept.: Fax: (+98 21) 88808214 — 88808895
editor@tehrantimes.com
Switchboard Operator: Tel: (+98 21) 43051000
Advertisements Dept.: Telefax: (+98 21) 43051450
Public Relations Office: Tel: (+98 21) 88805807
Subscription & Distribution Dept.: Tel: (+98 21) 43051603
www.eshterak.ir Distributor: Padideh Novin Co.
Tel: 88911433
Webmaster: webmaster@tehrantimes.com
Printed at: Rooztab - ISSN: 1017-94

No. 18, Bimeh Alley, Nejatollahi St., Tehran, Iran
P.o. Box: 14155-4843
Zip Code: 1599814713



Damonfar to select works for Winsor & Newton Student Painting Competition

A R T TEHRAN — The Damonfar Visual Arts Festival will choose works by Iranian students aged 16 or above to compete in the Winsor & Newton Student Painting Competition.



A poster for the Winsor & Newton Student Painting Competition

"The competition will be held in two national and international levels on the theme of self-portrait," Damonfar president Seifollah Puya-Rad said in a press release on Tuesday. Interested applicants have been asked to submit a copy of their works created with Winsor & Newton (W&N) products before November 6.

The top work will be selected by a jury panel of three members whose names will later be announced.

A text containing the resume and the wishes and dreams of the artist is also required to be attached to the painting.

The Iranian top winner will win \$500 worth of W&N products.

All the top winners from different countries will be competing in the final competition in London.

The final winner will have a three-day trip to England along with a companion and will pay a visit to the Winsor & Newton Headquarters in London.

"Icky" crowned best at Italian film festival

A R T TEHRAN — Iranian director Parastu Kardgar's animated movie "Icky" has been selected as the best animation at the 16th edition of the Festival Internazionale del Cinema d'Arte.

The film is about a kid, who lives in a world of people with a Rubik's cube head and is different from the others.



A scene from Parastu Kardgar's animated movie "Icky"

Iranian short film "The Noise" by Puya Razi also went on screen during the festival, which was held in Milan, Italy from October 11 to 14.

NEWS IN BRIEF



Nepalese festival to screen "Overruled"

A R T TEHRAN — Iranian documentary "Overruled" co-directed by Farnaz and Mohammadreza Jurabchian will go on screen at the 11th Film South Asia (FSA) in Kathmandu, Nepal in November.

The film is about the lives of some young Afghan refugees in Iran. They work as ball boys in tennis clubs in Tehran, so they have learned how to play tennis. But the problem is they are not accepted in this society in any way and will always remain as outsiders.

The festival that spotlights documentaries from South Asian filmmakers will be held from November 2 to 5.

"Isolation" to compete at Camerimage

A R T TEHRAN — "Isolation" by Iranian director Morteza-Ali Abbas-Mirzai will compete at the Camerimage International Film Festival in Poland, the organizers have announced.

Camerimage, the greatest and most widely recognized festival dedicated to the art of cinematography, will be running from November 12 to 19, 2017.

Mehdi Ilbeigi is the cinematographer of the film, which will be screened in the Cinematographers' Debuts Competition along with seven more films coming from different countries including the U.S., UK, Poland, Germany and Ukraine.

"Isolation" is about Parviz who leaves prison for three days to hold a funeral for his wife, who died tragically in a car accident. He also wants to learn whether his wife has committed suicide.

Earlier in 2015, the organizers of the Camerimage honored Iranian filmmaker Majid Majidi and Italian cinematographer Vittorio Storaro with the Outstanding Cinematic Duo Award.

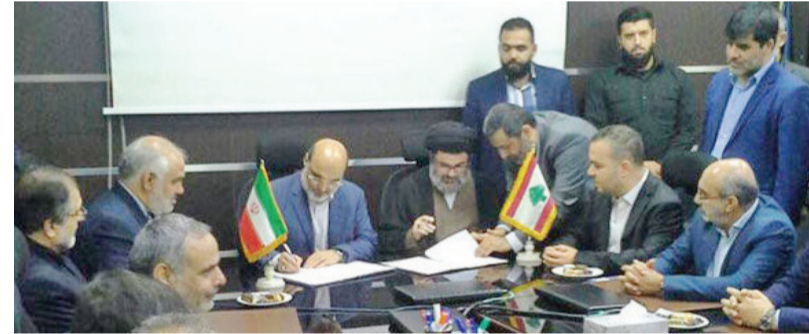
The two cineastes received the award for their collaboration on "Muhammad (S), the Messenger of God", an epic about the childhood of the Prophet of Islam (S).

