W W W . T E H R A N T I M E S . C O M INTERNATIONAL DAILY

16 Pages | Price 10,000 Rials | 38th year | No.12956 | Sunday | **OCTOBER 22, 2017** | Mehr 30, 1396 | Safar 2, 1439



Iran to establish new supreme council to oversee macro policies 2



UNESCO tag forecast to draw more foreign tourists to Yazd 10



Iran to face Panama in friendly in Austria:



"Blockage", "After My Death" share best film award at Busan festival

Iran sets \$100b non-oil export target



Helga Schmid: Iran's missiles not related to nuclear deal

The technically detailed nuclear deal is working and there is no reason to change its terms, the EU official says

Helga Schmid, the secretary general of the European External Action Service, has said that the 2015 agreement on the Iranian nuclear program is working and there are no reasons to change its terms and conditions.

The agreement is a very clear, tech-

nically detailed document and it is working, she said during her speech at the 2017 Moscow Nonproliferation Conference on Saturday, according to TASS.

She noted that Iran's missiles are not a subject of discussions on the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, the formal name for the landmark nuclear agreement clinched between Iran, the European Union, Germany, \Rightarrow 2

Afghanistan grieves terror victims

By staff & agencies
At least 15 military

At least 15 military cadets were killed in a suicide bombing in Afghanistan's capital Kabul on Saturday, AFP reported. The explosion took place in PD5 district of Kabul at the entrance gate of the Marshal Fahim National Defense University, according to Tolo News. At least four cadets were in-

jured, authorities said.

The cadets were trainees from the Daud Khan Military Hospital.

Elsewhere, two rockets have struck near the headquarters of the NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) military mission in Afghanistan's capital, Kabul, with no reports of casualties.

Iran has to pursue long term strategy towards U.S.: Adib-Moghaddam

By Javad Heirannia

Professor Arshin Adib-Moghaddam, chair of the Centre for Iranian Studies at the London Middle East Institute, believes "Trump is operating on the basis of a hysterical form of politics, that is irrational and delirious."

Adib-Moghaddam, who specializ-

es in global thought and comparative philosophies, also says "The Trump years will be over, sooner rather than later, and Iran has to pursue a long term strategy towards the United States that is not merely reactive in the moment, but looks beyond current predicaments."

7



The spirit of Ashura

The days of Muharram fill the air of Tehran, and Iran with a special atmosphere. The streets are covered in black flags and banners. Along the sidewalks, on the buses, on the metros, you see masses of people wearing black, honoring the Martyrs of Karbala and expressing their devotion and respect to Imam Hussein.

Throughout the months of Muharram and Safar, and especially the first ten days leading up to Ashura, a palpably forlorn vibe permeates here throughout all of Tehran and surely the rest of Iran. Every night this feeling of sadness and tragedy is signified as the air resonates with the sound of the eulogies and drums emanating all across the city, as people take to the streets to express their love for Imam Hussein (AS), and mourn and commemorate his sacrifices.

In Iran and other Shiite countries and communities the first ten days of the Islamic month of Muharram are marked with a period of mourning, where Shiites commemorate the $heroic, selfless\,uprising\,and\,subsequent$ martyrdom of Imam Hussein, the grandson of the Prophet Mohammad, who rose up against the tyrant kalifate of the time Yazid in seventh-century Karbala. In what is regarded as one of the greatest historic epics of Shiite Muslim history, Imam Hussein and 72 of his willing, loyal followers were all martyred fighting outnumbered against an overwhelming army. For Muslims Ashura and Imam Hussein's martyrdom is a lesson never to yield to a tyrant, and to stand up and resist, regardless of the repercussions.

The mourning ceremonies started as a way for Shiites to remember Imam Hussein and his lessons, which have been commemorated for centuries through mourning ceremonies and even reenactments of historical events leading to *Tasuah* the ninth day of *Muharram* when Imam Hussein turned off all the candles at night and permitted everyone who is not ready for martyrdom to leave in the cover of darkness, →12

Environment chief: 'Painful' decisions needed as Iran faces water shortage

SOCIETY
Isa Kalantari, the new chief of the Environment Protection
Organization, says Iran must take "tough" and "painful" decisions to save the country from the shrinking water resources.

"The county has reached a point in water resources which... must take 'tough decisions'," Kalantari told IRNA in an interview published on Saturday.

Water shortage is Kalantari's chief concern because he believes the future of Iran will be in danger if the water consumption continues with the current speed.

"If we want this land (Iran) to survive, we must speedily lower the use of water," asserted Kalantari

erted Kalantari. "Now the country must take tough decisions. We must decide whether we want to have a country or not. It is a difficult task. In general, ruling the country is a difficult task. You should decide whether you want a country in the future with the name of Iran or not.

"It is like curing a disease for which the physician reaches the conclusion that he must remove a part of the body of the patient. Now we have reached that stage. It means the country must take 'painful and great decisions'. We should know that with the current use of water there is no way to save the country."

Kalantari, who served as agriculture minister in the administrations of Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani and Mohammad Khatami, added, "In line with sustainable development the Environment Protection Organization is duty bound to guard the

rights of future generations."

The top environmental official said it is true that the Energy Ministry is tasked with handling issues related to water in the country but his organization is "tasked to guard the country's environment".

The current approach in water consumption is "unsustainable" and the environment organization must definitely raise public awareness about the impending water crisis, he warned.

On his proposal for saving water resources, he said, "My proposal is that that the consumption of water must be reduced at any cost and the establishment and government must accept its consequences."

Haniyeh Sadat Jafariyeh Tehran Times Journalist Trump turns off

Iran's green light to

U.S. firms

dopting a harsh new approach last week, Trump struck a blow against the 2015 Iran nuclear agreement- known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). In defiance of other world powers, he decided not to certify that Tehran is complying with the deal. The act aroused a chorus of criticisms among affiliated European who unanimously stated commitment to the complete implementation of JCPOA, confirming Iran's compliance to the deal. Iranian officials were also angered by the U.S. president's move warning him of reciprocal measures.

The American President's decision about JCPOA, however, has had minor impact on European's economic attitude towards Iran. No matter what Trump's attitude towards Iran is, Europeans are determined to pave their way to do business with Iran. For instance, French businesses will meet Iranian foreign and finance ministry officials this week to get better acquainted with the possible consequences of Trump's decertification of Iran nuclear deal on doing business with Tehran, Reuters reports.

While Europeans do not seem to step back, it is worth noting that according to US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, the Trump administration isn't seeking to disrupt European business deals with Iran, Wall Street Journal reported.

In addition, as Iranian senior officials have repeatedly announced during the past few days, Iran's gateways are open not only to Europeans but also to U.S. companies who want to benefit the country's lucrative market.

"We never told Americans to stay away from Iran's market and doing business with us. It is the U.S. government who deprives them from doing trade with Iran," Iranian First Vice-President Es'haq Jahangiri announced on Saturday addressing the 21st ceremony on the National Exports Day at the Tehran's Summit Conference Hall. \rightarrow 4

Academics named as energy, science ministers

POLITICS TEHRAN – In a letter on d e s k Saturday, President Hassan Rouhani introduced two candidates, most notable for their academic careers, for post of science and energy ministers to the parliament, IRNA reported on Saturday.

Rouhani nominated Reza Ardakanian as energy minister, after his first pick, Habibollah Bitaraf, failed to receive a vote of confidence.

Rouhani's other ministerial pick is Mansour Gholami, who has been proposed as the new science minister. The president did not introduce any candidate for the post when he introduced his cabinet members to the par-





liament on August 8.

Gholami was born in Hamadan in 1953. He received a BS degree in agriculture from Bu-Ali Sina University in 1976. He also has master's degree in horticaltural sciences from Tarbiat Modares University. He received his

PhD in horticulture and oenology from the University of Adelaide in Australia in 1996. Currently, he is president of Bu-Ali Sina University in Hamadan.

Ardakanian was born in Yazd in 1958. He received a BS in civil engineering from Sharif University of Technology and a master's degree in water engineering. He holds a PhD degree in water resources management from Canada's McMaster University. He is the founding director of the UN University's Institute for Integrated Management of Material Fluxes and of Resources (known as UNUFLORES)



Iran's motorcycle racing held in Tehran

The third edition of the Iran's motorcycle racing was held in Tehran's Azadi Stadium on Friday.

Motorcycle racing (also called moto racing and bike racing) is the motorcycle sport of racing motorcycles.

Major genres include motorcycle road racing and off-road racing, both either on circuits or open courses, and track racing.

Other categories include hill climbs, drag racing and land speed record trials

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS



Iran to establish new supreme council to oversee macro policies

POLITICS TEHRAN — Expediency Council d e s k Secretary Mohsen Rezaee said on Saturday a supreme council will be formed with the aim of overseeing the implementation of Iran's macro policies, Mehr news agency reported.

"The council will have 25 members, including heads of government branches, chief and secretary of the Expediency Council and 20 of its top members," Rezaee said, adding that the aforementioned members of the council will have voting rights.

He also said the country's ministers and top officials of the three branches of government will be in the council as well, but without voting rights.



No international deal to limit countries missile program: commander

POLITICS TEHRAN — The deputy chief of d e s k Iran's armed forces said on Saturday there are no international agreements that set limits on countries' missile power and Iran would accept no such restrictions, either.

The Islamic Republic's defensive power was nonnegotiable, given the military threats against Iran, Press TV quoted Brigadier General Massoud Jazayeri as saying.

Jazayeri also called on European countries to stay away from meddling with Iran's presence in the region, saying their demands for talks on regional issues are "illegal" and "illegitimate".



Iran's top security official condemns Afghan terror acts

POLITICS TEHRAN — Secretary of Iran's d e s k Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) Ali Shamkhani on Saturday condemned twin terrorist attacks on two mosques in Afghanistan, condoling with families of the victims.

In a message to his Afghan counterpart, Shamkhani expressed regrets over financial and intelligence support that terrorist groups receive from some regional

More than 60 people have been killed and dozens more wounded in two separate attacks on mosques in Afghanistan. ISIS has claimed responsibility for one of the attacks.



Zarif leads political, economic delegation to **South Africa**

POLITICS TEHRAN — Foreign Minister d e s k Mohammad Javad Zarif left Tehran for South Africa on Saturday night.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Qassemi said Zarif will visit Pretoria at the invitation of his South African counterpart Maite Nkoana-Mashabane.

The foreign minister is heading a political and economic delegation in his trip, Qassemi said.

He added that Zarif is scheduled to hold talks with South Africa's president, foreign minister and finance



Austria backs full implementation of nuclear deal

POLITICS TEHRAN — The Austrian foreign s k minister on Friday underscored his country's support for the implementation of the Iran nuclear deal, saying the Islamic Republic should enjoy all of the deal's advantages.

All sides should be committed to their obligations under the deal formally called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), Sebastian Kurz said in a phone conversation with Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, Tasnim reported.

Zarif also congratulated Kurz's People's Party (OeVP) victory in the recent election and wished him success in his new post as Austria's chancellor.



U.S. Treasury chief to visit Saudi Arabia, Israel on Iran mission

POLITICS TEHRAN — On Friday the U.S. e s k Department of the Treasury announced Secretary Steven T. Mnuchin's forthcoming trip to the Middle East, which will come in line with Washington's new Iran strategy.

The late-October support mission is a follow-up to President Donald Trump's first foreign trip in May, the Treasury said, underlining countermeasures against Iran's regional influence as the key issue on agenda.

The trip will take Mnuchin to Saudi Arabia, Israel, the United Arab Emirates, and Qatar in a push for an anti-Iranian front in the region.

Iranian diplomat calls nuclear deal best model to settle intl. crises

POLITICS TEHRAN — Iranian e s k Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi said on Saturday that the 2015 nuclear deal is a "remarkable document" and "best model" to settle international crises peacefully.

During his speech at the 2017 Moscow Nonproliferation Conference, he described the nuclear agreement, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, an "achievement".

He also said, "I say clearly that there is no possibility of renegotiating the JCPOA or adding terms to it."

An important characteristic of the JCPOA is creating a balance between "the Non-Proliferation Treaty" and "peaceful use of the nuclear energy", the deputy foreign minister for legal and international affairs noted.

Elsewhere, Araqchi said that the International Atomic Energy Agency has confirmed Iran's compliance to its commitments under the nuclear deal and this is while the U.S. has not been committed to its obligations and has violated the spirit and text of the JCPOA.



the terms number 26, 28 and 29 under the nuclear deal, he added.

and 29], the U.S. is obligated to imple- U.S. officials are bound to observe these

The U.S. has not been committed to ment the JCPOA with good intention and in a constructive atmosphere and avoid any action that deprives Iran of gaining "According to these articles [26, 28 benefits from removal of sanctions. The

they have not acted in this way," Aragchi stated.

Araqchi, a key negotiator in crafting the international agreement, added that all the comments against the JCPOA by U.S. President Donald Trump including his speech at the UN General Assembly were clear a violation of the agreement.

Such violations have created an "ambiguous atmosphere" which makes the other countries doubtful about economic cooperation with Iran, he said.

"Continuation of such destructive atmosphere which will lessen Iran's benefits from the agreement is unacceptable and will have consequences," he said.

According to the JCPOA, Iran agreed to scale down its nuclear activities in exchange for termination of economic and financial sanctions.

Trump on October 13 unveiled a new strategy on confronting Iran, which included "de-certifying" Iran's compliance to the nuclear accord despite repeated confirmations by the IAEA that Iran is living up to its obligations.

U.S. House to vote on new Iran sanctions next week

The U.S. House of Representatives will vote next week on chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, said new sanctions targeting Iran's ballistic missile program which Iran has been insisting is for defensive purposes, GOP leaders said on Friday.

The move is in line with U.S. President Donald Trump's tough stance against the Islamic Republic, without immediately moving to undermine the Iran nuclear deal, also known as the JCPOA.

"It is Congress' responsibility to work with the executive branch on a clear-eyed strategy to stop Iran's reckless behavior," Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, the number two House Republican, and Representative Ed Rovce,

in a joint statement emailed to Reuters.

"Immediate action towards this goal will come from the House next week as we vote on legislation that furthers sanctions on Hezbollah and Iran's missile proliferation," they said.

The new sanctions bill against Tehran targets entities with assets outside the U.S. if they are found to support Iran's ballistic missile program.

It came a week after Trump decided not to certify Iran's compliance to the JCPOA, and threatened that he might eventually exit the accord.

That gave Congress 60 days to decide whether to reimpose economic sanctions against Tehran that were lifted under the deal.

EU member states have urged the U.S. Congress not to snap back nuclear-related sanctions on Tehran and warned of serious consequences for regional peace if the international agreement was not maintained.

However, on Friday, U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson reassured European countries about the fate of the nuclear deal, saying the Trump administration does not intend to disrupt European business deals

Iran nuclear deal not renegotiable: Iran's ambassador to UN

Iran's ambassador to the UN appeared in an interview with NPR on Friday, saying the nuclear deal his country signed cannot be renegotiated, despite President Trump's call for changes.

The following is the full text of the in-

■ Iran says it's keeping its nuclear deal with the U.S. and other powers, and it expects the United States to live up to that deal, too. President Trump this month refused to certify Iran's compliance, although the U.S. also admits Iran is complying. Trump threatened to break the deal if it's not strengthened. We called Iran's ambassador to the United Nations, Gholamali Khoshroo, who says his country will abide by the agreement so long as the United States does.

A: Every word and every letter of that should be observed. Otherwise, Iran will not remain a party to that deal. I mean, it is not renegotiable. Nobody can add something to it or delete something

Well, as you know, Ambassador, Americans - some anyway - would like to add something to this deal. Is Iran open to changes in the agreement?

A: You know, America did its best during the negotiation. It was not America. It was Iran. It was other parties that wanted to add more in this deal. But this deal is



But that is, in fact, the position of the president of the United States, who is saying, I think it's a bad deal. There are other critics of the deal who, for example, would like more access in Iran - access to Iran's military sites. Is that something you A: The referee here is IAEA.

The International Atomic Energy

Agency, right. A: IAEA has reported eight times from

the time that deal was done that Iran has fulfilled all its commitment. Also, the head of IAEA said that we have access to places that we have asked for. No, America is not observing. It's not respecting what a result of the deal - not only preference IAEA is doing and wanted to replace him.

■ You just said that America is not quite following the deal. I guess I should ask that question directly. We've asked on the United States side, is Iran following the deal? American officials acknowledge that Iran is. But the president is still unhappy with the terms of the deal. Do you consider the United States to be following the deal right now?

A: The United States, particularly this administration, is looking after pretexts, threatening the imposing of sanctions. You know, this kind of action is inconsistent to the letter and to the content of the deal.

So you have some objections to U.S. behavior. But you want to resolve them within the deal, rather than backing out of the deal.

A: Yes. We have a lot of objections when they are creating the atmosphere of uncertainty regarding investment foreign investment - trade interaction, economy relations. You know, all these actions that America is doing all con-

One objection to this deal by many Americans is that it only covers nuclear issues. And they have concerns about Iran that go beyond nuclear issues. At the same time, I know that your president, Hassan Rouhani, was re-elected some months ago while promising to get more sanctions - non-nuclear sanctions - lifted on Iran. Is there room for some wider

accommodation between Iran and the United States?

A: The United States has some preferences in the region - that many, many in the world is not happy with that. Even inside America, many are unhappy about what America has done in Iraq, in Syria, in Yemen. It has been so costly, so risky. And why Iran should obey America in the

Why is it that, for some time after the deal, for years now in some cases, Iran has continued to hold a number of Iranian-Americans in Iranian prisons.

A: You know, the judicial system of Iran - they will do their job. In America, also, there are - many Iranians have been indicted by American judicial system. And they are in prison regarding the violation of sanction.

■ Well, that will make people wonder, are you holding Americans in hope that there will be a trade? A: No, the judicial system is separate

from the government. No, there is no relationship between this and that.

One other thing, Ambassador what is the level of communication right now between Iran and the Trump administration - the United States government?

A: To the extent that I know, there is no relationship between Iran and America. On the deal, we had a lot of talks in the past. But no, all have been stopped.

Helga Schmid: Iran's missiles unrelated to nuclear deal

and the five permanent members of the UN state for political affairs who was heavily involved in the Security Council.

She also said President Donald Trump's claims about the JCPOA are related to the inner political situation in the United States and cannot influence implementation of the agreement.

Schmid said that she plans to visit Iran and discuss with counterparts in Tehran the JCPOA and the energy issues. Wendy R. Sherman, a former undersecretary of

nuclear talks with Iran during the Obama administration, also said that about two thirds of the Americans including a number of Republicans support the JCPOA.

She noted that only nuclear issue was discussed during the negotiations.

40 countries who had also participated at the nonproliferation conference supported the 2015 nuclear



EU, South Korea stress Iran deal's significance

The European Union (EU) and South Korea have jointly underscored the importance of the 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and six other countries.

The EU's foreign policy director, Federica Mogherini, and South Korea's Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha stressed the significance of the deal during a meeting in Brussels on Friday.

They "acknowledged its (the agreement's) importance to the international nuclear non-proliferation regime," the EU reported on its official website.

The agreement, officially known as

the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Ac-

tion (JCPOA), terminated nuclear-related sanctions against Iran in return for a number of limits to the Iranian nuclear

The deal was reached between Iran, Russia, China, Germany, the United States, the United Kingdom, and France.

But the administration of U.S. President Donald Trump, who took office a year after the deal began being implemented, has been opposed to the agreement. On October 13, he said he would not be certifying Iranian compliance with the deal under a domestic American law, a move that could potentially impact the deal's standing.

But the rest of the parties to the deal have hailed it as a diplomatic triumph and said it should be sustained. So have the entire 28 members of the EU.

Separately, British Prime Minister The-

resa May repeated London's commitment to the JCPOA.

Speaking at a press conference following an EU leaders' meeting in Brussels on Friday, May said, "We believe that this agreement is important to our common security interests."

French President Emmanuel Macron also spoke after the plenum, noting that the EU would continue to honor the

"We cooperate with the U.S. so they are persuaded considering the necessity of the agreement," he said.

(Source: Press TV)

Afghanistan grieves terror victims

Afghans mourn deadly terrorist attacks on worshipers

1 → Afghan security officials said the attack took place close to Resolute Support headquarters in Shashdarak area of Kabul at around 6 a.m. local time (01:30 am GMT) on Saturday.

Reports said alarms could be heard at the headquarters of the NATO base as well as several foreign embassies in the area.

The incident is the latest in a string of terrorist attacks on civilian and military targets, which have left nearly 200 people dead and scores of others injured over the past days.

Deadly attacks hit mosques in Kabul and

The development followed as at least 72 people, including women and children, have been killed and scores of others injured in two bomb attacks that targeted two Shia mosques in Afghanistan.

The first explosion rocked Imam Zaman mosque in the western district of Dasht-e-Barchi in the Afghan capital, Kabul, on Friday as worshipers had gathered for prayers.

A top security official said security forces at the scene had removed at least 39 bodies, but the exact number of casualties was still unknown.

A man "entered the mosque in Police District 13 of Kabul city ... [and targeted] worshippers," General Mohammad Salim Almas, Kabul crime branch chief, told AFP news agency, describing the attacker as a suicide bomber.

