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Russia not to take part in any talks to amend nuclear deal

POLITICS Russia has said it is confident that Iran is fulfilling all its obligations under a multilateral agreement on its nuclear program and will not take part in any talks on amending the

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov made the remarks Saturday at an international nuclear

weapons non-proliferation conference in Moscow, TASS news agency

Russia is not ready to participate in any talks on amending the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), Ryabkov was quoted as saying.

The deal is delicately balanced and any change could lay waste the whole agreement, he warned. →2

Iran's missile development completely legal: Minnesota professor

TEHRAN — Prof. William O. Beeman, head of the anthropology department at the State University of Minnesota, is of the view that Iran's ballistic missile development is completely legal.

Beeman also tells the Tehran Times that "As long as other nations don't reimpose sanctions, including the United Nations and the European Union, Iran will just let the United States do what it wants in complete isolation."

Following is the text of the inter-

Despite many internal and external oppositions, Trump decertified the JCPOA. What were the reasons behind his decision? What signal did he want to deliver both internally and externally by doing so? \rightarrow 7

U.S. completely destroyed Raqqa like they did with Dresden: Kremlin

Russia says the United States has wiped the Syrian city of Raqqah "off the face of the earth" with carpet bombing in the same way the United States and Britain bombed Germany's Dresden in 1945.

In a statement released on Sunday, the Russian Defense Ministry accused the West of having rushed to provide aid to Raggah to cover up its own crimes.

"Raggah has inherited the fate of Dresden in 1945, wiped off the face of the earth by Anglo-American bombardments," said Russian Defense Ministry spokesman Major General Igor Konashenko. →13



55th anniversary of Korea-Iran diplomatic relations opens a new era of diversification and mutual understanding

3rd October is the 55th anniversary of diplomatic relations between ✓ Korea and Iran. Series of congratulatory events are lined up both in Tehran

During the last half century, two countries have forged a solid relation and contributed to each other's economic development, Particularly, Korea's economic leap in the 70's would have not been possible, were it not for the vast economic projects of Iran. Korea emerged one of the major trade partners of Iran and its oil purchaser. 55th anniversary is more meaningful this year, not because of repetition of same number, but because it is time to evaluate our past relations and decide the direction we head to for the future. Could we stay in the same course or should we take a new track?

This question is more relevant at the time of the economic boom brought by the JCPOA. As one of the major beneficiaries of the historic deal, Korea praises the bold vision of the Iranian government and its seasoned diplomacy to make the vision a reality. I admire the faithful implementation of the deal by Iran, which is verified and confirmed by the IAEA. Since the JCPOA, our trade volume has increased 70%, giving us comfortable expectation to exceed 10 billion USD this year. Korean companies are rushing in and Korea is legally committed to provide up to 8 billion USD to Iran and another comparable amount is in the pipeline.

The current achievements may make us complacent with the course we navigated during the past years. The future course needs to be correctly set without being misled by the current boom and with a critical review on the past relations. \rightarrow 2

Nuclear deal enjoys intl. support, Iran says

ITICS TEHRAN — Iranian Depe s k uty Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi has said that the 2015 nuclear deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, enjoys international support.

"The U.S. and Trump are isolated. The majority of the countries and international bodies support the JCPOA," he told IRNA in an interview published on Sunday.

Araqchi who was in Moscow to participate in the Moscow nonproliferation conference reiterated Iran's position that the JCPOA is not renegotiable and no additional article to it is acceptable.

During his speech at the conference on Saturday, Araqchi said that the nuclear deal is a "remarkable document" and "best model"



to settle international crises peacefully. "I say clearly that there is no possibility of

renegotiating the JCPOA or adding terms to

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 obli-

The European Union foreign policy chief, Federica Mogherini, has said the 27-nation bloc will remain committed to the nuclear deal with or without the United States.

Except Israel and Saudi Arabia, all countries and international dignitaries have expressed support for the nuclear agreement.