In addition, Iranian cinematographer Mahmud Kalari won the Silver Frog from the Camerimage for the Oscar-winning film "A Separation" by Asghar Farhadi.



A scene from "Isolation" by Morteza-Ali Abbas-Mirzai

IRIB, Hezbollah sign MOU



IRIB director Abdol-Ali Ali-Asgari and Hezbollah senior leader Hashim Safi al-Din sign a memorandum of understanding at Hezbollah's Al-Manar television station in Beirut.

A R T TEHRAN — Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) and Hezbollah have signed a memorandum of understanding, IRIB announced on Monday.

The MOU was inked by IRIB director Abdol-Ali Ali-Asgari and Hezbollah Executive Council director Hashim Safi al-Din, who is also a senior leader of the party, at Hezbollah's Al-Manar television station in Beirut.

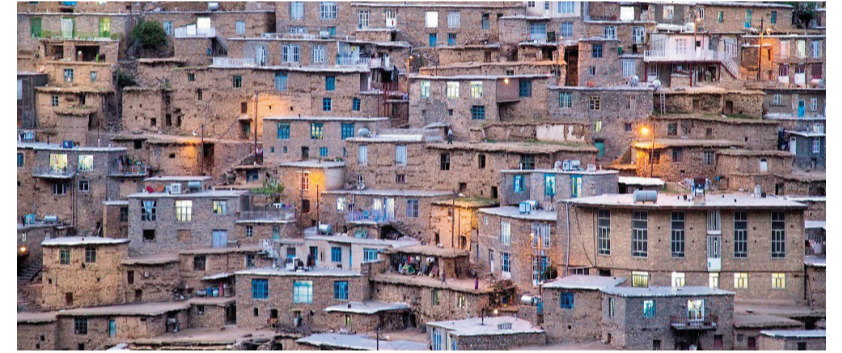
Based on the MOU, IRIB and

Hezbollah will exploit all their potentials to strengthen "the media front" of the Axis of Resistance.

Al Manar director Ibrahim Farhat, who also attended the meeting, said, "The Axis of Resistance has won a very important victory, which should receive in-depth coverage from our media."

Earlier last Friday, Ali-Asgari visited a number of Syrian cultural officials and a group of the cineastes of the country in Damascus.

Romanian contest honors Iranian photographer



"The Guest Night" by Iranian photographer Saeid Sabetqadam-Moqaddam won a gold medal at the 17th Ars Fotografica in Romania.

A R T TEHRAN — Iranian photographer Saeid Sabetqadam-Moqaddam has won a gold medal at the 17th Ars Fotografica 2017 in Romania.

He received the Art Photographers Association of Romania (AAFR) Gold Medal of the photography salon in Arad for his single photo "The Guest Night", the organizers announced last week.

"Bridge of Dreams" by

Catherine Bushe from Ireland and "Blue Lullaby" by Hengki Lee from Indonesia received the Silver Medal and Bronze Medal respectively.

Iranian photographers Mehdi Es'haqi-Qalibaf and Arash Mahdavi received honorable mentions.

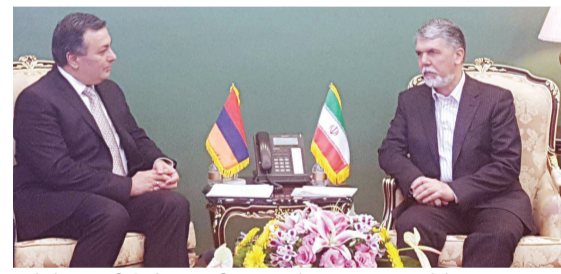
The contest was organized by Arad's Photo Club in collaboration with the Federation Internationale de l'Art Photographique (FIAP).

Iranian, Armenian culture ministers meet in Tehran

A R T TEHRAN — Iran's Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Seyyed Abbas Salehi and Armenia's Minister of Culture Armen Amirian met in Tehran on Tuesday to discuss the expansion of art and cultural relations.

Salehi pointed to the high potential of Iranian artists in different arena including cinema, music and theater, and stressed that art and cultural collaboration can lead to increased cooperation between the two countries, the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance announced.

Amirian also called the meeting a good opportunity to deepen cultural and media relations.



Minister of Culture of Armenia Armen Amirian (L) meets Iran's Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Seyyed Abbas Salehi in Tehran on October 17, 2017.