Major-General Alimast Momand, of Afghanistan's interior ministry, told the Associated Press news agency that the suicide bombing at the Imam Zaman Mosque in the city's Dasht-e-Barchi area killed at least 30 people and wounded 45 more.

He said the attacker was on foot and walked into to the mosque where he detonated his explosives.

Najib Danish, an interior ministry spokesman, said "39 people have been killed and 45 injured in the Kabul mosque attack", but the numbers could not be independently confirmed.

The Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Daesh) Takfiri terrorist outfit claimed responsibility for the Kabul attack.

The ISIL said in the statement that a suicide bomber had detonated a vest but did not provide evidence to support its claim.

The second blast targeted a mosque in the central province of Ghor, leaving at least 33 people dead, said Iqbal Nezami, a spokesman for the Ghor provincial police.



The attack apparently targeted a local leader, who was among other worshipers.

The targeted official was a top local political and military leader of the Jamiat political party in Ghor, Balkh provincial governor Atta Mohammad Noor said in a statement.

The statement, however, said the local official was killed along with as many as 30 other worshipers.

Concerns are growing over what appears to be an alarming spread of Shia killings in Afghanistan.

Late last month, a bomber detonated an explosive device outside another Shia mosque in Kabul, killing at least six people. ISIL claimed the attack, which came just ahead of Ashoora mourning rituals.

In August, more than 40 Shia Muslims were killed in Kabul when ISIL terrorists attacked a mosque packed with worshipers.

Criticism has grown over Kabul's failure to take proper measures to better protect its Shia Muslim population against terrorist attacks.

Hazara community targeted

Meantime, an Afghan government official told Reuters news agency that security forces at the scene had removed at least 30 bodies. Reports said the victims were members of the minority Hazara Shia community.

Mohammad Sabir Nassib, head of the local Isteqlal Hospital, said it received the bodies of two people slain in the attack as well as two wounded.

Later on Friday, the Afghan president issued a statement condemning the two mosque attacks.

Ashraf Ghani said the incidents showed that "the terrorists have once again staged bloody attacks, but they will not achieve their evil purposes and sow discord among the Afghans".

Afghanistan's Shia population has been heavily hit this year, with at least 84 people killed and 194 wounded in attacks on Shia mosques and religious ceremonies, according to a United Nations report released last week.

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 a Taliban regime from power, but militancy continues to this day.

Taking advantage of the chaos, the ISIL terrorist outfit has also emerged in eastern Afghanistan.

Spain to suspend Catalonia's leaders, call elections

The Spanish government decided on Saturday to sack the secessionist leadership of Catalonia and force the region into a new election, saying it had to take the unprecedented step to prevent the region pushing ahead with separation.

The plan, which still requires the approval of the upper house Senate, seeks to resolve Spain's worst political crisis in four decades but risks an angry reaction from secession supporters, who plan street protests later in the day.

In outlining the cabinet's decision, Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy said the Catalan economy, which accounts for a fifth of the national economy, was already in worrying shape as a result of the regional's government push for secession.

"We will ask the Senate, with the aim of protecting the general interest of the nation, to authorize the government... to sack the Catalan president and his government," Rajoy told a news conference.

It is the first time since Spain's return to democracy in the late 1970s that the central government has invoked the constitutional right to take control of a region and rule it directly from Madrid.

Direct rule will include full control of the region's police, finances and public media. The powers of the regional parliament will also be curbed.

Rajoy said his intention was to not use those special powers for more than six months and he would call a regional election as soon as the situation was back to "normal."

"Our objective is to restore the law and a normal cohabitation among citizens, which has deteriorated a lot, continue with the economic recovery, which is under threat today in Catalonia, and celebrate elections in a situation of normality," Rajoy said.

The measures must now be approved by Spain's upper house, the Senate, where a vote is scheduled for

Oct. 27. Unsustainable

Rajoy has insisted that Catalan Leader Carles Puigdemont, who



heads the northeastern region's government, has broken the law several times in pushing for secession, including with a referendum on Oct. 1 that the government declared illegal.

"The rulers of Catalonia have respected neither the law on which is based our democracy nor the general interest," the government said in a memorandum obtained by Reuters. "This situation is unsustainable."

The Socialists, the main opposition, said on Friday they would back special measures to impose central rule on the region to thwart the secessionist-minded Catalan government and end a crisis that has unsettled the euro and hurt confidence in the euro zone's fourth-largest economy.

Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy, who wants opposition support to be able to present a united front in the crisis, has called an emergency cabinet meeting on Saturday to pave the way for Madrid establishing central control in the region.

The government would not confirm whether January elections formed a part of the package, with Rajoy saying only that the measures would be announced on Saturday.

However a government spokesman saw regional elections as likely. "The logical end to this process would be new elections established within the law," said government spokesman Inigo Mendez de Vigo at a weekly government press conference.

It will be the first time in Spain's four decades of democracy that Madrid has invoked the constitution to effectively sack a regional government and call new elections.

Head of state King Felipe used a prize giving ceremony in the northwestern region of Asturias to indicate support for the government and affirm the unity of Spain, of which he said "Catalonia is and will remain an essential part."

"Spain needs to face up to an unacceptable secession attempt on its national territory, which it will resolve through its legitimate democratic institutions," said the monarch, a ceremonial figure who sharply criticized Catalan leaders earlier this month.

Rajoy wants as broad a consensus as possible before taking the step, which has raised the prospect of more large-scale protests in Catalonia, where pro-secession groups have been able to bring more than one million people out onto the streets.

Catalan Leader Carles Puigdemont, a former journalist who is spearheading the secession campaign, has refused to renounce independence, citing an overwhelming vote in favor of secession at a referendum on Oct.1.

Regional authorities said around 90 percent voted for independence though only 43 percent of voters participated. Opponents of secession mostly stayed home.

Economic confidence hurt

Spanish courts have ruled the referendum unconstitutional, but Puigdemont says the result is binding and must be obeyed.

The prolonged standoff has caused hundreds of companies to move their headquarters outside Catalonia and prompted the Spanish government to cut its economic growth forecast. The region accounts for a fifth of Spain's economy

In a test of investor appetite for Spanish stocks, housebuilder Aedas (AEDAS.MC) dropped over 6 percent in its debut on the Madrid stock exchange on Friday, although it later regained losses to trade close to its listing price.

The uncertainty surrounding the future of the region has rattled the euro. On Thursday, European Union leaders including Germany's Angela Merkel and France's Emmanuel Macron offered their support for Rajoy at an EU leaders summit in Brussels.

After Rajoy announces the direct control measures on Saturday, Spain's upper house will have to approve them in a session which could take place on Oct. 27, a Senate spokeswoman said.

Actions could range from dismissing the Catalan parliament and government, to a softer approach of removing specific heads of department. Direct rule from Madrid would be temporary while regional elections are held to form a new government.

(Source: Reuters)

Iraqi forces in full control of Kirkuk province

Iraqi forces have claimed control of all of Kirkuk province after intense fighting against Kurdish Peshmerga forces.

The army says it captured the last town, Altun Kupri, near Erbil, with the help of Popular Mobilization Units (PMU/Hashd al-Shaabi) early on Saturday after a three-hour battle.

Peshmerga were sending reinforcements to fight the army and their allied militias on the front line north of Kirkuk, while Iraqi forces were trying to push the Peshmerga further towards Erbil, the Kurdish regional capital.

The fighting continued around Altun Kupri, about 40km northwest of Kirkuk, on the Erbil-Kirkuk road.

Iraq's Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi ordered the army not to enter Erbil's city limits, saying they will protect civilians and their property, while respecting what he called the 2003 perimeters of the disputed area.

The Kurds took up new positions three days after they pulled out of Kirkuk following a dramatic push by the government army.

Last month's referendum on secession was seen as the final straw for the Iraqi government and neighboring countries that oppose the Iraqi semi-autonomous Kurdistan Region's separation.

Abadi said Kurdish hopes for secession were now "a thing of the past".

Since the central government started its operation in the disputed areas, its forces have captured most territory without clashes from the withdrawing Peshmerga.

(Source: agencies)

Syrian army takes town from ISIL in Homs



The Syrian army and allied forces recaptured a town from the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Daesh) terrorist outfit on Saturday in central Homs province, where the extremists have lost vast territory in recent months, state media said.

Syrian troops regained control of al-Qaraytan "after eliminating terrorist Daesh (ISIL) groups that had infiltrated it," state TV said.

Meanwhile, a United States-backed grouping of militants that calls itself the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) says the Syrian city of Raqqah, where ISIL terrorists have recently left, will be part of a system of "federal government" in the country of a system of the sy

The SDF said on Friday that it had "liberated" Raqqah after driving out ISIL terrorists from the city, which was ISIL's former "capital" in Syria; but the terrorist group had largely left the city as part of a deal with the SDF and a U.S.-led coalition, both of which are operating in Syria without the Syrian government's permission

Later, the SDF said the political future of the city and the province of the same name would be determined "within the framework of a decentralized, federal, democratic Syria."

The thinking behind the brazen announcement by the mainly Kurdish group was not clear. Raqqah is territory of Syria, which is governed by a sovereign power, the Damascus government.

The Syrian military has so far not taken on the Kurdish militants. But the SDF has reportedly shelled the positions of government troops on several occasions in recent weeks, and with its refusal to hand over Raqqah to the government, the SDF now risks further provoking the Syrian military, which is also receiving aerial cover from the Russian military.

In ominous wording, the SDF also said that it would "protect the frontiers of the province against all external threats."

Kurdish militants in neighboring Iraq, who had likewise overrun territory in the course of fighting with ISIL there, are now facing Iraqi government operations to drive them

SDF spokesman Talal Silo has said the group would hand over the control of the city to what he called "the Raqqah Civil Council," likely a Kurdish body.

Syrian Minister of National Reconciliation Affairs Ali Haidar reacted by saying that Raqqah's future could only be discussed "as part of the final political structure of the Syrian state."

Meanwhile, the so-called Syrian Observatory for Human Rights (SOHR) has, said that the SDF's purported operations in Raqqah have killed civilians and damaged infrastructure in the city. "When you're killing around 1,200 civilians — nearly half of them women and children — and destroying 80 percent of the city, that's not liberating Raqqah," Rami Abdel Rahman, the head of the SOHR, told Arab News daily.

The SDF is dominated by the Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG/Yekîneyên Parastina Gel) militia.

On Thursday, the YPG held a "victory" parade in Raqqah's central al-Naim Square. During the event, the militants put up a huge poster of Abdullah Ocalan, the jailed Leader of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK/Partiya Karkerên Kurdistanê), which is outlawed in Turkey.

Turkish Prime Minister Binali Yildirim said the raising of the Ocalan banner by the U.S.-backed Kurdish forces was proof that Washington "is not only cooperating with terrorists, but they are endangering the future of Syria."

(Source: agencies)

INTERNATIONAL DAILY **TEHRANTIMES**

BRIEF



Saffron exports up over 16% in 5

ECONOMY TEHRAN — The value of Iran's saffron d e s k exports during the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-August 22) rose 16.22 percent compared to the same period of time in the previous year, IRNA reported.

As reported, some 68.640 tons of saffron worth \$92.623 million was exported to 55 different countries during the mentioned time.

In terms of weight, the country's five-month exports registered a 26.48 percent rise year-on-year.

Trump turns off Iran's green light to U.S. firms

1 -> "We don't have any restrictions for working or negotiating with American companies with the intention of developing the oil and gas resources of Iran. If they want, we are ready to negotiate with them tomorrow," Reuters quoted Iranian Oil Minister Bijan Namdar Zanganeh on Tuesday. He, elsewhere, scrutinized trump as the one who hinders Iranian-American economic relation.

Therefore, while Europeans are in queue to tighten their business bonds with Iran, Trump's aggressive approach towards Iran and its nuclear deal has not been in favor of American companies and has put them in exile, a long distance from Iran's market.

As a matter of fact, as of the implementation of JCPOA, Iran's government has put economic diplomacy on top of its agenda. Iranian Foreign Ministry is on the process of changing its structure to support economic diplomacy. The ministry is adding economic department and deputy to boost Iran's international economic bonds with the world.

The Iranian government has also taken some other major steps rolling out red carpet for foreign companies and investors who will assist Iran on its way to a booming economy. Apart from the political challenges, Iran intends to expand it economic bonds with the globe including Americans.

U.S. may employ 'unconventional' tools to stave off recession

U.S. financial policymakers may have to employ once again unconventional financial tools to prevent another Great Recession, Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen said at the National Economists Club.

"The bottom line is that we must recognize that our unconventional tools might have to be used again," Yellen said

A significantly less severe economic downturn than the Great Recession might be sufficient to drive short-term interest rates back to their effective lower bound, the U.S. central bank leader added.

"The probability that short-term interest rates may need to be reduced to their effective lower bound at some point is uncomfortably high," Yellen said.

The U.S. economy had made great strides and was now operating near maximum employment and inflation was expected to rise, Yellen noted.

The biggest banks, including Morgan Stanley, HSBC and Citigroup have warned recently that the economy is in its pre-bubble stage, as the ongoing rally in the financial markets is not based on solid macroeconomic fundamentals and is purely speculative. (Source: Sputnik)

Sovereign funds' corporate deals halve in third-quarter, **Asians stay active**

The value of corporate deals with sovereign wealth fund (SWF) participation halved in the third quarter as oil-driven funds continued to take a back seat.

Asian funds GIC of Singapore and CIC of China made all the

According to Thomson Reuters data, SWFs participated in deals worth just \$14.1 billion, down from a revised \$28.3 billion April-June, even though the number of deals rose to 38 from 31

The second quarter's total, however, was swollen by China Investment Corp's (CIC) whopping \$13.7 billion acquisition of warehouse firm Logicor, Europe's biggest ever private equity real estate

In a continuation of the previous quarter's trend, CIC and GIC remained the most acquisitive funds, with CIC involved in 14 deals

"The sovereign funds that are active are those that are generating current account trade surpluses," said Michael Power, a strategist at Investec Asset Management.

In contrast, the oil-backed funds have been less acquisitive in recent quarters, reflecting the constraints imposed by persistent

Markus Massi, a senior partner at Boston Consulting Group, said another reason for the dominance of the Asian funds was that they had specialist teams looking for deals.

"The Asians are actively going out and scouting. If you're a private equity company and you want to close a deal, it's easier to go to someone who already has the knowledge and capability

GIC participated in the top three deals, the largest being a \$6.4 billion offer for Danish payments processor Nets by newly-formed company Evergood 5. The deal was backed by a consortium that included GIC, led by private equity firm Hellman & Friedman.

The second largest was the \$1.6 billion acquisition of Hong Kong-based insurer MassMutual Asia by another investor group that included GIC. (Source: Reuters)

Iran sets \$100b non-oil export target

ECONOMY TEHRAN — First Vice- total non-oil exports i.e. there can be seen d e s k President Es'haq Jahangiri announced on Saturday that İran's annual non-oil exports currently stand at \$47 billion and the country is hopeful that the figure will hit \$100 billion per annum in the future, Tasnim news agency reported.

He made the remarks addressing the 21st ceremony on the National Exports Day at the Tehran's Summit Conference Hall.

According to IRNA, Iranian Industry, Mining and Trade Minister Mohammad Shariatmadari also made some remarks during the event. "Despite the available resources and capacities in Iran, in sectors of production, trade and exports, there exists a gap between wishes and what is currently available," he said.

"The value of the top 10 goods exported by Iran stands at \$23.8 billion, which constitute for 55 percent of the country's

no variety in the exported goods, unfortunately," he elaborated.

Addressing the same event, Head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) Mojtaba Khosrotaj named developing exports as Iran's major policy in macroeconomics, which can be done via national determination and redefining the duties of affiliated organizations and firms including

Head of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) Gholam-Hossein Shafeie was also among the ceremony's lecturers. In his opinion, "In comparison with other economic sectors, Iran's exports is more vulnerable to economic, political, and business environment fluctuations and it is vital to pay a specific attention to it both in the short and the



(Right to left) Head of Trade Promotion Organization Mojtaba Khosrotaj, First Vice-President Es'haq Jahangiri, and Industry, Mining and Trade Minister Mohammad

Iran-Turkey trade to hit \$30b soon

ECONOMY TEHRAN — Iranian First Vice-Prese s k ident Es'haq Jahangiri and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan stressed that through the all-out planning underway by the two countries the target of \$30-billion bilateral trade will be achieved soon. Iran-Turkey current trade stands at \$10 Billion.

In a meeting with Erdogan in Ankara on Friday, Jahangiri said Iran and Turkey as two large countries in the region enjoy many capabilities and potentials that should be used to strengthen bilateral relations and emphasized that his country is determined to expand its ties with Turkey in all areas, IRNA reported.

He said paving the way for encouraging the both sides' private sectors to broaden cooperation is a necessity and announced that in this regard, Iran-Turkey

Joint Economic Committee meeting will be held soon. The Iranian official further voiced his country's readi-

ness to meet the energy needs of its neighbor and said: "We are prepared to boost our oil and gas exports to

Erdogan, for his part, stressed Ankara's strong will for expanding ties with Tehran in all fields and said: "Through removing the barriers, we should benefit from each other's capabilities and experiences to boost our

He also said that his country is willing to buy more

The Turkish president further mentioned expanded tourism cooperation between Turkey and Iran a neces-

Iran-South Africa business forum to be held in Pretoria

ECONOMY TEHRAN — An Irane s k South Africa business forum is due to be held at the Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) office in Pretoria on Monday, CNBC Africa reported.

The forum is going to be held on the sidelines of the Iran-South Africa Joint Economic Committee meeting which is to be co-chaired by Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and the Minister of DIRCO, Maite Nkoana-

Minister Zarif is due to visit the country aiming to build on the commitments made during the visit by President Jacob Zuma to Iran in 2016 and reinforcing discussions held by senior officials on July 18, 2017.

A trade delegation will also accompany the Iranian minister in his visit to the country to attend the business forum.

The delegation will consist of business

representatives from the automotive, the South African businesses. Iran is the agriculture, agro-processing, mining, energy, pharmaceuticals, oil and gas.

According to South African Minister of Trade and Industry Rob Davies, the business forum will address among others, trade, investment, economic development and industry related issues.

"The Middle East features as a pivotal trade and investment partner for South Africa and Iran in particular offers vast trade and investment opportunities for

second largest economy in the Middle East region in terms of Gross Domestic Products (GDP) totaling \$438 billion in 2016 and the largest market in terms of population (80 million people)" said

Davies added that the visit also affords South African firms an opportunity to network with key decision-makers from Iran, captivating on prospects and gains presented in both sides.

Trade between Iran, Europe rises 75% in 8 months v/v

ECONOMY TEHRAN — Trade d e s k exchange between Iran and Europe increased 75 percent in the first eight month of 2017 from the same period last year, based on the latest figures released by the European Union's statistics agency Eurostat.

Iran-Europe trade stood at €13.6 billion in the first eight months of this year, while the figure was €7.5 billion in the time span from January to August 2016, the same report confirmed.

ports of Iranian crude oil, following the the same time in the preceding year.

implementation of Iran's nuclear deal with G5+1, has played an important role in pushing the figure up, the report added.

Europeans imported €6.5 billion of goods from Iran in the first eight months of 2017, showing 144 percent growth from €2.66 billion in the same period in 2016.

Their exports to the Islamic country in the first eight months of 2017, registering 37 percent rise, hit €6.66 billion, The upward trend of Europe's im- while the figure stood at €4.84 billion in

Iranian light oil price at \$54.81 in a week

ENERGY TEHRAN — Iran's d e s k light crude oil price fell 50 cents in the week ended on October 13 to settle at \$54.81 per barrel, Shana reported on Saturday.

Meanwhile, the country's heavy crude oil experienced a three-cent rise in the said week to reach \$53.30 per barrel.

In the mentioned week, Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)'s basket price stood at \$54.41 per barrel with three cents increase com-

Oil prices were almost steady at the a \$50-\$60 range.

beginning of the said week as OPEC said there were clear signs the market was rebalancing and as U.S. production remained offline following Hurricane Nate, according to Reuters.

However, the prices slipped on the weekend as U.S. fuel inventories rose and despite efforts by OPEC to cut produc-

With OPEC-led supply cuts supporting prices, but rising U.S. production capping crude, many analysts see markets

UK budget deficit narrows to lowest September level since 2007

Britain's budget deficit has fallen to its of the parliament. lowest level in any September for the last 10 years, as higher than-expected tax receipts handed Philip Hammond a boost ahead of next month's autumn budget.

The 11 percent drop from September last year shows the government's finances putting in a better than expected performance despite recent Brexit turmoil and a sharp slowdown in GDP growth.

Analysts said that if tax and spending plans remain on course for the rest of the financial year, the exchequer will undershoot official predictions for the annual 2017-18 deficit – the gap between government income and expenditure – by around £10bn, pushing it nearer to £48bn than the official forecast of

However, analysts have warned that much of the extra room for spending in the budget – as indicated by the narrower-than-expected deficit - could evaporate should Brexit talks generate more uncertainty, in turn hitting investment and tax receipts.