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

Tillerson pushes Saudi Arabia on united front against Iran

U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson on Sunday promoted a Trump administration goal of uniting Saudi Arabia and Iraq in common cause to counter Iran's growing influence in the Middle East, the Washington Post report-

Tillerson participated in the inaugural meeting of the Saudi Arabia-Iraq Coordination Committee, along with Saudi King Salman and Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi, telling the leaders that the event highlighted the improving ties between the longtime rivals and showed "the great potential" for further cooperation. He noted the August reopening of a major border crossing and the resump tion of direct flights between Riyadh and

Both represent the beginning of what we hope will be a series of even more tangible actions to improve relations and strengthen cooperation on a host of issues," he said. "Your growing relationship between the kingdom and Iraq is vital to bolstering our collective security and prosperity and we take great interest in

The United States is "grateful for this progress and urge you to expand this vital relationship for the stability of the region," Tillerson said. "The United States stands ready to support continued cooperation between Saudi Arabia and Iraq and we congratulate

According to the Post, Tillerson's participation in the meeting comes as U.S. officials step up encouragement of a new axis that unites Saudi Arabia and Iraq as a bulwark against Iran's growing influence from the Persian Gulf to the Mediterranean Sea. Amid the push for that alliance, the Iraqi government is struggling to rebuild recently liberated Islamic State strongholds and confronts a newly assertive Kurdish independence movement.



Iran's National Orchestra performs "Neynava"

Iran's National Orchestra performed the memorable epic composition "Neynava" during a concert under the baton of young guest conductor Mehdi Vejdani at Tehran's Vahdat Hall on October 21, 2017.

"Neynava" was composed by Hossein Alizadeh in 1983 and was then performed frequently by various orchestras in Iran.

The latest performance of the piece was in February 2016 by the Tehran Symphony Orchestra under the baton of maestro Ali Rahbari at the opening ceremony of the 31st Fajr International Music Festival at Vahdat Hall.



Trump's Iran strategy: Aims versus narratives and perceptions

fter a long-time ambiguity and many assumptions, U.S. Pres-Lident Donald Trump has laid out his Iran strategy to confront Tehran and renegotiate a 2015 nuclear agreement, a strategy that requires a string of big bets to pay off in short order.

Not only is the risk of failure end mous but Trump's statements in itself was a big failure, in terms of content, facts, reasoning, the mindset behind the speech, the way of expressing it, etc.

In his speech, Trump articulated his approach to the Iran deal and defined many aims for it but the realities, narratives and perceptions stand opposite to his objectives, which could be enumerated as follows:

1) Multipolar vs. unipolar: Trump's speech shows that his mindset belongs to post-Cold War era, because he looks at the international system as a unipolar system while it has changed to multi-polar. High representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Federica Mogherini's fast and strong stance to advocate the JCPOA, is testimony to a multipolar international system.

2) Big power, not superpower: Germany, Britain and France's statements and also China-Russia stances to fully support the JCPOA are firm signs that contrary to Trump's deduction the U.S. is now only a big power, not a superpower or chieftain.

3) Robust vs. fragile: The aforesaid anti-Trump's statements along with the text of the JCPOA which is supported by UN Security Council resolution 2231, intimate the JCPOA is much more robust than Trump's idea for a "fragile JCPOA".

4) Undermining and unsuccessful shooting: Maybe Trump's goals were to scuttle Iran's current economic, political and regional status but President Rouhani's response did undermine the Trump shootings as "unsuccessful". →2

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS



Intelligence forces seize weapons cache in east Iran

POLITICS TEHRAN — Iran's Intelligence d e s k Ministry issued a statement on Sunday announcing seizure of weapons cache in parts of eastern provinces of South Khorasan and Sistan-Balouchestan.

The weapons include two handguns, five AK-47 machine guns, a grenade launcher, a rocket-propelled grenade (RPG) launcher with 6 rockets, an SPG-9 gun, five 107mm rockets, 68 cartridges for the DShK (Dushka) machine gun, and 40 grenades.