He said that the Armenian film weeks held in Iran several times have had respectable impacts in his country and expressed his hope that such events would continue to evolve.

He also said that he has watched several Iranian films and have enjoyed the films, calling Iranian filmmakers very professional.

The minister said that Armenian cineastes can also make use of the potentials through exchanging experiences and making joint productions with Iran.

He also proposed that Iranian and Armenian orchestras give joint performances in the two countries in the future.

Colony Capital injects cash, in talks to buy Weinstein Co

NEW YORK (Reuters) — The Weinstein Company has entered talks to sell the bulk of its assets to private equity firm Colony Capital, the companies said on Monday, as the film production company looks for stability after firing co-founder Harvey Weinstein.

Co-Chairman Bob Weinstein, Harvey's brother and fellow co-founder, on Friday had denied the firm was seeking to sell or shut down following Harvey Weinstein's dismissal after a number of women went public to accuse him of sexually harassing or assaulting them over the past three decades.

Colony Capital, which has about \$20 billion in assets under management, will provide an immediate capital infusion into The Weinstein Co and is in talks to buy all or a significant portion of its assets, the companies said in a statement.

The Weinstein Co confirmed its board met on Tuesday. No further details of the meeting were available. The board has shrunk to only three people following the resignation and departure of five others in the wake of the accusations against Weinstein, trade publication Deadline reported over the weekend.

Weinstein has denied having non-consensual sex with anyone.

One of Hollywood's most influential forces since launching in October 2005, The Weinstein Co produces and distributes films, including such hits as "The King's Speech", "Silver Linings Playbook" and others. Its TWC Television arm produces the long-running reality series "Project Runway." It does not operate a film studio, and as such has few physical assets.

If the deal goes through, it will be familiar territory for Thomas Barrack, the founder and executive chairman of Colony Capital and a friend of Donald Trump who chaired the U.S. president's inaugural committee.

Colony Capital and the Qatar Investment Authority, the sovereign wealth fund of Qatar, in 2010 bought the Miramax studio, the original studio founded by the Weinstein brothers, in 1979. The two brothers sold Miramax to Walt Disney Co (DIS.N) in 1993. Last year, Colony and Qatar Investment sold Miramax to Qatar-based BeIN Media Group.

Like Miramax, the value of The Weinstein Co likely lies in its library of movie hits, which are in demand by traditional TV networks and online streaming services.

As Hollywood struggles with sexism, female-led story ends London filmfest

LONDON (Reuters) — The London Film Festival closed on Sunday with a violent and profanity-laden dark comedy featuring Frances McDormand, as a small-town mother seeking justice for her murdered daughter, tipped for an Oscar nod.

At the end of a movie fortnight overshadowed by a cascade of allegations against Hollywood mogul Harvey Weinstein, writer-director Martin McDonagh said he was happy to close the festival with "Three Billboards Outside Ebbing", calling it "a proper cool film" with a woman at its heart.

"I mostly wanted to write a really strong female lead for a film so I came up with this idea of a very angry mother who goes to war with her local police department," McDonagh told Reuters on the red carpet in London's Leicester Square.

"Once I thought that Frances would be the perfect person for it, it wrote itself almost."

McDormand shot to global fame in " Fargo", another small-town black comedy, as a North Dakota police chief, a role that won her the Best Actress Oscar in 1997.

In "Three Billboards Outside Ebbing", her character decides to confront the police chief, played by

Woody Harrelson, by hiring advertising hoardings to berate him for failing to find the culprit who raped and murdered her daughter.

"McDormand's performance is every bit as commanding as her Oscar-winning work in ' Fargo' 21 years ago," Daily Telegraph critic Robbie Collin said in his five-star review of this "gut-twisting, cinder-black comedy" which won the top prize at the Toronto International Film Festival.

Harrelson, who starred in Martin McDonagh's last movie, "Seven Psychopaths" said of the British-Irish filmmaker best known for "In Bruges": "He's turned into a real master of his craft and I think he has just gotten better each time."

A day after the Academy of Motion Pictures expelled Weinstein over allegations of sexual harassment, some actors were more forthright than others over the scandal.

Clarke Peters, who plays an African-American police chief in the small Missouri town beset by racial tensions in "The Billboards", said Hollywood "should go into a room and reassess their humanity."

Abuse in the film industry was not limited to one individual, Peters said, adding: "We all get accosted in one way or the other."