Another blow is expected once the Office for Budget Responsibility, the government's economic forecaster, makes good on hints it will dramatically revise down its forecasts for productivity growth and tax receipt income for rest

The ratings agency Moody's downgraded the UK's credit status last month after it warned that the debt pile was likely to continue rising while the government coped with the fallout from

Mounting pressure on the chancellor to put more money into the NHS and school budgets while relaxing severe cuts on in-work benefits, could also deny Hammond vital funds for investment and improvements to UK infra-

The Office for National Statistics said the public spending deficit stood at £5.9bn in September, lower than a forecast of £6.5bn in a Reuters poll of economists. September's figures marked the third straight month in which the public finances performed much better than analysts had expected, even as the economy has suffered from uncertainty created by Brexit negotiations.

John Hawksworth, senior economic adviser at the consultancy PwC, said the improvement was largely a spin-off from rising inflation, which raised the price of goods in the shops with the knock-on effect of boosting VAT receipts.

ONS figures show a rise in VAT income was also largely behind improvements in August and July.

(Source: The Guardian)

High noon for the ECB, **Draghi at the QE Corral**

Not for the first time, European Central Bank President Mario Draghi is facing a tricky balancing act.

With the euro zone economic recovery well into its fifth year, the time has come to cut stimulus. Yet, overly ambitious tightening could choke off the very growth Draghi has fostered, threatening to undo years of work.

Draghi also has to find common ground between policy hawks, who argue the ECB has spent its firepower so any further stimulus has negligible effect, and doves, who point to persistently weak inflation as evidence the bank has not met its price-stability mandate.

The compromise is likely to be a cut in bond purchases at Thursday's policy meeting, twinned with a lengthy extension of stimulus and a commitment to keep rates low for many years to come.

Such a move would ensure that easy policy persists while also reducing the ECB's reliance on unconventional tools and potentially paving the way to exit bond purchases.

The problem is that while growth is on its best run in a decade, unemployment remains high, wage growth is barely visible and inflation will probably not rise back to the ECB's target before the end of the decade.

The bond purchases have depressed borrowing costs but the ECB is slowly running out of debt to buy so it either takes a step towards the exit or redraws the rules of the program, a potentially controversial move that may send the wrong signal.

A Reuters poll of economists concluded the ECB Central Bank it will start trimming its monthly asset purchases to 40 billion euros from 60 billion euros in January.

It was mostly split on whether the program would last six or nine more months

Sources close to the ECB's pre-meeting discussions say a nine-month extension seems likely with debate over monthly volumes between 25 and 40 billion euros

But the real issue will be whether to keep the asset buys open ended, making another extension possible, or signal an eventual end of bond purchases, as demanded by hawks, including powerhouse

While this debate is still open, sources speaking to Reuters said it is more likely the bank would maintain the flexibility and even signal a willingness to increase asset buys if the outlook sours

That, says UBS, is crucial: "We view the duration of the extension in net asset purchases as more important than the monthly size in ensuring the ECB's ability to manage the expectations around its future policy."





SEAMASTER AQUA TERRA

Available at:



Why America can't win its revenge war in Afghanistan

For the vast majority of Americans, on Oct. 10 was just another day on the calendar. College football fans streamed into stadiums across the nation to watch their favorite teams, friends met up for a drink or two, and the overworked and strung out among us caught an extra few hours of sleep.

October 7, however, wasn't an ordinary Saturday. Rather, it marked the sixteenth anniversary since the United States began dropping the first bombs on Taliban installations and Al Qaeda bases throughout Afghanistan — a military campaign that President George W. Bush labeled as the opening phase



in a war that would require patience, perseverance and support from the American people. The war objectives back then were straightforward and easy to understand: United States was attacked by nineteen terrorists who turned four commercial airplanes into ballistic missiles, and it was time for some payback. The group that planned and executed the worst terrorist attack in modern history and the Taliban

regime that hosted that group needed to be taught a lesson. Bush said that afternoon that U.S. military action in the months ahead would be "designed to clear the way for sustained, comprehensive and relentless operations to drive them out and bring them to justice."

First stage of grief

Back in October 2001, the country was still mourning and had barely passed the first stage of grief. Those who had no idea whether or not their loved ones made it out of the Twin Towers before they collapsed continued to hope that relatives and friends would wind up at their front doors tomorrow or the next day. You didn't have to be a fully-formed adult to feel the depth of the country's wounds; even as a seventh grader, I could tell that my classmates, their parents and even random guy shopping for food at the supermarket were all on edge. Indeed, the entire country was in a state of fear. While New Yorkers were continuing to search for bodies at Ground Zero, many Americans from coast to coast were almost operating on the assumption that another attack on the scale of 9/11 was in the offing.

As perverse as this may sound today, those first Tomahawk cruise-missile strikes on Taliban compounds and Al Qaeda hideouts was a celebratory affair. The people who bloodied our nose were now getting their faces pounded. The opening three months of Operation Enduring Freedom wasn't so much about freedom per se as it was about punishing the criminals who took the lives of nearly three thousand innocent people, including hundreds of first responders. Those criminals also destroyed one of the New York skyline's legendary landmarks.

And punish them we did. In the weeks before September 11, the Taliban were the rulers of Afghanistan, having steamrolled nearly every militia group and warlord they confronted on their way to Kabul. The Northern Alliance was holed up in the far north of the country, recuperating from the assassination of Ahmad Shah Massoud, the legendary anti-Taliban commander. Osama bin Laden was the father of terrorism, leading a terrorist network that churned out thousands of recruits.

Dire predicament

In the weeks and months after 9/11, the Taliban was a spent force. Its commanders were dead or in hiding, and its ragged, tired and dirty fighters were without supplies and retreating from the very territory they spent years fighting to capture. Al Qaeda's training camps were destroyed, U.S. bombers were laying waste to Al Qaeda foot soldiers, and Osama bin Laden himself had been forced to part ways with his family for the safety of the Tora Bora mountains. At one point, as the full weight and power of the U.S. Air Force was unleashing hell on Tora Bora, U.S. special operations commandos heard on the radio frequency Bin Laden's quivering voice as he apologized to his men for getting them into a dire predicament.

Sixteen years later, U.S. troops not only remain in Afghanistan but now they are being reinforced with an additional three thousand soldiers. The rules of engagement have been loosened, with commanders in the field granted more authority to launch more bombs on more target sets.

A third consecutive U.S. president is hoping that perhaps with a little more firepower and a little more time, the United States and its NATO allies can accomplish an objective that has proven elusive for the previous decade and a half. U.S. commanders running the war remain upbeat that the new strategy, combined with a more capable Afghan army, "is the beginning of

Sixteen years later, U.S. troops not only remain in Afghanistan but now they are being reinforced with an additional three thousand soldiers.

the end for the Taliban." We've heard this kind of rhetoric before, of course, but the war has been going on for so long that most Americans have tuned it out.

How did the war in Afghanistan, which started with a noble purpose, transition from the "good war" to the unending war? Military analysts, presidential historians and filmmakers will spend decades trying to figure that out. Some filmmaker will release an award-winning documentary series about America's misadventures in Afghanistan just as Ken Burns and Lynn Novick did with America's misadventure in Vietnam.

The only difference between this version and the Burns project? The documentary on Afghanistan will cycle through a lot more film before the final cut.

(Source: The National Interest)

Trump, chieftain of spite

It must be cold and miserable standing in the shadow of someone greater and smarter, more loved and more admired. It must be infuriating to have risen on the wings of your derision of that person's every decision, and even his very existence, and yet not be able to measure up – in either stratagem or efficacy — when you sit where that person once sat.

This is the existence of Donald Trump in the wake of President Barack Obama. Trump can't hold a candle to Obama, so he's taking a tiki torch to Obama's legacy. Trump can't get his bad ideas through Congress, but he can use the power of the presidency to sabotage or even sink Obama's signature deeds.

In fact, if there is a defining feature of Trump as "president," it is that he is in all ways the anti-Obama — not only on policy but also on matters of propriety and polish. While Obama was erudite, Trump is ignorant. Obama was civil, Trump is churlish. Obama was tactful, Trump is tacky.

There is a thing present in Obama and absent from Trump that no amount of money or power can alter: a sense of elegant intellectualism and taste.

The example Obama set makes the big man with the big mouth look smaller by the day. But I believe that this nonadjustable imbalance is part of what has always fueled Trump's rage against Obama. Trump, who sees character as just another malleable thing that can be marketed and made salable, chafes at the black man who operated above the coarseness of commercial interests and whose character appeared unassailable.

Staunch opponents

America — even many of the people who were staunch opponents of Obama's policies — admired and even adored the sense of honor and decency he brought to the office. Trump, on the other hand, is historically unpopular, and not just in America. As The Pew Research Center



Trump can't get his bad ideas through Congress, but he can use the power of the presidency to sabotage or even sink Obama's signature deeds.

pointed out in June: "Trump and many of his key policies are broadly unpopular around the globe, and ratings for the U.S. have declined steeply in many nations." Trump is reviled around the globe and America's reputation is going down with

All of this feeds Trump's consuming obsession with undoing everything Obama did. It is his personal crusade, but he also carries the flag for the millions of Americans — mostly all Republicans who were reflexively repulsed by Obama and the coalition that elected him.

Trump has done nearly everything in his power to roll back Obama's policies, but none are as tempting a target as the one named after him: Obamacare.

Republicans — including Trump campaigned for years on a lie. They knew it was a lie, but it was an enraging one that excited their base: Obama was destroving America's health care system, but Republicans could undo the damage and replace it with their own, better bill.

First, Obama wasn't destroying America's health care system. To the contrary, he simply sought to make it cover more people. He moved to take American health care in a more humane, modern and civilized direction, to make it more universally accessible, even by the sick and poor who often took its absence as

Repeal-and-replace efforts

Second, the Republicans had no replacement plan that would cost less and cover as many or more people. That could not be done. So, their repeal-andreplace efforts failed. But that also meant

that Trump's promise was proven a lie. Trump has no problem lying, but in the end he wants his lies to look plausible.

Trump makes assertions for which there is no evidence — either knowingly lying, recklessly boasting or wishfully thinking — then seeks support for those statements, support that is often lacking because the statements are baseless.

He violates a basic protocol of human communication: Be sure of it before you say it. His way is to say something wrong, then bend reality to make it appear right. This is why the age of Trump is so maddening and stupefying: He is warping

Two weeks ago, he took more swipes at undermining the ACA.: Asking his administration to find ways to increase competition among insurers (a move many worry will move younger, healthier people out of the marketplace) and stopping the so-called "cost-sharing reduction" (CSR) payments — federal subsidies paid to insurance companies to help finance coverage for low-income Americans (a move many believe will send premiums soaring for those people).

Trump is doing this even though it will likely wreak havoc on countless lives. He is doing this even though a Kaiser Health Tracking Poll released Friday found that most Americans want Trump and Congress to stop trying to repeal the law, and instead work on legislation to stabilize the marketplaces and guarantee health care to Americans.

Furthermore, six in 10 Americans believe Congress should guarantee costsharing reduction payments, as opposed to only a third who view these payments as a "bailout of insurance companies," as Trump has called them. There is no real reason to cut these payments, other than to save face and conceal the farce.

Trump isn't governing with a vision, he's governing out of spite. Obama's effectiveness highlights Trump's ineptitude, and this incenses Trump.

(Source: The NYT)

Why the EU needs to stop arms sales to Saudi Arabia



equipment and supplies amid the ongoing war on Yemen.

But for the arms embargo to succeed, all EU countries also need to follow suit, meaning they should end their industry of death and impose an embargo on all deliveries of military equipment and weapons to Saudi Arabia.

Otherwise, countries like Britain, which has so far sold close to \$5 billion worth of arms to the regime in this year alone, will continue to be heavily implicated in the Saudi war crimes in Yemen.

EU countries including Britain have a duty to stop the flow of weapons to Riyadh-led forces in Yemen. This is particularly important, as Britain, Spain, France, Germany and the United States admit to being involved in giving intelligence and training to the pilots involved in the airstrikes against Yemeni civilian targets - in violation of UN arms embargoes and in direct violation of the EU's own rules on weapons exports that are being used for acts of genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and ter-

Arms embargo

The EU countries cannot ignore calls to end their lethal trade either, as hundreds of thousands of people across the world are calling on the West to bring in an arms embargo on Riyadh, and stop members like Britain and the U.S. making a killing off the Saudi killings in the name of "democracy" and War on Terror.

A new UN report has already lashed out at Saudi Arabia for being involved in breaches of humanitarian law in that war-torn country. The UN Human

TEHRAN (FNA) — Some European Rights Council says it has reliable evi-Union countries have decided to de- dence from humanitarian organizations cline Saudi Arabia's request for military including the head of UNICEE in Yemen that the Saudi-led coalition is involved in horrific actions that breach humanitarian law, including killing children.

> Also according to experts from Physicians for Human Rights, Doctors Without Borders, and the Open Society Foundation, the growing number of indiscriminate bombings in Yemen by the Saudi-led and U.S.-backed coalition is taking a heavy toll on medical personnel serving with humanitarian organizations. These attacks on schools, hospitals, and even wedding parties prevent medical care being provided to those in need - largely under siege.

Indiscriminate weapons

Under international law, it is unlawful for the Saudi-led coalition to use indiscriminate weapons in civilian areas or through illegal blockade to obstruct the delivery of basic and life-saving supplies to civilian areas. It violates the other key principle of the laws of war which is that any attacks must be proportionate.

Before all this gets out of control, the European Union and the UN Security Council should condemn the Saudi-led violations and atrocities in the strongest possible terms. Sending the regime changers more arms and allowing them to continue the illegal war on the poorest nation in the Middle East will only make the situation worse.

The European Union and the UN Security Council have the power to refer the Saudi war crimes to the International Criminal Court in The Hague. They should take responsibility and stop being complicit and content to live with Saudi war crimes.

The battle of Kirkuk as a lesson on 'self-determination'



ish-held city Oct. 16, they revealed the to resist. The KDP even accused the internal divisions among Kurds, and the challenges for many secession movements.

When Woodrow Wilson declared nearly a century ago that any group of people are entitled to "self-determination," he was not very clear on the meaning of "self," or what is the essential identity needed to bind a nation. That is still the case in two of the world's most tension-filled attempts at secession: Kurdistan in Iraq and Catalonia in Spain. After the two regions held contentious votes on independence in the past few weeks, the differences within each region remain almost as large as those with the mother country that opposes a breakup.

The Kurds provide a good example of the need for a people to look beyond a physical or cultural identity in trying to form a new country. As an ethnic minority spread across several Middle East countries, the Kurds have long sought a homeland. They were denied one by the artificial borders drawn for the region by the British and French after World War I and the collapse of the Ottoman Empire.

Long-suffering hope

Yet despite their long-suffering hope, the Kurds still have not resolved their internal divisions over principles of governance, relations with neighboring peoples, or the use of violence. Those differences were on clear display Oct. 16 when Iraqi forces swiftly took back the city of Kirkuk, which the Kurds had controlled since 2014 with the advance of Islamic State (ISIS) terrorist group in Iraq. One Kurdish faction, called the KDP, fought the Iraqi forces while an-

When Iragi forces swept into the Kurd- other, known as the PUK, decided not PLIK of assisting the invas

> It did not help, of course, that the United States and many other countries oppose the Kurdish drive for independence. The defeat of ISIS and support for Iraq's fragile government remain the world's top priorities. And even though Iraqi Kurdistan voted overwhelmingly for independence on Sept. 25, its people have not shown enough unity to earn backing for statehood.

> In Catalonia, the Oct. 1 referendum on independence also exposed divisions over governance and tactics. Only 43 percent of people in Catalonia cast ballots in the vote, hardly a high enough threshold to justify splitting up Spain and sending the European Union into a crisis over micronationalism. In recent days, Barcelona has seen both pro- and anti-secession protests. Polls indicate a preference only for greater autonomy, not a new country.

> To form a new country requires a clear "we," one not derived simply from resentment toward others but based on shared values and common social goals. National identity relies on people to show humility and respect toward one another. When French diplomat Alexis de Tocqueville visited the U.S. a few decades after its independence, he noted that America's greatness lies "in her ability to repair her faults."

> Issues of sovereignty are critical in many places, from Scotland to Cameroon. But so is the need for a people to demonstrate harmonious self-governance before seeking the "self-determination" of independence.

(Source: The CSM)

Developments in N. Iraq likely to weaken Barzani's hold on power: expert

Nader Entessar, a professor of political science, says the recent developments in the Iraqi Kurdistan region may weaken Masoud Barzani's hold on power at least in the near future.

Despite all warnings from regional players, world major powers, and some political Kurdish parties, Barzani, president of the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG), unilaterally ordered independence referendum. The referendum was held on Sept. 25.

Now that Iraqi troops have retaken Kirkuk and Diala which were under the Kurdish Peshmerga forces' control, all Barzani's overt and covert dreams appear shattered.

To shed more light on the future of the Iraqi Kurdish region's unilateral independence referendum and its effect on Barzani's political future, an interview is done with Entessar, chair of the Department of Political Science and Criminal Justice at the University of South Alabama.

Here is the full text of his interview:

Iraqi army retook the control of
Kirkuk which was very important for
Barzani's independence referendum.
How will this affect Barzani's political future and his independence plan from Iraq?
A. Although things are still very fluid in
Kirkuk, the retaking of the city is a major
blow to Barzani's prestige and goals of
the recent independence referendum.
The two main parties in Iraqi Kurdistan,
Barzani's Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP)



and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) have been blaming each other for the astonishing rapid fall of Kirkuk.

Some individuals within the PUK's higher leadership, like Kosrat Rasul Ali, have blamed some member of the late PUK leader Jalal Talabani's family (such as Bafel Talabani and Lahur Talabani) of "betraying" the Kurds in Kirkuk. Masud Barzani in his recent speech has also indirectly blamed some other Kurdish leaders without naming them, for the loss of Kirkuk. Looking beyond the blame-game, what we may witness is the emergence of two fault lines. One may involve the Kirkuk-Sulaimaniyeh line controlled by Irag's central government in

cooperation of certain elements of the PUK. The other line will be drawn along the Erbil-Duhok axis controlled by the KDP. This may weaken Barzani's hold on power, at least in the near future.

Ankara in Kirkuk didn't support Kurds instead supported Iraqi central government, despite its previous good relation with Barzani. Why? A. Recent high-level meetings between the Turkish officials and the Iraqi government may have convinced Ankara that Barzani's position was weakening and that Turkey's interests would be better served by establishing strong relations with Baghdad. Also, Turkey had become alarmed after Barzani ignored Ankara's

wishes not to hold the independence ref-

Germany stopped the training of the Kurdish Peshmerga forces. Why? A. Germany's policy in this regard was in line with the broader EU policies on Iraq and Kurdistan. The EU had opposed holding the independence referendum. Germany, like most of the rest of major EU countries, had come to the conclusion that regional instability may follow the implementation of the referendum

Considering al-Abadi's firm stance toward Erbil, how do you see his political future in Iraq? A. Al-Abadi has strengthened his hold on power and has helped the perception of his leadership abilities among the Iraqi people, even among those segments of the population that in the past had not supported him. However, how Prime Minister al-Abadi handles the ongoing situation in Kirkuk and the surrounding areas will impact his leadership legacy and his support base.

Why didn't the US support Erbil?
A. I don't have a definitive answer to this question. Maybe the US was also fearful of further instability in Iraq and wanted to strengthen al-Abadi's hands. The US military brass also had little interest in further involvement in what could have turned into a quagmire. But, the US policy is not cut and dry in thuis regard and may indeed change in the future.

Iran has to pursue long term strategy towards U.S.: Arshin Adib-Moghaddam

1 → Here is the full text of the interview

Despite many internal and external oppositions, 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? 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: This is what I call "psycho-nationalism" in my new book for the Global Middle East book series with Cambridge. Trump is operating on the basis of a hysterical form of politics, that is irrational and delirious. He is literally in a state of delirium which must be partially due to his sheltered upbringing and lack of intelligence. Hence, he doesn't pursue strategies; his decisions are tactical, short term without long term acumen. Of course, characters like him who are authoritarian in everything they do, are the masters of provocation. But it is noteworthy, as you rightly imply in your question, that no one listens to the Trump administration. In an unprecedented move, even the Conservative government in Britain endorsed the viability and effectiveness of the JCPOA. The UK used to follow the US in most foreign policy projects in West Asia and North Africa, but times have changed, not least because of the obvious weakness of US diplomacy and the diminished standing of the country which is a direct consequence of the incompetency displayed by President Trump and his team. It is a pity, because the United States has great potentials to be a force for good in world politics, but at this moment in history, under the current leadership it is the biggest threat to world peace.

I should add the obvious. There is no hostility be- why I have emphasized in my previous interviews that



tween the people of Iran and the United States. Indeed, there are millions of reasons why they should be united in the form of Iranian-Americans who love their motherland and who are drawn to Iranian culture. In addition, we have seen that there is no god-given reason why both countries have to be eternal enemies as the Obama interlude showed. If Joseph Biden would have been President, our interview would explore questions of peace, maybe even diplomatic relations.

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' word. Do you think Europe will follow suit?

A: I have maintained for years that the EU will stead-fastly support the JCPOA. THE EU as well is post-American in its world view. The US Congress is unreliable, but even if there is a concerted effort to question the JCPOA, there will be no concession by the EU. This is why I have emphasized in my previous interviews that

the EU is Iran's most reliable partner. Of course, it is even more essential than ever right now that Iran keeps its side of the bargain and keeps the communication going with the EU as much as possible. President Macron has announced he wants to visit Iran next year – This is a good step towards peace. Iran should be open to deepen the dialogue with Europe along all themes including democracy and human rights. The biggest threat to Iran's national security – after all – is not the United States, but internal instability which can only breed when there is unnecessary suppression of the people's demand.