A couple of months ago, the intelligence forces confiscated a cache of brand-new weapons from a drugs ring in the city of Saravan, southeastern province of Sistan-Balouchestan.



Iran says will be happy if Saudis change course toward Iraq

POLITICS TEHRAN — An advisor to the Iranian e s k parliament speaker has called Iran and Iraq's relations so strong which the U.S. cannot

The remarks by Hossein Amir-Abdollahian came after U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson on Sunday tried to promote a Trump administration goal of uniting Saudi Arabia and Iraq against Iran.

"It would be a positive turn of events if Iraq-Saudi Arabia relations became normalized, and Riyadh stopped its destructive and uncooperative behavior," Hossein Amir-Abdollahian said in a tweet on Sunday.



It is Europe's policy to abide by nuclear deal: Velayati

POLITICS TEHRAN — Ali Akbar Velayati, a top e s k advisor to the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, said on Sunday that it is Europe's policy to abide by the 2015 nuclear deal.

"Europe's policy, especially the Netherlands', on the nuclear issue is different from the U.S. policy and [Europe] does not agree with violation of the U.S. and will abide by the agreement," he told reporters after meeting with Raymond Knops, chairman of the Dutch House of Representatives Foreign Relations Commission.



Parliament to vote on proposed science, energy ministers

POLITICS TEHRAN — Majlis Speaker Ali Larijani d e s k said on Sunday that the parliament will hold a confidence vote session for proposed science and energy ministers on October 29.

In a letter on Saturday, President Rouhani introduced two candidates, most notable for their academic careers, for post of science and energy ministers to the

Rouhani has nominated Reza Ardakanian as energy minister and Mansour Gholami as the new science



Iranian consulate in Erbil condemns trespass on diplomatic building

TEHRAN — Iran's consulate in Erbil k issued a statement on Saturday condemning trespassing on the consulate on Friday.

"A number of people trespassed the Islamic Republic of Iran's consulate in Erbil under the influence of political motivations on Friday when the consulate was closed," the statement read.

The statement said the consulate does not hold the people of Erbil responsible for this act.

The statement also thanked officials, university professors, members of parliament and people in the Iraqi Kurdistan, Mosul and Kirkuk for expressing regret



'Europe-Iran Forum bore message of commitment to nuclear deal'

POLITICS TEHRAN — Iranian Finance and s k Economic Affairs Minister Masoud Karbasian has said that the 4th Europe-Iran Forum bore the message of Europe's commitment to the 2015 nuclear deal.

In an interview with the Iran newspaper published on Sunday, he said that the forum bore a political message which was Europe's commitment to obligations under the nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

The 4th Europe-Iran Forum was held in Zurich on 3-4 October 2017.

Leader: Ayatollah Mustafa Khomeini was outstanding in knowledge and courage

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei said on Sunday that Ayatollah Seyyed Mustafa Khomeini was unique for his scholarly talents, courage, and manner of resistance.

He made the remarks during a meeting with the officials and organizers of the Congress in Commemoration of Ayatollah Seyyed Mustafa Khomeini's Scholarly and Revolutionary Works.

Ayatollah Khamenei expressed his gratitude for the organization of this congress and described the deceased Ayatollah Mustafa Khomeini as having an extraordinary personality from different dimensions, stating: "He was a unique person in terms of scientific talent and courage, self-purification, bravery and fighting manners, and the introduction of his scientific status and thoughts into

Ayatollah Khamenei referred to the influential position of the late Hajj Mustafa Khomeini on the important event of



Imam Khomeini's arrest in 1963, saying: "At that time, he did a great and courageous act and managed to lead the people's movement by gathering a group of fighters in the courtyard of the shrie of

The Leader of the Islamic Revolution also mentioned that the mysterious death of Mustafa Khomeini on October 23, 1977, prepared the grounds for a wave of movement by the people. Furthermore, he stated, "The manner in which Imam Khomeini confronted this painful loss, one he considered to be a covert divine blessing, revealed part of the great personality of Imam Khomeini by the way he withstood this tragedy and his patience."