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: It is absolutely necessary to keep the communication going, even if it means to use trusted intermediaries such as Oman. The two countries are too important to the stability of the international system to remain in an antagonistic mode for too long. As indicated, it is imperative that Iran gets even closer to the EU, not least to keep the communication with Washington going, and to minimize misperceptions. The Trump years will be over, sooner rather than later, and Iran has to pursue a long term strategy towards the United States that is not merely reactive in the moment, but looks beyond current predicaments. Foreign Minister Zarif understands that. The second, strategy would be to follow a cultural diplomacy. I have set this out as well in previous interviews. There is no reason why Iran should not facilitate people to people contacts in education, the arts, cinema etc. The path towards peace, after all, is always paved by civil societies, and less so by our politicians.

U.S. Congress reluctant to escalate tensions with Iran: professor

By Javad Heirannia

Professor Robert R. Bianchi from University of Chicago Law School says that "Iran's leaders understand that Trump is trying to provoke them into acting against their own interests by renouncing the JCPOA."

"I find it hard to imagine that they would allow him such an easy victory," Bianchi tells Tehran Times. He also says "Congress will be reluctant to escalate tensions with Iran when they see that European leaders reject Trump's aggressiveness and adopt independent policies that promote their national economic interests."

Following is the full text of the interview:

Despite many internal and external objections, 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: Trump wants to pressure the supporters of the JCPOA to do something he knows to be impossible. He wants them to force Iran to accept tighter restrictions in many fields at once, including nuclear research, missile development, and alliance building throughout the Middle East. Trump wants to embarrass and divide the Democratic and European politicians who favor cooperation with Iran. However, he is



also dividing his own supporters. The generals surrounding Trump support a tougher stance against Tehran because they are still nursing grudges from Iraq where their forces sustained heavy losses to Iranian-backed fighters. But American business leaders oppose alienating Tehran because they are eager to share in the benefits of greater trade with Iran, realizing that European and Asian companies are ahead of

them in making lucrative deals.

Reimposing Iran's sanctions by Congress is in fact tantamount to the violation of JCPOA. Then, Trump makes Congress responsible for the scrapping of the very deal. Do you believe Congress will vote to reimpose sanctions on Iran or to renew the nuclear deal waiver on sanctions before?

A: Republicans lack the votes to satisfy Trump's demands. At most, they can adopt

non-binding demands for tighter inspections and rhetorical criticisms of Iranian support for parties in regional conflicts. However, Congress will be reluctant to escalate tensions with Iran when they see that European leaders reject Trump's aggressiveness and adopt independent policies that promote their national economic interests.

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 words. Do you think Europe will follow suit?

A: Macron would like to become a mediator between Trump and the rest of Europe, but he risks undermining his already weak influence in international diplomacy by appearing too friendly to an American president who is widely regarded as unstable and incompetent.

What will be Iran's reaction to a U.S. withdrawal from the deal?

withdrawal from the deal?

A: Iran's leaders underst

A: Iran's leaders understand that Trump is trying to provoke them into acting against their own interests by renouncing the JCPOA. I find it hard to imagine that they would allow him such an easy victory.

Why does Trump want to change JCPOA?

By Saeed Sobhani

Finally, Donald Trump, President of the United States, refused to confirm Iran's commitment to the JCPOA, on the advice of individuals such as the United States representative in the Security Council, Nikki Haley, and urged Congress and his European companions to find a solution to the disadvantages of the nuclear deal.

Subsequently, U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson has said the United States has not intended to change the current version and is seeking a "secondary agreement" in this regard. There are some points that need to be addressed in this regard:

1. Donald Trump, in various lobbies and negotiations with some congressional senators, European Troika and AIPAC lobbyists, has explicitly sought to change some of the provisions of the nuclear deal with Iran. These cases mainly contain:

- The International Atomic Energy Agency could have full access to military sites in Iran, on the pretext of revising Section T of the Annex 1 of the JCPOA.

The expiry date of certain nuclear restrictions on Iran's nuclear program is to be eliminated, and these are subject to permanent constraints. In this regard, it is necessary to revise and change the section called Sunset.

- The issue of Iran's missile power in the form of an addendum will be attached to the nuclear deal or arranged in such a way that Iran's missile power can be limited in parallel with the JCPOA.

2- As we can see, making changes in any of these cases will be the same as changing the nuclear deal and turning it into an agreement that has not been accepted by the Islamic Republic of Iran in the past, present and future. Meanwhile, American and European officials, instead of focusing on the nature and content of the issue, have sought to maintain a framework for the nuclear deal and, at the same time, change its content.

The U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson in his most recent statement has emphasized that one of America's worries is the Sunset clauses in JCPOA, and accordingly there may be a need for a second deal!

The fact is that among the U.S. game with words such as the "secondary agreement", "complementary agreement", and "addendum", our country's foreign diplomacy and foreign policy device, must emphasize one important principle: That any re-negotiation or action over JCPOA is considered our red line.

What is certain is that any action that leads to a change in the content of the JCPOA, should be identified as a real red line by the Iranian diplomacy and foreign policy system.

- The role of the United States Representative in the United Nations, Nikki Haley, has been highlighted in the recent Trump's report against the JCPOA and the announcement of our country's lack of commitment to the nuclear deal. The Politico announced in its recent report that it was Nikki Haley, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, who, in contrast to the prudence of other members of Trump administration, paved the way for disapproval of the JCPOA.

In early July, Trump reluctantly declared Iran's commitment to the nuclear deal.

The fact is that Nikki Haley plans to draw Trump's attention to herself to appoint her in near future as the next U.S. Secretary of State (instead of Tillerson). According to the controversy between Trump and Tillerson about how to face Iran's nuclear deal, she wants to play a major role in violating or changing it.

4. Tom Catton, the 40-year-old Senator of the State of Arkansas is also considered the main opponent of the JCPOA in the Congress. Tom Cotton is in favor of complete abolition of the nuclear deal and the resumption of sanctions against Iran.

Cotton's goal of maneuvering on this issue is not merely the cancellation of JCPOA and walking away from the nuclear deal with Iran. He is thinking of another purpose which is becoming the Director of the

other purpose which is becoming the Director of the CIA. In one of his most recent positions, Cotton told to the opponents of the JCPOA's violation within Trump's administration to resign from their post or to follow the President of the U.S. in this way.

These statem ents by Cotton have raised a lot of controversy in the U.S. media. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and James Mattis, Secretary of Defense, have been the main addressees of Tom Cotton.

Tom Cotton's negative attitude has always been backed up by AIPAC lobbyists and the opponents of the nuclear deal have opened a special account on his lobbies in the Senate.

Interestingly enough, Nikki Haley, the U.S. ambassador to the UN have also stated her agreement with Tom Cotton in confrontation with some of Trump's administration members.

Ultimately, the U.S. President Donald Trump intends to use all the existing legal capabilities in the nuclear deal to change it. He speaks about about adding an amendment to the JCPOA at one time and next, proceeds to reinterpret Section T of Annex 1 of the JCPOA.

At any rate Trump is looking especially at those defined sections to use the so-called "Trigger Mechanism" on them.He wants to use the same mechanism as his last resort in a possible confrontation with the Congress and the European Union.

In recent days, U.S. Congressmen have been busy with a tense rally over the approval of the Tom Cotton- Corker joint plan in opposition to Iran's nuclear

The purpose of the plan is to address what the White House described as "shortcomings of the JCPOA". Anyway, making any changes in the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action would mean the U.S. withdrawal from the nuclear deal with Iran.

Pars Diplomatic Real Estate

Apartment

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

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

Limited Offer in Aghdasieh 165 sq.m, 3 Bdrs., very nice flat with good light and perfect furniture, full fitness equipment, spj

Suitable for Embassy Residents and **Internationals** Ms.Sara 09128103207

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

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

Ms.Diba: 09128103206 Super Luxury Villa in Aqdasieh

3000 sq.m land, 2600 sq.m built up, duplex, 14 Bdrs., parking renovated, pool, gym saloon servant quarter

Suitable for Residency of Ambassadors 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

Villa in Zafaranieh 600 sq.m, 5 Bdrs., fully furn renovated, outdoor pool, \$8000 Suitable for Embassy& Residency 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 3000 sq.m built up unbelievable building, each floor 1500 sq.m, flat, 180 parking Suitable for foreign companies Ms.Diba: 09128103206

Whole building in Jordan each floor 126 sq.m, duplex store open space, full glass, smart AC furn/unfurn, storage, 900 sq.m pkg, suitable for companies to use as Office

Each floor available for Sale & Rent 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-Qeytarieh 170 sq.m, 3 Bdrs., sauna pool, jacuzzi, nice & clean furn, \$2500 Ms.Sara 09128103207

Apt in Velenjak brand-new flat in a garden 85 sq.m, tower, 1 Bdr. fully furn with sauna, pool & jacuzzi, parking & storage \$3000

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

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

Apt in Elahieh 150 sq.m, 3 Bdrs., fully furn diplo matic, occasion, parking \$2000

Ms.Diba: 09128103206

مالكين محترم

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

بهترین مشاوره، برترین سرویس، بالاترین رضایت مالکین محترم املاک مبله و غیرمبله، مسکونی، اداری و تجاری، ویلا و مستغلات شما را جهت اجاره به سفارتخانه ها و شرکت های خارجی نیازمندیم.

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



Iran's Leading International Daily

Advertising Dept: times1979@gmail.com

Advertising Dept: times1979@gmail.com 430 51 450



REAL ESTATE



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

250sq.m, 3bdrs, S/p

S, J, L.balcony, & F.F

Don't Waste Your Time

Visit our website to choose your desired rental Properties www. Delta HOME. ir

The Most Specialized Website for Foreigners

Real Estate

3storey, 10bdrs

S/p, & yard (\$12000)

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



SH.LAVASANI 09123103526 **Tel: 88888007 Fax: 88675936**

www.iraniahome.com Email: info@iraniahome.com مالكين محترم: ويلا و أپارتمان مبله شما را جهت اجاره به سفار تخانه ها نیازمندیم **AP:1 to 4 rs, fom1500\$** Villa:3 to 7 rs, from 5500\$ Building and offices are available



For Rent Apt in Veleniak

220sq.m,2bdrs, one master bedroom, fully furnished, pool, sauna, jacuzzi 4500\$ 091**225**40093



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

> high material Babak (0912-6507011)

Servoorp Workspace Solutions

©+98 21 7598 1700

- Fully furnished office suites
- Prestigious business address
- Coworking spaces
- Trilingual support team · Receptionist to manage





Levels 7, 8 & 9 Park Building, Kaj Abadi ValiAsr Street, Tehran Australia Dubai Doha London Tokyo Hong Kong Singapore Paris

How to gain muscle quickly

Want to supersize your muscles quickly? Personal trainer Scott Laidler says the key is to damage your fibers in new ways, and then respect the amount of time they need to rest, heal and grow.

One of the most frustrating elements of fitness is that it can be very difficult to gain a significant amount of muscle mass. We're not talking about being a bodybuilder here, but 5-10lbs of new muscle would be a welcome addition to the physiques of most gym goers, at least on an aesthetic level.

Thankfully, gaining muscle isn't that difficult, you just need to know how to go about it in the right manner. There are a few basic principles that, when used in conjunction with one another, almost certainly lead to the growth of significant

First it's important to understand the basic physiology of muscle gain. Contrary to popular belief you don't actually get bigger and stronger in the gym. Instead, it's your body's response to the muscle damage you inflict during a workout that leads to muscle growth.

Below I'll outline how to create the right environment for your body to efficiently grow new muscle.

Training

Building new muscle is all about damaging the fibers that you start with. Heavy resistance training is the best way to go about this, so you'll need to incorporate a weightlifting program into your training schedule.

The traditional approach to gaining muscle is to break training down into four of five days. On each day, you focus on a different body parts, performing 16 sets of four different exercises, each to failure (i.e. when you can't possibly do one more repetition).

Known as hypertrophy training, this approach is excellent at breaking your muscles - but you have to remain aware of your body's ability to adapt. Fail to vary the stimulus and you'll soon find that your muscles aren't troubled by the workout. To get around this, I personally rotate my training around the traditional 16 set method, German Volume training,



Hypertrophy specific training and 5x5 training. I dedicate four to eight weeks on each training phrase, which is enough time to hit my goals without my body adapting to the exercises.

Nutrition

The food choices you make will be a very important element of your success in gaining muscle.

Firstly, you'll need to make sure that you have a calorie surplus available to generate new muscle. If you consume only the amount of calories you need to maintain your existing lean muscle mass, you may get stronger but there just won't be enough spare resources to generate new muscle fiber. You can work out the amount of calories you need by first establishing your basal metabolic rate using the following formula:

BMR = 66 + (13.8 x weight in kg) + (5 x)

height in cm) - (6.8 x age in years) To this base rate, you'll need to add the amount of calories you believe you expended during your workout, plus an extra 200-400 calories. This should give vou adequate caloric resources available to create new muscle without the risk of

significant fat gain. Protein intake is also very important. You'll need to keep your overall intake high, and preferably originating from good quality sources (fresh meat, nuts, and whey protein). The recommended protein consumption is 0.7g of protein per pound of bodyweight. This should keep your protein synthesis positive.

Supplementation

Taking supplements can contribute to your efforts to gain muscle, though it is by no means essential. Let's take a brief look at some of the major players:

Whey Protein. Whey offers an efficient method to consume a very high quality source of protein. Whey is just an alternative to food really, but it does prove a cost effective and convenient option when considering your dietary logistics.

• ZMA. People have differing opinions about ZMA. Personally, I find it brings about a marked increase in the quality of my sleep (though crazy dreams are sometimes a side effect). I also feel that it enhances my natural testosterone production. I have more aggression in the

Contrary to popular belief you don't actually get bigger and stronger in the gym. Instead, it's your body's response to the muscle damage you inflict during a workout that leads to muscle growth.

gym and my libido is noticeably raised when supplementing with ZMA.

ZMA may help boost hormone profiles but it is certainly not a steroid or anything of that nature, it's merely a combination of zinc magnesium and vitamin B6. I've also heard plenty of anecdotal evidence that ZMA doesn't do anything noticeable for a lot of people, so it's probably best treated with a healthy dose of skepticism.

• Creatine. Creatine works by increasing the amount of Adenosine Triphosphate (commonly known as ATP) available to an athlete during training. ATP is involved in energy transfer at a cellular level, so it is linked to performance. Water is also drawn into the cells when supplementing with creatine, allowing enhanced nutrient delivery to help muscle growth.

Personally, I steer away from creatine because the cell hydration is quite significant, giving a bit of a watery look, and I prefer to maintain more a more 'dry' physique. There have also been some health warnings regarding creatine: it's not a new product, but equally we haven't really observed safe usage over multiple generations. Proper research prior to usage is always recommended.

Rest

Rest is probably the most underrated and most abused factor in the quest for muscle growth. It's very tempting to adhere to the More Is More attitude to working out. The reality though, is that our real muscle growth takes part while we're at home resting.

Take care not to overwork tired muscles: training the same body parts too frequently can significantly impair your recovery and perhaps even lead to overtraining syndrome.

You must be responsive to your body's cries for rest when you first begin weight training, as this is when you will be at your most vulnerable. The golden rule is never train an aching muscle (with the possible exception of HST training).

Make sure you are doing all you can in each of these areas and you'll set yourself up with the best chance of achieving rapid muscle growth.

(Source: telegraph.co.uk)

The best time to drink green tea

Green tea is an amazing weight loss tea and all the health and weight conscious people are crazy for it. It doesn't taste that good, but it is favorite among weight conscious people out there, including me. After all, to gain something you need to sacrifice on something. Green tea contains a high amount of antioxidants as well as enzymes, amino acids, and phytochemicals like polyphenols. It also has B vitamins, foliate, manganese, potassium, magnesium and caffeine.

How can you be sure if you are getting all the green tea benefits by simply drinking it? You cannot simply just get up and have green tea anytime of the day; if you want to reap all the benefits, you need to be aware of the right ways and time to have a cup of this anti-oxidant rich drink. Read on to know about the best times to drink green tea:

After breakfast

It is always recommended to have something healthy in the morning since our body readily accepts food in the morning as it starves in the night. But, do not take your tea very early in the morning on an empty stomach as the caffeine in it can lead to dehydration. This could stimulate the release of gastric acid which can cause stomach upset or even ulcers. Have a healthy breakfast and follow up with green tea.

Before going to bed

If you are drinking green tea in order to lose weight, the best time to drink it is 2 hours before you hit the bed.



Drinking green tea before bedtime will help you burn fat while you are asleep and it will be just the green tea working and nothing else since you do not eat anything at night. However, if you do not intend to take green tea for weight loss, you may discover that the caffeine

Green tea's detoxing properties works slow and you need to have it little by little to reap all the benefits. If you gulp it down in one go, it won't really detox and simply go out of the body in the form of urine.

content may affect your ability to sleep. In this case, you should avoid taking it just before going to sleep at night.

Half an hour before exercise

Drink green tea at least half an hour before exercise. It has been found that green tea can improve your performance level and help you to last longer. It will help you to lose weight and burn fat!

An hour before or after meals

A lot of people have a habit of drinking green tea after meals. Drinking green tea immediately after meals can inhibit nutrient absorption which is caused by the caffeine and tannins in green tea that act as an obstruction. You may have your green tea 45 mins-1 hour before or after your meals.

Diluted green tea throughout the day

If you want to detox your body using green tea, you need to have little sips of it throughout the day. Green tea's detoxing properties works slow and you need to have it little by little to reap all the benefits. If you gulp it down in one go, it won't really detox and simply go out of the body in the form of urine. Brew a strong cup of green tea and let it cool down. Fill 1 bottle with water and add green tea to it. Sip this water throughout the day. This way you also drink 1 liter of water which is half of what is recommended so you can drink 1 liter of plain water in between.

(Source: theindianspot.com)

What are the dangers of the lemon water diet?

By Matt Berry

The lemon water diet works on the principles of detox. A mixture of water, lemon juice, cayenne pepper and maple syrup are concocted to drink several times a day. Lemon Water Diet. com suggests that you take 60 oz. of this drink per day and only supplement this with water between doses. Some form of laxatives can be used as well. Normally this diet is meant for 10 to 14 days, and proponents claims that results are usually seen within a week. Although this claim sounds good, consult with your doctor about this diet as there are dangers involved.

Dehydration

This diet is commonly used with laxatives, and Harvard Medical School says laxatives can cause dehydration. Although this diet supplements with a lot of water, the loose stools and possible diarrhea that could result have the potential to deplete any incoming source. The University of Maryland Medical Center describes dehydration as a lifethreatening problem if not treated in a



timely manner.

Nausea & vomiting

According to the Mayo Clinic, detox diets such as the lemon water diet can cause nausea. This can lead to vomiting, which would further dehydration. Vomiting also would rid the body of

any nutrition that might have been garnered from this diet that already lacks nutritional value. If nausea or vomiting is experienced during this diet, quit the diet and consult a physician.

Abdominal discomfort

Changing your food habits might

affect your bowels, and the American Heart Association claims that diets like the lemon water diet might lead to abdominal discomfort or gas. This flatulence is not only embarrassing, it could be very painful. If you experience abdominal discomfort while trying this diet, speak with a care provider.

Weight gain

Most detox diets, such as the lemon water diet, wreak havoc on your metabolism. This is why the Harvard Medical School and the American Heart Association both agree that after normal food intake is attempted, the dieter will gain weight. This usually results in more weight than what the dieter had to begin

Metabolic acidosis

A dangerous side effect of detox diets is metabolic acidosis. According to the Harvard Medical School, if someone consistently is on this diet, he can disrupt his acid-base balance. This creates a hazardous rise of acidity in the blood and it can lead to coma or death.

(Source: livestrong.com)

Bad habits that can hurt your brain

You miss out on sleep

You do a few things you know you shouldn't -- we all do. But some of those bad habits can take a toll on your brain. For example, lack of sleep may be a cause of dementia, including Alzheimer's disease. It's best to have regular sleeping hours. If you have trouble with sleep, avoid alcohol, caffeine, and electronics in the evening, and start a soothing bedtime ritual.

You have too much alone time

Humans are wired for social contact. It's not about how many Facebook friends you have -- what matters is a real sense of connection. People who have that with even just a few close friends are happier and more productive. They're also less likely to suffer from brain decline and Alzheimer's. If you feel alone, call some friends or start something new salsa dancing, tennis, bridge -- that involves other people.

You eat too much junk food

Parts of the brain linked to learning, memory, and mental health are smaller in people who have lots of hamburgers, fries, potato chips, and soft drinks in their diet. Berries, whole grains, nuts, and green leafy vegetables, on the other hand, preserve brain function and slow mental decline. So next time you start to reach for a bag of chips, grab a handful of nuts

You blast your headphones

With your earbuds at full volume, you can permanently damage your hearing in only 30 minutes. But it's not just your ears: Hearing loss in older adults is linked to brain problems, such as Alzheimer's and loss of brain tissue. This may be because your brain has to work so hard to understand what's being said around you that it can't store what you've heard into memory. So turn it down -- no louder than 60% of your device's maximum volume -- and try not to listen for more than a couple of hours at a time.

You don't move enough

The longer you go without regular exercise, the more likely you are to have dementia. You're also more likely to get diabetes, heart disease, and high blood pressure -- all of which may be linked to Alzheimer's. You don't have to start running marathons -- a half-hour in the garden or a brisk walk around the neighborhood will work. The important thing is to do it at least 3 days a week.

You still smoke

It can shrink your brain -- and that's not a good thing. It makes your memory worse and makes you twice as likely to get dementia, including Alzheimer's. It also causes heart disease, diabetes, stroke, and high blood pressure.

If you eat too much food -- even the right kind of food -- your brain may not be able to build the strong network of connections that help you think and remember. Overeat for too long and you may get dangerously overweight, which can cause heart disease, diabetes, and high blood pressure -- all linked to brain problems and Alzheimer's.

You stay in the dark too much

If you don't get enough natural light, you may get depressed, and that can slow your brain. Research also shows that sunlight helps keep your brain working well.

(Source: webmd.com)

This is how to eat for your skin type

Though you might not like it...?

Sometimes, even when you've used every cream and ointment you can get your hands on, your skin still refuses

But what if we told you that you can achieve a flawless complexion by changing what you put into your face rather

It has long been known that poor diet and high levels of stress show up on your skin and though we often can't control the things in life that cause us tension, we can control our diets. So here's our guide to what you should eat for your

1. If you have irritated skin...

Sometimes our skin can flare up and look red and blotchy. Avocados are your white knight in this situation and so is mint tea – well known for its anti-inflammatory properties.

2. If you have mature skin...

Give yourself a natural collagen injection by adding more protein to your diet. Foods like avocado, fish, chicken, vegetables and fruit will all help to strengthen your skin and give it a more youthful look. 3. If you have dry skin...

Lots of us suffer with dry skin, particularly during the winter

months. So the key here is to load up on oily fish – fresh tuna, salmon and mackerel are particularly great options here and cooking them in olive oil is even better! 4. If you have oily skin...

The opposite of dry skin, oily skin can make us look greasy. Green vegetables such as spinach, asparagus and broccoli are great for combating that 'sweaty' look and oddly, so is water. Drink lots of it! 5. If you have 'standard' skin...

We know there's no such thing as normal, but skin that isn't particularly oily, spotty, dry or inflamed is usually referred to as normal. In which case you can probably keep doing what you're doing - eat green vegetables and lots of mixed berries to get those anti-oxidants in. Drinking water continually throughout the day will also help you maintain your perfect complexion.

6. If you have wrinkly skin..

You might want to swap overly sugary or salty foods for mixed nuts and seeds to give you a natural sweet-kick. Sweet potatoes are also great - especially when they're sliced, roasted and dunked in mashed up avocado (which is also, incidentally, great for wrinkled skin).

7. If you have spot-prone skin...

If you're prone to getting break outs or suffer with acne then cutting out sugar is really the best way to go (sorry!) and that means foods like alcohol, cakes and chocolate.

(Source: prima.co.uk)

Ecolodge camp to cater for visitors to Maranjab Desert

TOURISM
TEHRAN – A massive ecolodge camp add e s k jacent to Maranjab Desert will be completed by late November to fuel tourism boom in the popular destination that lies in Isfahan province, central Iran.

Isfahan province ranks first in the country in terms of its abundant eco-lodges that add up to over 2,000, ISNA quoted Mohsen Yarmohammadian, a senior provincial tourism official, as saying on Thursday.



An undated photo depicts foreign travelers reveling in Maranjab desert in central Iran

"However, more side-section plans would be devised in order to expand tourism industry and exploit its untapped potentials," the official added.

The government has given special attention to such hospitality services as a means of generating jobs and wealth for the local communities since the incumbent President Hassan Rouhani started his first term in 2013.

Currently, over 500 eco-lodges are dotted across Iran, showing a sharp increase since 2013 when the number stood at 30

An entry to Maranjab desert can be found some 50 km north-east Aran-Bidgol or 61 km from Kashan. The desert and its surroundings embrace a Safavid-era mudbrick caravanserai, a salt lake, an ancient aqueduct, rich scenery as well as a long and enchanting history.

Handicraft exhibit to highlight S. Korea-Iran friendship

HERITAGE TEHRAN — An exhibition of Iranian metal handicrafts and artworks will open in Tehran on Monday in close collaboration with South Korean Embassy to mark enduring relations and friendship between the two nations.

Arranged under the auspices of Iran's Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Organization, the event is projected to mark the 55th anniversary of the two nations at the Niavaran Cultural-Historical Complex, CHTN reported.

Over 60 pieces of etchings, personal ornamentations, figurines, sculptures and other forms of metallic objects will be put on show at the event which will come to an end on

Another collection of Iranian handicrafts is slated to go on display in Seoul in late November based on an agreement between the CHTHO and the South Korean Embassy, said Pouya Mahmoudian who presides over exports department of the organization.

Iran and South Korea have established diplomatic relations since 1962. The resilient, friendly and strategic partnership between the two nations is frequently referred to as "Korea-Iran One Heart One Soul".

Over the past couple of years, dozens of high-quality Iranian handicrafts have been honored with the UNESCO Seal

ROUND THE GLOBE

Gelati Monastery in Georgia

On the lower southern slopes of the mountains of the Northern Caucasus, Gelati Monastery reflects the 'golden age' of medieval Georgia, a period of political strength and economic growth between the reigns of King David IV 'the Builder' (1089-1125) and Queen Tamar (1184-1213).



A view of the UNESCO-listed Gelati Monastery in Georgia

It was David who, in 1106 began building the monastery near his capital Kutaisi on a wooded hill above the river Tskaltsitela. The main church was completed in 1130 in the reign of his son and successor Demetre.

Further churches were added to the monastery throughout the 13th and early 14th centuries. The monastery is richly decorated with mural paintings from the 12th to 17th centuries, as well as a 12th century mosaic in the apse of the main church, depicting the Virgin with Child flanked by archangels.

Its high architectural quality, outstanding decoration, size, and clear spatial quality combine to offer a vivid expression of the artistic idiom of the architecture of the Georgian "Golden Age" and its almost completely intact surroundings allow an understanding of the intended fu-

sion between architecture and landscape.

Gelati was not simply a monastery: it was also a center of science and education, and the Academy established there was one of the most important centers of culture in ancient Georgia.

(Source: UNESCO)

UNESCO tag forecast to draw more foreign tourists to Yazd

TOURISM TEHRAN — The numders visiting Iran's Yazd province is estimated to grow by 20 percent in the current Iranian calendar year (March 2017-March 2018) as the capital city of Yazd was made a UNESCO World Heritage in lune

Over 50,000 foreign tourists arrived in the province, central Iran, during the first half of the current Iranian calendar year, an increase of 11 percent year on year, Mohammadreza Nasiri, a provincial tourism official says.

"A total of 51,820 foreign tourists set foot in Yazd province during the first six months of the current year while majority of the inbound travelers came from France, Germany, Italy, Spain, China and the Netherlands," ISNA quoted Nasiri as saying on Wednesday,

"The province hosted 47,017 foreigners during the same period last year while the number of such holidaymakers added up to 113,500 over the past year," he explained.

Rehabilitation of the hospitality sector, reconstruction of sanitary services along with building more roadside welfare services are atop agenda to make the best



A file photo shows life-size sculptures standing in front of the three-story Amir Chakhmaq Complex in Yazd, central Iran. use of the tourism potentials, the official southern Dasht-e Lut on a flat plain atmospheric alleyways and centur

use of the tourism potentials, the official said, adding "Five 5-star hotels are being constructed in the cities of Ardakan, Meybod and Yazd (the capital of the province)"

The oasis city of Yazd is wedged between the northern Dasht-e Kavir and

southern Dasht-e Lut on a flat plain ringed by mountains. Its historical structure enjoys a very harmonious public-religious architecture that dates from different eras

With its winding lanes, forest of badgirs (wind catchers), mud-brick houses,

atmospheric alleyways and centuries of history, Yazd is a delightful place to stay, referring as a 'don't miss' destination by almost all travel associates in the region. The city has an interesting mix of people as well, some 10 percent of whom follow the ancient religion of Zoroastrianism.

Turkish investors to visit Iran on hotel building plan

TOURISM

d e s k

vestors and tour operators will follow
up on the issue of building ten five-star hotels in Iran
during a visit to the country within the next two months,
Iran's tourism chief says.

"Construction of 10 hotels across Iran by Turkish investors was one of the issues we discussed while Turkish investors and tour operators are set to visit Iran in the next two months," Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Organization Director Ali-Asghar Mounesan told CHTN on Friday.

We can also seize the opportunity to introduce them investment capacities and opportunities in the country, Mounesan added.

Mounesan held talks with several Turkish officials during his last week's travel to Turkey as part of a high-profile delegation, which included first vice-president Es'haq Jahangiri, transport and urban development minister Abbas Akhoundi, and central bank governor Valiollah Seif

In a meeting with Turkish Minister of Culture and Tourism Numan Kurtulmu?, Mounesan urged implementation of previous agreements signed between the



two neighboring countries, many of them have not been implemented yet.

"We are determined to increase the arrival rate of Turkish tourists to the country and we need to get closer to the balance with the help of Turkish side," Mounesan explained.

Last year, a Turkish tourism ministry official announced that the country's investors are allowed to build at least 10 hotels Iranian cities of Tehran, Isfahan, Shiraz, Tabriz and Mashhad under the terms of an agreement signed during a Turkish delegation's visit to Tehran.

Moreover, the two countries agreed organize joint tours for the Asian market that would include visiting cities in southeast Turkey and Iran, based on the agreement

Seeking a balance between inbound and outbound passengers, Mounesan said: "Some two million Iranians are going to Turkey annually, but only 400 thousand Turkish tourists set foot in Iran."

The number of Iranian travelers to Istanbul has followed an upward trend in the recent years, ranking second after Germans when it comes to the distribution of tourists visiting the Turkish city by country.

Iranians account for 7.5 percent of all tourists arrivals to Istanbul, and numerically they may soon surpass that of Germans, who make up for 9.4 percent of the visitors to the city, Daily Sabah reported in August.

Iran ranked seventh in 2013 in the distribution of tourists visiting Istanbul, while the position jumped to second after in 2014, 2015, 2016 and the first six months of 2017. The number of Germans visiting Istanbul in the first six months of this year stood at 403,235, the report added.

Is Iran the world's greatest untapped skiing destination?



Barin Hotel in Shemshak (Credit: Persia Photography

For most skiers and snowboarders the idea of an offpiste paradise normally conjures up thoughts of Alaska's majestic peaks, Verbier's world-famous freeride terrain or Japan's legendary powder fields.

Many, forgivably, would not consider looking to the mountains of Iran.

But hoping to lift the curtain on Iran's off-piste terrain is Snoworks, a UK-based provider of ski courses around the world. The company has announced a new trip to Iran's top resorts for British skiers next March, run in conjunction with tour operator Mountain Heaven

Mountain Heaven MD Nick Williams visited the country in March 2016 and was impressed enough by the terrain, food, friendly people and atmospheric mountain cafés to launch holidays. The Snoworks trip combines four of Iran's main ski resorts: Dizin, Shemshak, Darbandsar and Tochal.

All the resorts have untapped off-piste areas that are accessed by lift, but most skiers and snowboarders have probably never heard of them. Mountain Heaven also offers a holiday to Dizin, Shemshak and Darbandsar which, while not recommended for beginners, is more piste based.

The Alborz mountains, in northern Iran, stretch from the border with Azerbaijan and along the western and southern coast of the Caspian Sea. These holidays visit resorts in the center of the mountain range, north of the Iranian capital of Tehran.

Iran's ski areas reach altitudes that overshadow those of even the highest resorts in the Alps. Val Thorens, Europe's loftiest resort, sits at 2,300m with slopes ascending to just over 3,000m, and the highest mountain in the Alps, Mont Blanc, rockets to 4,810m. In comparison, Mount Damavand in Iran reaches

5,610m – just 285m short of Mount Kilimanjaro – and the resorts in the area all sit comfortably over 2,000m, with the ski areas reaching 3,600m and above.

The predominantly dry air that hits the Alborz mountains from the desert means that the slopes and backcountry terrain are covered in light dry powder, the perfect recipe for off-piste skiing.

"Skiing in Iran offers a true adventure, combining amazing culture and unforgettable skiing experiences," said Phil Smith, director of Snoworks.

"We'll be flying into Tehran with a city stopover before heading high up into the Alborz Mountain Range north of Tehran. Skiing in Iran is little known outside of the country, but there's an immense mountain range, largely untapped."

Designed to entice confident off-piste skiers to try a lesser-known destination, the Snoworks trip isn't for the faint-hearted. It involves ski touring in the Iranian backcountry and off-piste riding in all types of terrain. Snoworks advises that those taking part in the adventure must reach its level five standard, which requires the participants to be confident in tackling black runs in any conditions, as well as moguls, steep slopes and untracked off piste.

With 12 places available on the trip, Snoworks is offering only a select few snow-sports fans the chance to tap into Iran's off-piste secrets. For those who prefer to explore the pistes, Mountain Heaven's eight-day trip is for up to 20 people.

The skiing altitude in Iran may beat its European cousins, but the infrastructure is far less developed – a trait that makes it attractive to the handful of adventurous skiers and snowboarders who have visited.



Holidaymakers revel in Iran's Dizin ski resort



The infrastructure in Iranian resorts leaves a lot to be desired (Credit: Behrouz Mehri/Getty Images)

A two-hour drive north from Tehran, Dizin is the country's biggest resort, sitting at 2,650m. Its slopes reach 3,600m and are supplied by three gondolas and 12 chairs. Shemshak (2,550m), the second-largest resort, has two chairlifts; Darbandsar (2,550m) has just one; and Tochal (1,950m), the smallest of the resorts, has two slow-moving gondolas.

While ski holidays from the UK to Iran are a new innovation, this is not the first time skiing in the country has hit the headlines. The opening of the Barin Hotel in Shemshak took the world by storm in 2016, when it was labelled one of the coolest ski hotels ever built.

Extreme skiing isn't a new phenomenon in the country, either. In 2016, professional skier Fabian Lentsch and his friends took on the dirt spines of Qeshm Island in Iran, making fresh tracks in the middle of the desert.

Snoworks offers a number of different courses, ranging from off-piste coaching to ski instructor qualifications. Courses take place throughout the year in destinations around the world, including France, Austria, Chile, Japan, Norway and Kyrgyzstan.

Snoworks is running its trip from March 10-18 2018, costing £2,545 per person, based on two sharing a room. The price includes transfers, bed & breakfast accommodation provided by Ski Adventure Iran in partnership with Mountain Heaven, evening meals in ski resorts, visa approval service, guiding instruction from Snoworks and entrance fees for any sightseeing in Tehran. The piste-based Mountain Heaven trip is March 3-12 2018 and costs £1,300 per person based on two sharing. Price includes all hotels and breakfasts, half-board accommodation in ski resorts, sightseeing and transfers.

(Source: The Telegraph)

Curiosity rover climbing Vera Rubin Ridge, seeking hydrated Martian minerals

5 years after a heart-throbbing Martian touchdown, Curiosity is climbing Vera Rubin Ridge in search of "aqueous minerals" and "clays" for clues to possible past life while capturing "truly breathtaking" vistas of humongous Mount Sharp – her primary destination – and the stark eroded rim of the Gale Crater landing zone from ever higher elevations, NASA scientists tell Universe Today in a new mission update.

"Curiosity is doing well, over five years into the mission," Michael Meyer, NASA Lead Scientist, Mars Exploration Program, NASA Headquarters told Universe Today in an interview.

A "key finding is the discovery of an extended period of habitability on ancient

The car-sized rover soft landed on Mars inside Gale Crater on August 6, 2012 using the ingenious and never before tried

"sky crane" system. • A Curiosity's arm

A rare glimpse of Curiosity's arm and turret mounted skyward pointing drill is illustrated with our lead mosaic from Sol 1833 of the robot's life on Mars – showing a panoramic view around the alien terrain from her current location in October 2017 while actively at work analyzing soil sam-

"We are at such a height on Mt Sharp to see the rim of Gale Crater and the top of the mountain. Truly breathtaking."

The rover has ascended more than 300 meters in elevation over the past 5



eters years earlier from orbit by NASA's

An aqueous mineral signature

Hematite Ridge) – it is the first aqueous

mineral signature that we have seen from

space, a driver for selecting Gale Crater,"

NASA HQ Mars Lead Scientist Meyer elab-

The Sol 1833 photomosaic illustrates

"And now we have access to it."

"Curiosity is on Vera Rubin Ridge (aka

fleet of Red Planet orbiters.

years of exploration and discovery from the crater floor to the mountain ridge. She is driving to the top of Vera Rubin Ridge at this moment and always on the lookout for research worthy targets of

opportunity. Additionally, the Sol 1833 Vera Rubin Ridge mosaic, stitched by the imaging team of Ken Kremer and Marco Di Lorenzo, shows portions of the trek ahead to the priceless scientific bounty of aqueous mineral signatures detected by spectrom-

Curiosity maneuvering her 7 foot long (2

The rover has ascended more than 300 meters in elevation over the past 5 years of exploration and discovery from the crater floor to the mountain ridge.

meter) robotic arm during a period when she was processing and delivering a sample of the "Ogunquit Beach" for drop off to the inlet of the CheMin instrument earlier in October. The "Ogunquit Beach" sample is dune material that was collected at Bagnold Dune II this past spring.

The sample drop is significant because the drill has not been operational for some

"Ogunquit Beach" sediment materials were successfully delivered to the CheMin and SAM instruments over the following sols and multiple analyses are in progress.

To date three CheMin integrations of "Ogunquit Beach" have been completed. Each one brings the mineralogy into

(Source: Universe Today)

Oceans can rise in sudden bursts, researchers say

The threat of sea-level rise remains one of the greatest global concerns about climate change, and scientists are still improving their predictions of how much — and how quickly — the world's oceans may rise. To help answer those questions about the future, some researchers are looking into the past.

New research has provided one of the most detailed looks yet into the patterns of sea-level rise that occurred during the world's last major warming period, more than 10,000 years ago.

The study, in Nature Communications, suggests that during this time water rose rapidly, in punctuated bursts, rather than gradually over time. It was likely driven by uneven pulses of meltwater from the world's collapsing glaciers.

The researchers suggest these past events could be viewed as a kind of "analog" for the future — a warning of the events that could yet come under future climate change

The same situation

"It's not exactly the same situation," acknowledged André Droxler, a professor of marine geology at Rice University and one of the study's authors, in an interview with E&E News.

Present-day warming is being driven not by natural processes, but by carbon that the Greenland ice sheet is melting,



emissions from large-scale burning of fossil fuels, an unprecedented event in the Earth's history.

But the researchers suggest there may be similarities between the collapse of ice sheets thousands of years ago and the destabilization of the world's ice sheets in the future.

"We still have plenty of ice volume to be melted," Droxler said. "We know the western Antarctic ice sheet is melting. And so I think our study, during this time of well-established global warming, could become a great analog for where we are living and where we will be living

the next few centuries." In order to look back so many thousands of years into the past, the researchers turned to a surprising source of information: fossilized coral reefs, located just off the coast of Texas.

The area is known for its beautiful living reefs, including the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary.

Researchers interested in corals

But the corals that interested the researchers have been dead for more than 10,000 years, drowned and now submerged nearly 200 feet below the surface of the water.

Fossilized corals can contain all kinds of useful scientific information about the ancient world. Sampling their preserved bodies can yield data on past temperatures and ocean chemistry — and because many coral species can only grow at certain depths, typically close to the surface, the location of their remains can tell scientists what the water levels there used to be like.

With this in mind, Droxler and a group of colleagues, including lead study author Pankaj Khanna, a Ph.D. candidate at Rice University, set off on the Schmidt Ocean Institute's research ship, the Falkor, to investigate the site. They used a special sonar system to create high-resolution 3-D maps of the dead reefs on the seafloor — and in the process, they discovered an intriguing

(Source: Scientific American)

Scientists invent incredibly thin metal

Scientists have developed a technique to create ultra-thin metal compounds called oxides. Because this is the same type of structure that powers your smartphone touch screen, finding a cheap and easy way to produce thin oxides could be very valuable indeed. The team has reported the advance in a paper published in Friday's issue of Science.

The technique uses a group of alloys called liquid metals. Of course, all metals can become liquids if heated enough, but these are special — they are liquid at room temperature. Specifically, the team used a liquid metal called galinstan, a mix of gallium — a metal with a super-low melting point that helps keep the entire mixture liquid — tin and indium.

Most metals naturally develop thin layers of oxides on their surfaces from interacting with the oxygen in the air. (The most common example of this process creates rust.) But while rust is usually something to be discouraged, scientists are looking for better techniques to create the oxides that power our smartphone touch screens.

Electrical stimulation



electrical stimulation from your fingers (and that annoyingly ignore the fingertips of non-electronic gloves during

Phone screen manufacturers use narrow strips of oxides to form a grid on either side of the screen. Those It's these oxides that respond to strips are essentially wires that tell the

phone's processor where you tapped your finger

In order to determine whether the technique really worked or was simply a fluke, the research team tried to create oxides of three different metals, each with very different chemical properties: hafnium, aluminum, and

The team mixed each metal with the liquid metal galinstan and then touched the droplet to a surface. That sounds daunting, but in a press release, the scientists say the technique is simple enough for an amateur to use

A thin layer of oxide

When the droplet touches the surface, it leaves behind a thin layer of oxide, like a greasy palmprint on a window pane. In the case of the hafnium oxide, the layer was just 0.6 nm thick — a fraction of the width of a cell in your body. The gadolinium oxide layer was equally thin, while the aluminum oxide sheet was about twice as

Currently, the most common oxide in phone screens is indium tin oxide, nicknamed ITO, but scientists have already been exploring alternatives because many manufacturers find it a pain to work with.

Opening the door to a wider variety of cheaper oxides could be the first step to making that process as easy as swiping a finger across a screen.

(Source: Newsweek)

BMI's Commercial Currency Services Up 155%

The Commercial Currency Services Relations Dept. of the bank reported. presented by the Bank Melli Iran (BMI) grew 155% in the first six months of the current Iranian calendar year in 1396 (from March 21 to Sept. 22), the Public

With due observance to the said

issue, total commercial currency services of the bank in the field of opening Letters of Credit (L/Cs), growth in terms of quantity and

money transfer and currency drafts amount respectively. issued for importing goods in the first half of current year experienced a considerable 88 and 155 percent

In this period, 5,804 counts of currency remittance, valued at \$1.991 billion, has been finalized, the Public Relations Dept. of the bank concluded.

Puppy dog eyes are for the benefit of humans, scientists find

Dogs make puppy dog eyes for the benefit of humans and rarely use the imploring facial expression when on their own, a

It has long been assumed that animal facial expressions are involuntary and dependent on emotional state rather than a way to communicate.

But scientists at the University's Dog Cognition Centre at Portsmouth University have found that dogs mostly use facial expressions when humans are present, as a direct response to Puppy dog eyes, in which the brow is raised to make the

eyes appear wider and sadder, was found to be the most commonly used expression in the study. Researchers do not know whether the dogs are aware they look sadder, or have just learned that widening their eyes elicits sympathy and affection

Dog cognition expert Dr. Juliane Kaminski: "We can now be confident that the production of facial expressions made by dogs are dependent on the attention state of their audience and are not just a result of dogs being excited

"In our study they produced far more expressions when someone was watching, but seeing food treats did not have

"The findings appear to support evidence dogs are sensitive to humans' attention and that expressions are potentially active attempts to communicate, not simple emotional displays."

(Source: The Telegraph)

World's most intense laser is about to get a totally insane upgrade

The laser they call HERCULES (because of course it is) is already currently capable of emitting a terrifying 300 terawatts of power. Clearly in a case of laser envy, a few new parts could see it spit out 1,000 terawatt beams of light, enough to produce next generation particle accelerators that could fit on your dining

HERCULES is getting a little old for lasers, being built back in 2007 when 300 terawatts was something to crow about.



That doesn't mean you shouldn't be impressed. Assuming 1,360 watts of sunlight hit your average square meter, 300 terawatts would be more or less like collecting the light that falls on an area the size of Nebraska. And then some

But what really makes it impressive is that HERCULES focusses all that light to an area that's about a 100th the diameter of a human hair for 30 femtoseconds. Cue the pew-pew noises. HERCULES holds the record for

energy focused on a tiny area, which is 2 x 10²² (20 sextillion) watts per square centimeter.

However, when it comes to raw power, other lasers are now capable of generating around 2 petawatts - or 2 trillion watts of energy for about a picosecond.

To make this kind of flash of light, super lasers like HERCU-LES rely on a technology called pumping. Laser pumps beef up the laser's power by channeling energy from an outside source into some kind of medium. When HERCULES was first constructed, its engineers had to

build its pump lasers from scratch to have any hope of hitting their goal of 300 terawatts.

Now that death-star-type lasers are the coolest thing everybody wants one, so better pump lasers are available on

(Source: sciencealert.com)

Scientists detect gravitational waves from merger of two neutron stars

Scientists from around the world were able to observe, for the first time in history, gravitational waves emanating from the collision of two neutron stars. The first ever detection could open a new chapter in the area of astronomy and space exploration.

Gravitational waves are basically ripples in space-time which are produced whenever massive objects move around each other in the universe. They were first detected by scientists in 2015, however, unlike this latest cosmic event; they were created from the collision of two black holes.

This time, gravitational waves were caught emanating from the merger of binary neutron stars, a powerful event which has never been witnessed before. Neutron stars are very small in size compared to black holes and the waves that emanated from the merger were easier to observe for a longer period of

The collision of the two neutron stars was first detected on Aug. 17 by the Advanced LIGO and Advanced Virgo gravitational-wave detectors. The signal managed to last for about 100 seconds. The Virgo detector in Italy was the first to catch the signal, followed by the LIGO detector in the United States.

As a result of the event, the scientists have managed to observe an ultraviolet light. As soon as the light began to disappear, they tried to observe it using the Swift ultraviolet/optical

"The evidence that these new gravitational waves are from merging neutron stars has been captured, for the first time, by observatories on Earth and in orbit that detect electromagnetic radiation, including visible light and other wavelengths," said Chad Hanna of Penn State's Department of Physics.

(Source: Tech Times)

Book on Iran's wildlife diseases released

ENVIRONMENT TEHRAN — The first book in Persian k language on Iran's wildlife diseases was released.

Written by Iman Memarian, the book provides a field guide to parasitic and infectious diseases and metabolic disorders prevailing in Iran's wildlife, Mehr reported.

The book's unveiling ceremony was held on Friday with



A mother deer with her baby in Chahar-Dangeh region, northern important threat to wildlife

sons in this field.

environmental experts and

Drought and disease are considered as the major threats to wildlife, director general for aquatic wildlife of the Department of Environment, Majid Kharrazian-Moqaddam, said during the ceremony.

Different species of wildlife in Iran have been endangered by diseases during the past decade, he added.

He pointed to livestock infectious diseases as an

Iran (Photo: iew.ir) During the ceremony, Memarian explained about the importance of publishing books, referring to Stephane Ostrowski, ecohealth and conservation adviser at the New York-based Wildlife Conservation Society and Houman Jokar, director for Conservation of Asiatic Cheetah Project (CACP) as influential per-

Sports physician called in to diagnose gorilla's knee injury

The head physician of an American university football team has been called in to treat an injured gorilla after she got into a scuffle with her den-mate.

Jumoke, a 32-year-old female gorilla who was born and raised at Woodland Park Zoo in Seattle, Washington, began to limp after an altercation with a young female gorilla in their sleeping den.

The zoo's director of animal health said they needed to intervene because animal patients can't communicate their pain, so they wanted to call in a team of specialists to conduct a diagnostic examination.

"Who better to call than the head physician of one of the nation's top ranked football programs? We were very fortunate she used her expertise for Jumoke's welfare," said Darin Collins, Woodland Park Zoo's director of animal health.

Jumoke was examined by head physician of the University of Washington's football team Kimberly Harmon, who is used to treating torn ligaments, cartilage damage and other inju-

She was assisted by her team, Albert Gee, a sports orthopaedic surgeon at UW Medicine, and Alex Aguila from the Animal Surgical Clinic of Seattle.

Jumoke was examined at the zoo's veterinary hospital.

She underwent radiographs and was diagnosed with a bone fracture in her lower leg, which already showed signs of healing.

The 275-pound western lowland gorilla will receive antibi-

otics, pain relief and will need lots of rest. She will also undergo physical rehabilitation.

(Source: Sky News)

LEARN ENGLISH

Daily Life - Getting Flowers

A: Hello sir, how may I help you?

B: I would like to buy some flowers, please. Something really

A: I see, may I ask what the occasion is?

B: It's not really an occasion, it's more like I'm sorry.

A: Very well. This arrangement here is very popular among regretful husbands. It has a dozen long stem red roses with a couple of sunflowers and a single orchid that stands out. It includes a small teddy bear to achieve the effect of immediate forgiveness.

B: I think I'm gonna need more than just a dozen red roses and a bear. What else do you recommend?

A: Mmm, well this is our "I'm sorry I cheated on you" package. Two dozen red roses lined with tulips, carnati ons and lilies. The **fragrance** and beauty of this flower arrangement is sure to make her forgive you.

B: I don't think that's gonna cut it. I need something bigger and better!

A: I'm sorry sir but, what exactly did you do?

B: Well, I may have accidentally insinuated that she is getting chubbier.

A: Get out of my store you jerk!

Key Vocabulary

dozen: a word used to describe twelve units

recommend: say something deserves to be chosen fragrance: a scent or smell

chubby: more polite way of calling someone fat Supplementary Vocabulary

vase: a container for holding flowers, usually made of glass

or porcelain bouquet: a bunch of flowers tied together

greenery: the green plants in a bouquet that are not flowers,

such as large leaves centerpiece: a decorative object found at the center of a

table, usually made of flowers to suck up: to flatter someone excessively with words and

gifts, in order to get on their good side

(Source: irlanguage.com)

Iran to boost medical ties with **Uruguay, Brazil**

SOCIETY TEHRAN — Iran d e s k signed agreements with Uruguay and Brazil to boost medical and pharmaceutical cooperation with the two countries, ISNA reported on Saturday.

The agreements were signed on the sidelines of the Global Conference on Non communicable Diseases (NCDs), which was held by the World Health Organization (WHO) in Montevideo from October 18 to 20.

Iran and Uruguay signed on Friday an agreement to boost cooperation in the field of medical pharmaceutical and academic relations.

The agreement was signed by Uruguay's minister of public health Jorge Basso and Iran's vice president of the national

1 → and finally Ashura the tenth day of the month

The ceremonies and rituals typically comprise of

dasteh (mourning processions) which take to the

streets and perform synchronized rituals of sineh-

zani (beating one's chest), or zanjir-zani (flagellating

one's back with a small chain) in harmony with the

chanting of madahan (eulogists) who sing of the

tragedies of Ashura and the sacrifices made by the

and especially Iranians still hold the Muharram

ceremonies with a passion and love that has not

ebbed over the centuries. In the day leading up

to Ashura, every day and every night there are

mourning processions, grassroots events organized

by people for the people. Families, give nazri (charity

food), take their kids to learn about Imam Hussein,

and more. Indeed, these days in Iran, the Days

of Muharram have become a time for unity and

harmony, where families gather together, to mourn

Imam Hussein and also to bolster their family bond,

Today, over 1400 years since that day, Shiites,

of Muharram when the last stand was made.

martvrs

committee for prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases Bager Larijani in Montevideo.

On the sidelines of the conference, Iran and Brazil also signed a protocol for cooperation in the field of medicine and vaccine production.

The agreement was signed by Bager Larijani and Brazil's minister of health Ricardo Barros.

global conference noncommunicable diseases aims to highlight the critical links between reducing premature deaths from NCDs and enhancing policy coherence across areas that impact the governance, prevention, management and surveillance of NCDs.







Uruguay's minister of public health Jorge Basso and Iran's vice president of the national committee for prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases Bager Larijani signed on Friday an agreement to boost cooperation in the field of medical

The spirit of Ashura

which was so important for Him.

In these days, on the streets one sees a greater sense of peace among people, as each of us in Iran tries to improve ourselves, to become more like the men and women of Karbala. People tend to be kinder, more patient, and more generous, and overall become better Muslims and better human beings. The prevailing sentiment is that, if Imam Hussein and his followers endured all that he did, in the immaculate manner in which he did, then surely we can endure the adversities in our lives in the same manner, and with the same reliance on Allah, as Imam Hussein and his followers did.

Moreover, ceremonies and the stories of the tragedies of Karbala evoke a sobering sensation even in the hearts of those who do not participate, instilling within the hearts of even non-Muslims at the very least a profound respect for Imam Hussein. For the story of Karbala is one of a great human's fight for justice, for humanity and for Islam; it is a story about the courage to rise up against tyranny and the unwavering will and belief to never yield to

an evil, no matter the odds.

Indeed, Imam Hussein has inspired many of the modern world's leaders and freedom fighters. As Mahatma Gandhi said, "I learned from Hussain how to be wronged and be a winner, I learnt from Hussain how to attain victory while being oppressed."

Moreover, the venerable human rights activist, Nelson Mandela once said, "I have spent more than 20 years in prison, then on one night I decided to surrender by signing all the terms and conditions of government. But suddenly I thought about Imam Hussain and Karbala movement and Imam Hussain gave me strength to stand for right of freedom and liberation and I did."

As the profound, moving days of Karbala come to an end, Iranians and Shiites around the world strive to maintain their spiritual growth during these days, and to become better people in all facets of their

Imam Khomeini, the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran aptly summarizes this, stating, "Every day is Ashura and every land is Karbala."

A giant insect ecosystem is collapsing due to humans

Thirty-five years ago an American biologist Terry Erwin conducted an experiment to count insect species. Using an insecticide "fog", he managed to extract all the small living things in the canopies of 19 individuals of one species of tropical tree, Luehea seemannii, in the rainforest of Panama. He recorded about 1,200 separate species, nearly all of them coleoptera (beetles) and many new to science; and he estimated that 163 of these would be found on Luehea seemannii only.

He calculated that as there are about 50,000 species of tropical tree, if that figure of 163 was typical for all the other trees, there would be more than eight million species, just of beetles, in the tropical rainforest canopy; and as beetles make up about 40% of all the arthropods, the grouping that contains the insects and the other creepycrawlies from spiders to millipedes, the total number of such species in the canopy might be 20 million; and as he estimated the canopy fauna to be separate from, and twice as rich as, the



Terry Erwin's beetle collection from rainforest canopies in the Amazon, on display in Washington, DC. (Frans Lanting/Alamy)

whole the number of species might be

extraordinary calculations, like Edwin which sometimes stop us in our tracks.

Erwin reported that he was shocked have argued over them ever since. But has ever seen.

forest floor, for the tropical forest as a about insects, his findings make two things indisputably clear. One is that there are many, many more types than Yes, 30 million. It was one of those the million or so hitherto described by science, and probably many more than Hubble's of the true size of the universe, the 10m species sometimes postulated as an uppermost figure; and the second is that this is far and away the most by his conclusions and entomologists successful group of creatures the Earth

They are multitudinous almost beyond our imagining. They thrive in soil, water, and air; they have triumphed for hundreds of millions of years in every continent bar Antarctica, in every habitat but the ocean. And it is their success staggering, unparalleled and seemingly endless - which makes all the more alarming the great truth now dawning upon us: insects as a group are in terrible trouble and the remorselessly expanding human enterprise has become too much, even for them.

Does it matter? Oh yes. Most of our fruit crops are insect-pollinated, as are the vast majority of our wild plants

The astonishing report highlighted in the Guardian, that the biomass of flying insects in Germany has dropped by three quarters since 1989, threatening an "ecological Armageddon", is the starkest warning yet; but it is only the latest in a series of studies which in the last five years have finally brought to public attention the real scale of the

(Source: The Guardian)

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

First VP calls for indigenous model for rural development

Rural development does not mean urbanization of villages, First Vice-President Es'haq Jahangiri said on Saturday, calling for promotion of an indigenous model for rural development.

He made the remarks in an address to a conference held in Tehran on the occasion of National Day of Village and Nomads falling on October

With the theme of "Elite Villagers, Unfulfilled Potential for Sustainable Rural Development", the event was held at Tehran's Iran International Conference Center.

Villages have many potentials for development including their human resources, he added.

جهانگیری: باید مدل بومی توسعه روستاها بوجود بیاید

به گزارش خبرگزاری صدا و سیما، اسحاق جهانگیری روز شنبه در همایش روز ملے، روستا افزود: اینکه عدهای توسعه روستا را به معنای شهری شدن آن مى داننــد اشــتـاه اســت.

او افـزود روسـتاها ظرفیـت هـای پنهـان زیـادی بـرای توسـعه دارنـد . مهمتریـن ایـن ظرفیت ها افراد نخبه و نیروی انسانی آنهاست.

معاون اول رئیس جمهور با اشاره به اینکه برای توسعه همه جانبه کشور باید مراکز تصمیم گیری و برنامه های توسعه ای توجه به توسعه روستاها داشته باشند، گفت: برنامه های توسعه در روستا باید به گونه ای باشد که در عین برخورداری از خدمات موردنیاز زندگی و فناوری، روستا باقی بمانید.

ENGLISH PROVERB

You win some, you lose some

Explanation: you cannot always succeed For example: I was sorry to hear that you didn't win your court case, Jane however you win some, you lose some.

PHRASAL VERB Wig out

■ Meaning: become excited and lose control For example: He wigged out when he heard that

ENGLISH IDIOM in/through the wars

- **Explanation:** show signs of rough treatment, inju-
- For example: He arrived in a car that looked as if it had been in the wars.

Kremlin: Putin, Erdogan discuss Syria in phone call

U.S., EU not standing with Turkey in terror fight: Erdogan

Russian President Vladimir Putin and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan discussed an upcoming meeting of the Astana process on the Syrian conflict in the Kazakh capital in late October, the Kremlin said on Saturday.

During their phone conversation, Putin and Erdogan talked about joint efforts within the Astana process, including the creation of "de-escalation zones" in Syria, and further coordination towards resolving the Syria situation, the Kremlin said in a statement.

The Astana talks are brokered by Russia, Turkey and Iran. In mid-September, the three countries agreed to post observers on the edge of a de-escalation zone in northern Syria's Idlib region largely controlled by militants.

Putin and Erdogan also said the agreements reached between Russia and Turkey in Ankara in late September were being successfully implemented, particularly in trade and economic relations.

"Overall, the conversation was business-like and constructive, directed at strengthening bilateral cooperation and interaction on the regional agenda," the

The Russian-Turkish trade relationship has been affected by their dispute over supplies of Turkish tomatoes to Russia



which Moscow is yet to fully restore. This dispute has been adding risks to Russian grain trade with Turkey.

Russia, once the largest market for Turkish tomato producers, said this week it will allow purchases of 50,000 tons of Turkish tomatoes from only four Turkish producers from Dec. 1.

The announcement came several days after Turkey, the second largest buyer of Russian wheat, said it had imposed a requirement for additional approval of Russian agriculture supplies by the Turkish authorities.

Erdogan complaints West anti-terror acts

Meanwhile, Erdogan has lashed out at the United States and the European Union for their support for militants of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK/ Partiya Karkerên Kurdistanê), saying they are "not standing with Turkey" in its fight against terrorism.

"They say they are standing with us in the anti-terror fight when we meet bilaterally. But we don't believe that. You

are not with us. If you were with us, you would not protect them with your police forces," Erdogan said at the D-8 Summit in Istanbul on Friday.

The Turkish president made the remarks after the United States-backed Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) unveiled a large picture of PKK Leader Abdullah Ocalan, imprisoned in Turkey, in the center of the Syrian city of Raqqah following the city's liberation from the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/ Daesh) terrorist group this week.

Militants from the U.S.-backed SDF on Sunday launched an operation to retake the last pocket of the northern Syrian city of Raqqah, which served as ISIL Takfiri terrorist group's de facto capital in the war-ravaged country.

On June 6, the SDF said it had launched an operation aimed at pushing ISIL out of Raqqah.

Turkey considers PKK as a terrorist group and is fighting a bloody insurgency it waged inside the country since 1984, leaving tens of thousands of people dead.

The Turkish president denounced the display of the PKK leader's pictures and said, "They [Syrian Kurds] hung up posters of the chief terrorist in Raggah. How will the U.S. explain that?"

(Source: agencies)

Gunmen kill 12 Niger troops in attack near Mali border

Gunmen mounted on pick-up trucks and motorcycles have killed at least 12 paramilitary police and wounded several others in a new attack in Niger's restive southwest, near the Mali border.

The raid on the officers' base happened in the early hours of Saturday in the town of Ayourou in the Tillaberi region, 200km northwest of the capital,

It comes after an ambush at the beginning of October killed four Niger and the United States soldiers along the border, which has been regularly targeted by armed groups.

There was a new attack. Twelve gendarmes were killed. We have launched search operations," Mohamed Bazoum, interior minister, told AFP news agency on Saturday

A security source on the scene said the attackers - believed to have crossed over from Mali - were heavily armed.

"They had rocket launchers and machine guns. They came in four vehicles each with about seven fighters," the source told Reuters news agency.

Several armed groups and wellarmed ethnic militia are known to operate in the area near the border with Mali, and there have been at least 46 attacks recorded there since early last

Mogadishu bombing death toll rises to 358

The number of people killed in last week's devastating bombing in the Somali capital Mogadishu has risen to 358, according to the government.

As well as the confirmed death toll, 228 people were injured in what was the deadliest attack in the country's history, Somalia's news agency quoted the information and internal security ministers as saying late on Friday.

The announcement came as a car bomb exploded outside Mogadishu, killing the driver, police said, with a witness saying there were at least two

The explosion happened around noon in the village of Markaz, about 20km

northwest of Mogadishu, Police Major Nur Ali told Reuters news agency.

He said police had not reached the scene, which he called an area "inhabited by hardline Islamists".

A witness in the village who gave his name as Ahmed told Reuters by telephone that he had seen two dead

"The car was ruined and the dead bodies were cut in halves," he said.

The armed group al-Shabab was blamed for Saturday's blasts, which happened when a car bomb and a truck bomb headed for the airport detonated

(Source: agencies)

Israeli official confirms Mohammed bin Salman visited Israel

An Israeli official has reportedly confirmed that a House of Saud regime prince who was widely reported to have visited Israel back in September was the Saudi regime's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (MBS)

In September, Israeli and Arab media reported that a Saudi regime prince had traveled to Israel and had held consultations with senior Israeli officials over

Some news outlets identified the Saudi regime prince in question as Mohamed bin Salman, who was appointed as the first in line to the Saudi throne by his father, King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, in June However, there was no official confirmation of the news

On Friday, however, an Israeli official, who was speaking on condition of anonymity, told AFP Arabic that Mohammed bin Salman had in fact been the prince who visited Israel in September.

This is while the House of Saud regime and Israel do not have formal diplomatic relations. And while there had already been reports that the Israeli and Saudi regimes have been tilting toward one another in recent

years, a confirmed visit by an official as high in ranking as bin Salman takes the matter to a completely new and potentially explosive level as anti-Israeli sentiments continue to be high on the Arab street.

While Israel and Riyadh may be fine with cozying up to one another, many ordinary Arabs, in Saudi Arabia and other Arab states, are firmly opposed to the establishment of ties with the Tel Aviv regime because of its occupation of Palestinian lands and atrocities against the Palestinian population.

Israel's Transportation and Intelligence Minister Yisra-Katz has urged the Saudi regime king to invite Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu to Riyadh to establish full diplomatic relations. Back in June, Avigdor Lieberman, Israel's minister for military affairs, called for a deal with Arab states, including Saudi Arabia, as a prerequisite for any agreement to resolve the decades-long conflict with

On Thursday, Lieberman underlined the need for "a full regional agreement" with what he called "all moderate Sunni states, including Kuwait and Saudi Arabia." But Israeli officials may have also miscalculated the

willingness of other Arab governments to establish ties with Tel Aviv. On Wednesday, Kuwaiti National Assembly Speaker Marzouq al-Ghanim furiously told an Israeli delegation During an Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) conference in Russia to leave the hall, calling Israeli officials "occupiers" and "child killers."

(Source: Press TV)

Israel 'hits Syrian army positions in Golan Heights'

The Israeli military says it has attacked Svrian government artillery positions in the Golan Heights in what, if confirmed, would be another act of aggression against Syrian territory.

In a statement released on Saturday, the Israeli army said it had "targeted three artillery cannons" of the Syrian government in the Golan Heights in what it claimed to have been a "response to the [firing of] projectiles that hit Israel."

It also threatened to "intensify" its at-

tiles were fired into Israel by pro-Damascus forces.

If confirmed, the Saturday attack would be the second Israeli strike on Syria this week. On Thursday, Israel struck a Syrian artillery position near southwestern town of Quneitra.

Israel regularly hits positions held by the Syrian army in the Golan Heights, sometimes describing the attacks as "retaliatory." Syria says the raids aim to help

tacks on Syria in case any more projec- Takfiri militants fighting against government forces.

> On several occasions, the Syrian army has confiscated Israeli-made arms and military equipment from terrorists fighting the government forces. Israel has also been providing medical treatment to the extremist militants wounded in Svria.

Back in June, The Wall Street Journal reported that Israel had been providing militants in Syria's Golan Heights with a steady flow of funds and medical supplies.

Israel seized the Golan Heights from Syria during the 1967 Six-Day War and has continued to occupy two-thirds of the strategically-important territory ever since, in a move that has never been recognized by the international community.

The regime has built tens of illegal settlements in the area since its occupation and has used the region to carry out a number of military operations against the Syrian government.

(Source: Press TV)

Rights group: Bahraini prison guards cut off water on inmates for days

Guards at Bahrain's Jaw Prison have cut off water in the notorious penitentiary for days and deprived the inmates of taking shower and using toilets as the ruling House of Khalifah regime presses ahead with its heavy-handed crackdown against opposition figures and pro-democracy activists in the tiny Persian Gulf kingdom.

a statement on Saturday that the only means of hygiene in the prison was water, which prison officers "intentionally shut off for three consecutive days last week."

The Bahrain Forum for Human Rights (BFHR) said in

The BFHR statement added that Jaw Prison guards also refused to provide the inmates with adequate food portions.

The rights group also pointed to the practice of intentional negligence when detainees sought medical attention from prison authorities, arguing such conduct had resulted in the deterioration of the health condition of many political detainees, including Elias Mullah, who is being denied adequate treatment for his colon cancer.

Hundreds of inmates are kept in the Jaw Prison, Bahrain's central detention facility, for their participation in peaceful pro-democracy rallies.

Thousands of anti-regime protesters have held demonstrations in Bahrain on an almost daily basis ever since a popular uprising began in the country in

mid-February 2011.

They are demanding that the House of Khalifah relinquishes power and allow a just system representing all Bahrainis to be established.

Manama has gone to great lengths to clamp down on any sign of dissent. On March 14, 2011, troops from the House of Saud regime and the United Arab Emirates were deployed to assist Bahrain in its crackdown.

Scores of people have lost their lives and hundreds of others sustained injuries or got arrested as a result of the House of Khalifah regime's crackdown.

(Source: Press TV)

Egypt police suffer scores of casualties in ambush

At least 52 Egyptian police and conscripts were killed and six more wounded in a gun battle on Friday during a raid on a hideout of fighters in the western desert, security sources said.

Sources had said late on Friday at least 30 police were

Egypt is battling armed groups concentrated in the Sinai Peninsula, including an Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Daesh) affiliate that has killed hundreds of security forces

The interior ministry released a statement on the operation on Friday but has so far not given any details on casualties. At least 23 police officers were killed and the other victims were conscripts, the sources said. Reuters news agency quoted sources as saying the deaths

occurred on Friday when the officers were following a lead to an apartment thought to house eight suspected members Hasm is a group that has claimed several attacks around Cairo targeting judges and policemen since last year. The suspected fighters tried to flee after the exchange of fire there,

unit called in for back-up from atop neighboring buildings. The fighters also used explosive devices in the attack, the sources said, adding that 16 officers died in the shoot-out and the number was expected to rise.

the sources said, and continued to shoot at a second security

Two security sources said eight security personnel were injured in the clashes, while another source said that four of the injured were police officers and four others were suspected fighters.

A number of suspected fighters were also killed and security forces were continuing to comb the area, a statement by the interior ministry said.

The Associated Press news agency quoted an Egyptian security official as saying the exchange of gunfire occurred in al-Wahat al-Bahriya, a district in the Giza governorate, about 135km from Cairo.

He too said eight other security personnel were wounded in the attack. A convoy of four 4x4 vehicles and one interior ministry vehicle was ambushed from higher ground by the fighters firing rocket-propelled grenades and detonating explosive devices, a senior source in the Giza Security Office said.

Egypt accuses Hasm of being a wing of the Muslim Brotherhood, a group it outlawed in 2013. The Muslim Brotherhood denies the charge

No group immediately claimed involvement in Friday's

State of emergency

Egypt has been under a state of emergency since bombings and suicide attacks targeting minority Coptic Christians killed scores earlier this year.

A violent anti-government campaign in the Sinai Peninsula has grown since the military overthrew democratically elected President Mohamed Morsi of the Muslim Brotherhood in mid-2013.

The armed group staging the campaign later pledged allegiance to ISIL in 2014.

It is blamed for the killing of hundreds of soldiers and policemen and has started to target other areas, including Egypt's Christian Copts.

(Source: agencies)

Munich police: Several wounded in stabbing spree

German police have arrested a suspect after a string of stabbings in the southern city of Munich.

Authorities on Saturday urged residents in the Bavarian capital to stay home after a man on a black bicycle injured four people with a knife and attempted to stab two others.

Five men and one woman were attacked, Munich police spokesman Marcus da Gloria Martins told reporters. "We have arrested a person who very strongly resembles

the description by witnesses, but we cannot confirm that he is the attacker," Martins said. Munich Police Chief Hubertus Andrae told reporters that the detained man had acted out of political or religious mo-

He said officials believe that the suspect, who had a previous police record, has psychological problems.

Police had earlier described the suspect as a having a "corpulent figure", being unshaven and with short hair, He was carrying a rucksack with a sleeping mat attached.

(Source: Al Jazeera)

Trump to release JFK files, subject to 'further information'

The United States President Donald Trump said on Saturday that, subject to receipt of further information, he planned to allow the opening of long-secret files on the November 1963 assassination of President John F. Kennedy (JFK) that are scheduled for release next week.

Politico magazine earlier quoted Trump administration and other U.S. government officials as saying the president would almost certainly block the release of information from some of the thousands of classified files, which the U.S. National Archives is due to make public by an Oct.

"Subject to the receipt of further information, I will be allowing, as President, the long blocked and classified JFK FILES to be opened," Trump said in a tweet.

The Nov. 22 1963 assassination cut short "Camelot," as the 1,000 days of the Kennedy presidency became known. Kennedy was 46 when he died and remains one of the most admired U.S. presidents.

Thousands of books, articles, TV shows, movies and documentaries have been produced about the assassination and surveys have shown that a majority of Americans still distrust official evidence that points to Lee Harvey Oswald as the sole killer.

Goerges beats Kasatkina to claim third WTA title



Julia Goerges beat Russia's Daria Kasatkina in straight sets to win her first WTA title for six years at the Kremlin Cup

The German seventh seed, ranked 27th, eased to a 6-1 6-2 win over Kastakina, ranked 28th.

Goerges claimed her third WTA title and first since 2011, after finishing runner-up three times this season.

The victory will see her move back into the top 20 and displace Angelique Kerber as German number one on Monday. It took Goerges one hour and six minutes to register her third victory over Kastakina in five meetings.

She also hit four aces during the victory, making her only the third player to serve over 400 aces during a single season since 2008.

"I've been working hard for this moment. I'm so happy and so emotional right now," Goerges said after the match.

"But at the same time it means a lot for me that I can share this moment with Dasha [Kasatkina].

German FA hit with hefty back tax payment over 2006 World Cup

The German Football Association must pay 19.2 million euros (£17.1 million) in back taxes related to a controversial payment for the 2006 World Cup but it will challenge the Frankfurt tax office's decision, it said on Friday.

The tax office said the payment of 6.7 million euros from the DFB to world football's governing body FIFA in 2005 had not been declared properly and the association now owed 19.2 million.

That payment has triggered several investigations in the past two years over allegations it had been used as a slush fund to buy votes in favor of Germany's bid to host the 2006 tournament.

"The tax authority is questioning the tax deductibility of the payment and the non-profit character of the DFB for the year 2006," the DFB said in a statement.

Officially, at the time the payment was made, it had been for an opening ceremony. But such a ceremony never took place and a DFB-commissioned investigation last year said the sum was the return of a loan via FIFA from former Adidas chief Robert Louis-Dreyfus.

It has never been clarified what the initial loan had been for and why it had to be paid back to the late Drey-

The 2006 World Cup organizing committee chief Franz Beckenbauer has vehemently denied all allegations the funds were used to buy votes in favor of the German bid.

While cleared in the DFB report, the former World Cup winning captain is, however, facing criminal proceedings in Switzerland over payments related to that tournament.

The Swiss Attorney General's Office (OAG) opened criminal proceedings against Beckenbauer and three other former high-ranking German football officials in 2016 related to allegations of fraud, criminal mismanagement, money laundering and misappropriation of funds.

Bayern Munich announce record €640m turnover

Bayern Munich announced a new record turnover of €640.45million for the 2016-17 season despite failing to get beyond the Champions League quarter-finals.

Carlo Ancelotti guided the team to a fifth successive Bundesliga title, and although there was little other success on the field in terms of trophies, the club enjoyed a hugely positive year financially.

At Saturday's Annual General Meeting, it was revealed that their pre-tax profits increased by 22.2 per cent to €66.2m, while post-tax profits were €39.2m, up 18.6 per cent on the previous year.

Things could have been even sweeter were it not for Real Madrid eliminating Bayern in the last eight of the Champions League, however, with chief financial officer Jan-Christian Dreesen revealing how much money the club missed out on as a result.

He told Bayern's official website: "Our failure to progress beyond the quarter-final of the Champions League against Real Madrid and not reaching the DFB-Pokal final cost us around €25million.

"However, we were still able to make gains and remain one of the top clubs in Europe financially."

Karl-Heinz Rummenigge has been chairman since 2002 when the club became a public limited company, and he

highlighted how much Bayern have grown in that time. "Our initial revenue of €162.7million [in 2002] has now quadrupled and membership numbers have trebled to

290,000," he said. "Our decision, despite concerns from some, to make the football department a public limited company in 2002 was not just an important step in the construction of the

stadium but also spot-on and pioneering. (Source: Mirror)

Barca want to stay in La Liga amid independence crisis - club president

tomeu has assured club members that there are no plans to leave La Liga, despite the current political situation in

The region's push for independence from Spain has raised questions about Barca's participation in the Spanish league, with the Catalan minister of sport, Gerard Figueras, suggesting they could be forced to take up residency in another country.

However, Bartomeu allayed those fears at the club's annual general meeting on Saturday, saying Barca's status in La Liga is guaranteed and that everyone benefits by things continuing as

You can be sure that this board will always act in the club's defence," he said. "We will never put the club nor its presence in any competition at risk.

"That's why, to all the club's members, I say that we want to continue playing in La Liga and, as of today, our participation [in La Liga] is guaranteed. It's mutually beneficial for La Liga and Barcelona for that link to continue."

La Liga president Javier Tebas has said Barca would not be allowed to



Catalonia, but Jaume Roures of Mediapro — the current international rights holders for the Spanish league — is not contemplating a division without the Blaugrana.

"I cannot conceive of the possibility continue in the case of an independent of a Liga without Barcelona and [Real]

Madrid, independently of what happens politically speaking," Roures said at the World Football Summit this week.

"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

global repercussion of that game."

Barca also confirmed their record revenue prediction of €897 million for the current campaign, with Bartomeu adding that talks are progressing well in the search for a sponsor for the Camp

The club have enlisted the help of North American company Van Wagner to help with negotiations and Bartomeu is hopeful of making a sizeable sum from a naming-rights deal as he looks to push the club towards €1 billion in revenue by 2021.

"We have to keep working hard to ensure we have the best installations in the world in the best city in the world," Bartomeu said.

"The renovation of Camp Nou is essential to achieve new income for the club. In that regard, negotiations to find a company to sponsor the stadium are going well.

"It looks like we will go above the level of income we had approved and during the first semester of next year we will call an extraordinary assembly [for members to vote on the naming

(Source: Soccernet)

Lineker's Benzema criticism embarrassing - Zidane



Zinedine Zidane has labelled Gary Lineker's criticism of Real Madrid striker

Karim Benzema as "embarrassing". During Madrid's 1-1 Champions League draw against Tottenham on Tuesday, former England striker Lineker tweeted to claim Benzema was "a tad overrated" and "decent, not great".

The 29-year-old Frenchman endured a frustrating outing in front of goal in midweek, with compatriot Hugo Lloris completing a remarkable save from a close-range header to ensure Benzema's tally for the season remains on two from eight matches in all competitions. Speaking ahead of Madrid's LaLiga match with Eibar on Sunday, Zidane said it was unrealistic for Benzema to provide prolific returns on a par with Cristiano Ronaldo.

But he labelled his forward as the best man to lead the line for Madrid – a pointed observation given recent speculation suggesting Spurs' Harry Kane could be on Madrid's radar.

"It's not just Karim, he's annoying me with [what he says about] Karim because, for people who know football,

it's embarrassing," Zidane said, addressing the views of one-time Barcelona forward Lineker. "He's the best number nine for Madrid, by a long way. Karim will not score 60 goals, but he will score

20 goals and assists for 30 or 40 more. "It bothers me when people talk badly about my players. For me, Benzema is the best. "For me, a striker doesn't only need to score goals. Karim has everything, not only the goals.

"If Karim has been at Real Madrid for almost 10 years it's not an accident. He always recovers from everything, always shows his qualities.

On the pitch, he is the best. He has everything. Every quality for a footballer. He could improve, he knows, and he works for it. When he scores more goals, he will be happier

Barcelona's draw at Atletico Madrid last weekend means Zidane's men have trimmed the gap to their rivals at the summit to five points but they will be without first-choice goalkeeper Keylor Navas (thigh) when Eibar visit the Bern-

(Source: Goal)

Allegri happy to win ugly at **Udinese**



Juventus coach Massimiliano Allegri is happy to forego style and win ugly as the Serie A champions look to turn around their stuttering domestic form.

The Turin giants' unbeaten home record went up in smoke last weekend as Lazio snatched a 2-1 win, their first defeat in 57 games at the Allianz Stadium secured by substitute Paulo Dybala's 97th-minute penalty miss. The Argentinian also failed from 12 yards in their previous league game - a 2-2 draw at Atalanta - putting pressure on the Bianconeri ahead of Sunday's trip to Udinese. Juve are already five points behind table-toppers Napoli, who have won all eight of their league games this season, and Allegri is keen not to let Maurizio Sarri's men get away.

"We need to recover lost points and stop those in front of us breaking away," Allegri told a news conference.

"We have to work as a team and leave aside the issue of aesthetics or

beautiful football, because we need to put some points under our belts."

Juve did get back to winning ways in midweek as they came from behind to beat Sporting CP 2-1 in the Champions League.

After his pair of penalty failures, Dybala was subdued against Sporting, but Allegri will keep faith in his

"Paulo Dybala returned from Argentina and was not in good shape, so he was rested on Saturday," said Allegri.

"He is in good shape, he's able to deal with any issue on or off the field and he will play tomorrow. I said the team was disconnected because it's like when you have a computer and it's not connected to the Internet, it won't go very well. That happens on the field too."

Allegri revealed Blaise Matuidi will miss the trip to Friuli with a muscular problem, with Claudio Marchisio in his squad. Daniele Rugani is set to start in defense.

(Source: Four Four Two)

Wheelchair access at Premier League grounds improved after campaigning

Fourteen of the 20 Premier League clubs have now built enough wheelchair spaces to meet official guidelines, having undertaken substantial development work in response to a relentless campaign by disabled supporters' representatives and threats of legal action.

In 2015, only two clubs provided the recommended access for disabled people in proportion to their stadium capacity, set out in the Accessible Stadia guide, which the clubs agreed to implement almost 20 years ago. That September, the Premier League clubs pledged they would meet the guidance within two years, given the £8.4bn 2016-19 windfall from TV rights

Announcing the progress over two years, the Premier League said that more than 1,000 new wheelchair bays have been constructed in grounds since 2015 and 14 clubs have built sufficient capacity. The exceptions include Watford, who do not currently have demand from disabled supporters for more bays; Crystal Palace and Everton, who cited construction difficulties given the ages of their grounds; Chelsea, who have planning permission for a new stadium that will incorporate modern disabled facilities.

"The Premier League board has asked [Chelsea] to bring forward implementation plans for reasonable adjustments to be made at Stamford Bridge and requested a timetable for implementation of said adjustments by August 2018," the league said.

Newcastle United and Burnley are also "significantly short" of the number required but have an additional year to comply, having been in the Premier League for one year since 2015. The two other recently promoted clubs, Brighton and Hove Albion and Huddersfield Town, already exceed the recommended number of wheelchair spaces.

Manchester United have built an extra 157 wheelchair bays to meet the required number of spaces in Old Trafford with 277 seats, the Premier League said, but have been allowed to phase in their use because some season-ticket holders will be relocated to accommodate

Premier League clubs have also undertaken significant further work on provision for disabled supporters, including amenity and easy access seats for people who need more space, and 18 of the 20 clubs now have a Changing Places toilet for disabled people to use.

Bill Bush, the Premier League's executive director, said the clubs will continue the programme of improvements, which he described as "unprecedented in any

other sport or entertainment sector".

Level Playing Field, the representative group for disabled people which campaigned for 20 years about clubs not fulfilling their responsibilities, recognized the improvements made and particularly praised West Bromwich Albion for having met the target and incorporated a range of other disabled facilities despite The Hawthorns being an old ground.

However, LPF said it was disappointed with the number of clubs which have failed to meet the requirements "and have let their disabled fans down. We are seeking urgent assurance regarding what happens next."

The Equality and Human Rights Commission, which has repeatedly threatened legal action under the 2010 Equality Act if the clubs did not meet their obligations, said: "Today's report from the Premier League is a step in the right direction but it is clear that some clubs still have a way to go to meet the needs of disabled supporters. We have met with every single Premier League club and are now in the final stages of discussions to agree on specific action they will need to take to avoid facing legal action. We will be publishing our report

(Source: Guardian)

Iran to face Panama in friendly in Austria: report

S P O R T S The Panama Football d e s k Federation (FEPAFUT) claimed that they will play a friendly match against Iran on November 10.

Panam, who have sealed CONCACAF's third automatic World Cup berth, will also face Wales four days later, fepafut.com reported

Panama, ranked 49th in FIFA World Rankings, will face the best Asian football team (34th in the world) in Vienna, capital of Austria.

Both teams are preparing for the 2018 FIFA World Cup.

Team Melli have previously played two friendlies against Togo and Russia in early October.

Carlos Queiroz's men have defeated Togo 2-0 in Tehran and were held to a 1-1 draw by the Russian team in Kazan.

The Persians have defeated the Central American team on Dec.18, 2004 in Tehran's Azadi Stadium. Ali Daei scored the only goal the

The Iranian media reports had suggested that Team Melli will play two friendly matches against Serbia and Venezuela in November.

Football Federation of the Islamic Republic of Iran (FFIRI) have not confirmed the news so far.



Persepolis advance to Hazfi Cup's Round of 16

SPORTS Persepolis football e s k team booked a place in the Iran's Hazfi Cup Round of 16, defeating Naft Tehran 2-0 in Tehran's Aza-

Left-footed Godwin Mensha gave Persepolis into the in the 73rd minute. It was Nigerian's third goal in four days.

Mensha scored twice in the match against Al Hilal of Saudi Arabia in the AFC Champions League semi-final second leg on Tuesday.

10 minutes later, Substitute Siamak Nemati was brought down and Ali Alipour converted his penalty.

Naft Tehran striker Íssa Alekasir



failed to pull a goal back in the injury time after missing a penalty kick.

Branko Ivankovic's men will play Baderan Tehran in the next stage.

Suarez left out of Uruguay squad to recover from knee injury

Uruguay have left Luis Suarez out of their squad for November friendlies against Poland and Austria to help him overcome a knee problem.

The Barcelona striker sustained the injury in August against Real Madrid in the Spanish Super Cup but has been playing since for both club and country, helping Uruguay seal qualification for next year's World Cup.

"The AUF reports that Barcelona's medical department proposes, in order to continue with the good evolution and rehabilitation of Luis Suarez's right knee, that he undertakes medical and physiological treatment



for a week from November 11," the Uruguayan FA said in a statement on

(Source: AP)

Great Asian Derbies: Esteghlal vs Persepolis (Tehran)

Kuala Lumpur: Ahead of the 85th Tehran derby between Islamic Republic of Iran giant's Esteghlal and Persepolis, the-AFC. com takes a look at the history of one of the fiercest and most iconic rivalries in Asian football.

The two teams will face off on Thursday, when the city of Tehran will see itself divided in two as high-flying Persepolis meet an Esteghlal side struggling in the Iran Pro League's lower reaches in front of what will be an expectant and vibrant Azadi Stadium.

History

The establishing of the two clubs couldn't be further apart. Esteghlal were founded in 1945 as Docharkhe Savaran - 'The Cyclists' - and was initially solely a club, before other sports, among them football, were later introduced.

Blue was already the official colour by the time Esteghlal were bought in 1949 by an army general, whose first action was to change its name to Taj – 'Crown' – before the current name, which translates as 'Independence', was adopted in 1979.

Persepolis, whose name derives from the ancient capital of the old Persian Empire, had a more complicated beginning. The club was officially established in 1963, but was more of a continuation of Shahin FC, which was founded more than 20 years earlier in 1942.

Enormously popular, Shahin boasted some of the best Iranian players from that era, before being disbanded in 1967. However, the majority of their players would join Persepolis and the fans followed suit.

The first official match between Esteghlal and Persepolis, a 0-0 draw, then took place in 1968

The Venue

Amjadiyeh Stadium – now known as Shahid Shiroudi Stadium – was home to both clubs and the first setting of a Tehran derby. The venue, which is one of the oldest stadiums in Iran, is now used only for athletics competitions.

The inauguration of Azadi Stadium in the early 1970s meant that both clubs moved to a newly opened 100,000-ca pacity venue. The derby is now held at the Azadi, also home to the national team, and is packed to the rafters when the sides meet.

Asian Success

When it comes to continental football, the blue side of the city have more to cheer about than their arch rivals.

Esteghlal, then known as Taj, won the 1970 Asian Club Championship – a precursor to the AFC Champions League – beating Hapoel 2-1 in the final in Tehran.

They then repeated their success in the 1990-91 competition when they defeated



China's Liaoning FC by the same scoreline in Dhaka, and remain the most successful Iranian team on the continental stage.

Persepolis have enjoyed less success in Asian tournaments, with their only triumph coming when they beat Bahrain's Al Muharraq 1-0 on aggregate to claim the inaugural Asian Cup Winners' Cup in

Two years later they made it to the final of the same competition, but were beaten 2-1 on aggregate by Japan's Yokohama Marinos, while four semi-final appearances in the Asian Club Championship means they fall short of matching Esteghlal's winning record.

In the AFC Champions League, Persepolis have also never been able to make it to the final, but they made their debut appearance in the semi-finals this year before being ousted by Saudi Arabia's Al Hilal.

A Match to Remember The Tehran derby has produced many gripping encounters over the years, but few can match the 74th meeting between the teams in February 2012, when Esteghlal went into the game as clear favourites having recorded four straight wins against their city rivals.

Over 80,000 fans were in attendance on that cold winter evening at Azadi Stadium and they were treated to one of the most memorable comebacks the fixture has ever seen.

Esteghlal took a 1-0 lead into the break and then doubled their advantage just minutes after the interval, before Persepolis's Mehrdad Oladi was sent off midway through the second half as Esteghlal appeared to be cruising towards victory.

However, minutes before the red card, Persepolis had brought on Irish-Libyar striker Eamon Zayed, and it was he who would prove the unlikely hero.

As the match entered the final 10 minutes, Zayed popped up to claw one back for the Reds and three minutes later the unthinkable happened as the forward headed home a Mehdi Mahdavikia cross to level the scores.

Esteghlal had capitulated and Zayed then completed his incredible hat-trick in the 91st minute as the stadium erupted and Persepolis recorded a stunning 3-2 victory over their bitter rivals.

(Source: the-afc)

Iran set for Spanish job in FIFA U-17 World Cup

Kuala Lumpur: Islamic Republic of Iran are aiming to add another chapter to the history books when they take on reigning European champions Spain in the quarter-finals of the FIFA U-17 World Cup 2017 India

Having made the quarter-finals for the first time in four attempts, Abbas Chamanian's players will be confident of beating Spain despite the European side being the clear favorites.

Iran have hardly put a foot wrong so far, advancing to the quarter-finals with a perfect record of four wins.

They cruised through the group stage with wins over Guinea (3-1), Germany (4-0) and Costa Rica (3-0) before producing a steely performance to overcome Mexico semi-finalists in the last three editions of the FIFA U-17 World Cup - 2-1 in their last-16 clash.

Allahyar Sayyad (pictured above) is their leading scorer with three goals while Younes Delfi and Mohammad Sharifi have chipped in with two each, giving Iran several options upfront.

They will need them all against a Spanish side who have impressed after suffering a 2-1 defeat against



Brazil in their opening Group D match.

Spain bounced back to defeat Niger 4-0 and DPR Korea 2-0 before recording what was among the most impressive last-16 stage results - beating France 2-1.

Spain have gained in confidence, proving themselves to be a solid unit that plays a familiar possession-based game and with Iran flying high after their perfect run so far, the stage is set for a cracking tie at the Jawaharlal Nehru International Stadium in Kochi on Sunday. What you need to know

1. Spot-kick kings: Spain would be well advised not to let their tie with Iran go to penalties. The Iranians have converted all four of the spot-kicks they have been awarded at India 2017, with Mohammad Sharifi putting two away and Mohammad Ghobeishavi and Taha Shariati one apiece.

2. History favours La Rojita: Spain and Iran have never played each other before at the FIFA U-17 World Cup, though there is one record that will encourage the men in red. Going into Sunday's match-up, Spain won all eight of their games against Asian opposition.

The Quarter-final Saturday, October 21 Mali v Ghana USA v England Sunday, October 22 Spain v IR Iran Germany v Brazil

(Source: the-afc)

U-17 World Cup: Bolivian referee to officiate Iran v Spain

TASNIM — Gery Vargas Carreno from Bolivia has been chosen as referee of Iran and Spain match in the FIFA U-17 World Cup.

The Iranian team will face powerhouse Spain in the competition's quarterfinal at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Kochi, India on Sunday.

Vargas will be assisted by his compatriots Juan Pablo Montaño and José Alberto Antelo in this match. Iran started

campaign with a 3-1 win over Guinea and defeated Germany 4-0 and Costa

Rica 3-0 in its following matches.

Abbas Chamanian's boys defeated Mexico 2-1 in Round of 16.

Iran collect two medals in World Grappling Championship

Press TV — Iranian grapplers have exhibited satisfactory displays of physical might and techniques at the World Grappling Championship 2017 in Azerbaijan, and received two medals, including one gold.

On Friday and the third day of the sporting event at the Baku Sports Hall in the Azerbaijani capital city of Baku, Valiollah Fahimi overcame his Polish opponent in the final bout of the 92-kilogram weight category, and collected the gold medal.

Salar Delfani, suffering a injury to his leg, lost to a representative from Russia in the over 100-kilogram final contest, and was awarded the silver medal.

The World Grappling Championship 2017 kicked on October 18, and will conclude on October 21 Grappling is a close fighting technique used to gain a physical advantage such as improving relative position,

or causing injury to the opponent. It covers techniques used in many disciplines, styles and martial arts that are practiced both as combat

FINA Water Polo Development Trophy: Iran beat Singapore

sports and for self-defense.

TASNIM — Iran recorded fourth successive victory in a row at the FINA World Men's Water Polo Development Trophy on Friday.

The Iranian team defeated Singapore 10-4.

In Group A, Aleksandar Ciric's men had previously defeated Uruguay 15-8, Tunisia 10-8 and host Malta

The competition has welcomed eight promising teams for a six-day tournament from Oct. 17 to 22 in Gzira, Malta.

The last edition back in 2015 in Tehran (IRI) was won by the host country team, while Uruguay took silver and Austria bronze.

Uzbekistan won the 2013 edition of the Development Irophy in Kuwait City, Egypt and Saudi Arabia came second and third respectively.

artistic gymnastics team win Slovenia champs

IRNA — Iranian national artistic gymnastics team stood first in Slovenia international championships (Salamunov Memorial) which was held in Maribor,

After Iran, Belgium and Austria ranked second and third respectively.

The Salamunov Memorial was held with the attendance of Iran, Austria, Belgium, Croatia, the Czech Republic, UK, Serbia and Slovenia on October 20-21 in

Iranian taekwondoka grabs bronze at WTF **2017 Grand Prix**

IRNA — Iranian taekwondo fighter Sajjad Mardani received a bronze medal in World Taekwondo Federation (WTF) 2017 Grand Prix which is underway in London.

In the semi-final match, Mardani in the weight category of +80 kg was overpowered by his South Korean rival and ranked third.

In his first match, he defeated Ivory Coast representative 11-0 and in the quarter finals hit Slovenia

WTF 2017 Grand Prix is underway with the attendance of 205 fighters (103 male and 102 female) from 55 countries in Copper Box Arena, Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, Stratford, London.

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.
- 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



Iranian animated series spotlights Trump's "stupid behavior"

A R T TEHRAN — Rezwan Studio, a Tehran-based d e s k animation studio, announced on Saturday that it has recently launched a project in which it is producing a series of short movies on U.S. President Donald Trump's "stupid



A poster for "Mr. Trumpet"

The series named "Mr. Trumpet" contains 100 one-minute episodes, some of which have so far been completed.

The episodes are available on Press TV, YouTube and some Persian websites.

Rasul Azargun is the director of the series.

Sheed festival to present **CloseUp Award in memory of** Abbas Kiarostami

A R T TEHRAN – Winners at the 2nd Sheed Persian d e s k Film Festival will be presented with a CloseUp Award this year in memory of the legendary Iranian filmmaker

The award, which has been named after Kiarostami's 1990 masterwork "Close-Up", will be presented to the best film, best director and best actor and actress.

The festival, which aims to promote and introduce Iranian cinema, will be held in Dallas, Texas from November 10 to 12.

Researchers raise doubts over cause of Chilean poet Neruda's death

SANTIAGO (Reuters) — International researchers investigating the death of Chilean poet Pablo Neruda raised doubts on Friday as to whether he died of cancer 44 years ago as previously presumed, and did not rule out foul play.



Rodolfo Reyes, nephew of Chilean poet and Nobel laureate Pablo Neruda, speaks during a news conference about the probable causes of the death of the poet in Santiago, Chile October 20, 2017. (Reuters/Rodrigo Garrido)

Neruda, known for his passionate love poems and staunch communist views, died days after a coup in September 1973 that ushered in the brutal dictatorship of Augusto Pinochet.

Neruda's chauffeur claimed Pinochet's agents took advantage of the poet's illness to inject poison into his stomach as he lay in hospital. Neruda's body was exhumed in 2013 and previous tests have found no evidence of poison but are ongoing.

Spanish forensic specialist Aurelio Luna from the University of Murcia told journalists that his team discovered something that could possibly be a laboratory-cultivated bacteria. It will

be analyzed, with results expected in six months to a year. Luna also said that tests indicated that death from pros-

trate cancer was not likely at the moment when Neruda died. "From analysis of the data we cannot accept that the poet had been in an imminent situation of death at the moment of entering the hospital," he said.

"We cannot confirm if the nature of Pablo Neruda's death

was natural or violent," he added.

Neruda's family and supporters have been divided over whether the case should be closed and his remains returned to his grave near his coastal home of Isla Negra, or whether researchers should continue carrying out tests.

"Blockage", "After My Death" share best film award at Busan festival

R T TEHRAN — "Blockage" by Mohsen d e s k Qarai from Iran and "After My Death" by Kim Uiseok from South Korea shared the best film award in the New Currents category at the 22nd Busan International Film Festival in South Korea, Variety reported on Friday.

"Blockage" traces the overwhelming chaos that happens to a vicious, despicable man who works as a street vendor control officer.

"After My Death" tells the story of a girl who is suspected of having goaded another schoolgirl into killing herself.

U.S. director Oliver Stone presided over the jury in the New Currents competition, which highlights first and second features by filmmakers from Asia

The jury also had Iranian director Bahman Qobadi, French cinematographer Agnès Godard, Filipino director Lav Diaz and Korean filmmaker Jang Sun-woo.

Both films are tightly scripted, and display vivid detail and excellent craftsmanship," the jury said.

"Iran K9" a project by Iranian director Vahid Vakilifar and producer Maryam Najafi was shown at the BIFF Asian Project Market with 27 other projects from Asian countries.



Hamed Behdad acts in a scene from "Blockage".

National University of Singapore hosts Iranian film festival

A R T TEHRAN — And e s k Iranian film festival was held at the National University of Singapore (NUS) on Friday and Saturday.

Ebrahim Hatamikia's political drama "The Bodyguard", Asghar Farhadi's Oscar-winning film "The Salesman" and Abolhassan Davudi's "Crazy Castle" were screened during the event

Engseng Ho, the director of the Middle East Institute of the university, and Singapore's Non-Resident ambassador to Iran Ong Keng Yong were among the guest participants of

The Iranian Embassy in Singapore and the Iranian Cultural Section in Malaysia organized the festival in collaboration with the National University of Singapore.



A poster for the festival of Iranian films at the National University of Singapore

"No Date, No Signature" wins Gold **Hugo at Chicago festival**

A R T TEHRAN — Iranian d e s k director Vahid Jalilvand's acclaimed drama "No Date, No Signature" won a Gold Hugo Special Jury Prize at the 53rd Chicago International Film Festival, the Chicago Tribune announced on Friday.

The film received the award in the New Directors competition, which recognizes emerging filmmakers with their first or second feature films.

Starring Navid Mohammadzadeh, Amir Agai and Hedyeh Tehrani, "No Date, No Signature" tells the story of Dr. Nariman, a forensic pathologist who has a car accident with a motorcyclist and injures his 8-year-old son.

He offers to take the child to a clinic nearby, but the father refuses his help and money. The next morning, in the hospital where he works, Dr. Nariman finds out that the little boy has been brought for



Amir Agai acts in a scene from "No Date, No Signature" by Vahid Jalilvand an autopsy after a suspicious death.

"A Sort of Family" by Argentinian director Diego Lerman's drama about a doctor's risky adoption, won the top prize of the festival.

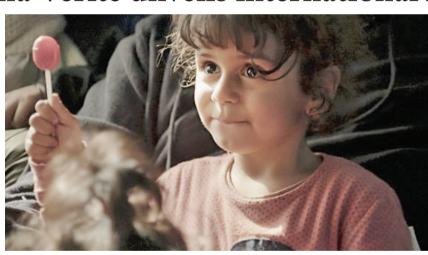
Cinema Verite unveils international lineup



💶 TEHRAN — Twentyd e s k six movies from 19 countries will compete in the various categories of the international competition of the 11th Cinema Verite, Iran's major international festival for documentary cinema, the organizers

announced on Saturday. Eight documentaries have been selected for the full-length section. Among the films are "69 Minutes of 86 Days" by Egil Haaskjold Larsen from Norway, "Moo Ya" by Filippo Ticozzi from Italy, "Every Soul of My Body" by Erika Rossi from Italy and "I Want To Go Home" by Wesley Leon Aroozoo from

The Forest Of Love" by Alejandro G. Salgado from Spain and "I Heard



A scene from "69 Minutes of 86 Days" by Egil Haaskjold Larsen from Norway

the Birch Tree Whisper in the Night" by Kenneth Harvey from Canada are among the eight films selected for the mid-length category.

"Valentina" by Maximilian Feldmann from Germany and "Faber Navalis" by Maurizio Borriello from Italy will also be shown in this section.

Ten documentaries, including "War and Cheese" by Ben Garfield from England, "February" by Marlena Molitor from Germany, "Collection" by Marcin Polar from Poland and "One Day in Aleppo" by Ali Alibrahim from Syria, will compete in short competition.

The Experimental and Documentary Film Center is the organizer of the Cinema Verite festival, which will be held in Tehran from December 10 to 17.

Trump drawing of Empire State **Building sells for \$16,000**

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A sketch of the Empire State Building drawn by President Donald Trump has sold at auction for \$16,000.

Julien's Auctions says the 12-inchby-9-inch black marker depiction of the iconic New York City skyscraper was created by Trump for a charity auction in Florida during the time he opened his Mar-a-Lago estate as a private club in 1995.

Julien's says the piece signed by Trump went for less than \$100 the first time it was sold. It was estimated to go for \$8,000 to \$12,000 at the auction that took place in Los Angeles and online Thursday.

The buyer has not been named. The auction house says a portion of the proceeds of the sale are going to benefit WHDD-FM, a National Public Radio station in Connecticut.

NBA: Singer takes knee during performance of national anthem at Nets game

NEW YORK (Reuters) — Singer Justine Skye dropped to a knee toward the end of her rendition of The Star-Spangled Banner prior to the Brooklyn Nets home opener against the Orlando Magic on Friday.

Some NFL players have sat or taken a knee during renditions of the song the past two seasons to protest racial inequality in the United States but NBA players have

stood in accordance with league

The protests have raised the ire of U.S. President Donald Trump, who says the players are being disrespectful to the country and the military.

In an online post, the 22-year-old Brooklyn native said she was uneasy about singing the song to begin with and said she probably would not be asked to do so again.

Norman Rockwell's 3 sons seek to halt sale of his artworks

BOSTON (AP) — Norman Rockwell's three sons were among several people who went to court on Friday seeking to halt a museum's plans to sell 40 works of art, including two by him.

A complaint seeking a temporary restraining order filed in Berkshire Superior Court alleges the board of trustees at the Berkshire Museum in Pittsfield contracted with Sotheby's for a public auction of the works before it announced its plans publicly, acted in breach of its fiduciary duties and trust and acted without legal authority to sell the art.

The planned sale is against Massachusetts laws establishing the museum, which requires the museum to maintain any gifts it receives "for the people of Berkshire County and the general public," the complaint says.

"Once sold, it is highly unlikely that any of the pieces will remain in Berkshire County or in a public institution where they can be seen and enjoyed," the complaint says.

Besides Thomas, Jarvis and Peter Rockwell, the plaintiffs include two local artists and several members of the museum. They are represented by the Boston law firm Foley Hoag LLP.



In this July 12, 2017 file photo, a pedestrian walks past the Berkshire Museum in Pittsfield, Mass. (Ben Garver/ The Berkshire Eagle via AP, File)

The museum has consistently stood by its decision to

"We believe we have strong legal grounds for our deaccessioning and we are confident in our new vision plan which will allow this important local museum to continue to contribute to the educational and cultural life of this region for another century," trustees president Elizabeth McGraw said in a statement on Friday.

The museum came under intense national and local

criticism after it announced in July that is was auctioning

The American Alliance of Museums and the Association of Art Museum Directors said in a joint statement that the sale violated a sacred museum rule that collections are

not to be sold to pay bills. The works for sale include Rockwell's "Shaftsbury Blacksmith Shop" and "Shuffleton's Barbershop," both of which the illustrator gave as gifts to the museum when he lived in nearby Stockbridge. Works by Alexander Calder, Albert Bierstadt and George Henry Durrie also are on the

Museum trustees and officials say the museum is in dire financial straits and may close for good if it doesn't sell the works. They say it is hoped that the sale will raise as much as \$60 million, which will be used to boost the endowment by \$40 million, with the other \$20 million being used to renovate the museum as it changes its mission to focus more on natural history

The complaint says the museum's financial troubles are greatly exaggerated.