Referring to the self-purification and spiritual tendency of the late Mustafa Khomeini and his simple lifestyle and piety, Ayatollah Khamenei pointed out, "Although he was the son of a great, wellknown person, Imam Khomeini, he was extremely humble."

He went on to say, "The late Hajj Sayyid Mustafa Khomeini loved Imam Khomeini very much, and he stood up to anyone who degraded his father's per-

Iranian jurists urge UN action on Rohingya sufferings

A number of Iranian jurists and lawyers called on the United Nations secretary general to push for an end to the ongoing military crackdown and ethnic violence against Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar.

In a letter to UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, 70 Iranian jurists asked him to take practical action to address the plight of Myanmar Muslims and do something beyond an expression of concern.

Citing Article 99 of the Charter of the United Nations, the lawyers urged Guterres to show "practical and aenuine" support for the persecuted Muslim people in Buddhist-majority Myanmar.

The UN Charter's Article 99 stipulates that "the Secretary-General may bring to the attention of the Security Council any matter which in his opinion may threaten the

maintenance of international peace and security."

The letter also makes a reference to the UN human rights office's report on the dire situation in Myanmar, saying the report, according to which clearance operations by Myanmar government forces against Rohingya Muslims involve killings, torture and rape, necessitate serious action by the UN.

According to the International Criminal Court (ICC) Statute, the crimes being committed against Myanmar Muslims amount to crimes against humanity, the letter added, calling on the UN chief to use the power bestowed on him to push for a halt to those crimes.

According to the UN human rights office, Myanmar security forces have driven out half a million Muslim Rohingya from northern Rakhine state, torching

their homes, crops and villages to prevent them from

returning.
The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Zeid Ra'ad al-Hussein – who has described the government operations as "a textbook example of ethnic cleansing" - said in a statement that the actions appeared to be "a cynical ploy to forcibly transfer large numbers of people without possibility of return".

The Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar have long faced severe discrimination and were the targets of violence in 2012 that killed hundreds and drove about 140,000 people from their homes to camps for the internally displaced.

More than half a million Muslims have fled Myanmar for Bangladesh since August.

(Source: Tasnim)

Russia not to take part in any talks to amend nuclear deal

1 -> "Any shift of this balance will cause unavoidable collapse of the entire mechanism, and it would be impossible to assemble it in some new form... It is unrealistic to adjust the agreement, as all the issues, which required settlement, were solved this or that way," he noted.

"We have no doubts, Iran fulfills all terms of the agreements," said Ryabkov, adding, "Almost two years of the Joint Comprehensive Plan have demonstrated the agreement works effectively and copes fully with the outlined tasks. There is no alternative to the Plan of Action. We do not see reasons or opportunities to review or change it."

The JCPOA was reached between Iran, the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council -- Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States – Germany and the European Union in July 2015. Under the deal, Iran agreed to put limits on its program in exchange for termination of economic and financial sanctions.

However, on Oct. 13, U.S. President Donald Trump called for decertifying the "multiple violations"

Though the decertification would issues out of the agency's competence," not mean Washington exiting the Iran nuclear deal at the moment, it would open a 60-day window in which the U.S. Congress could reimpose nuclear-related sanctions on Iran.

International Atomic Energy Agency Director General Yukiya Amano said last week that Iran was implementing the JCPOA under a robust verification

'IAEA not authorized to carry out military site inspections in Iran'

The International Atomic Energy Agency is not authorized to carry out inspections of Iran's military sites, TASS quoted Ryabkov as saying on Sunday.

"I would like to say absolutely clear and directly that acquiring some false topicality the theme of the IAEA work on Section T (about Iran's military facilities -TASS) of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) over the Iran nuclear program has no topicality for us although it is a talking point now," he said.

IAEA "has not been authorized to carry out such inspections and cannot be tasked because Section T highlights the President Trump's position is that he is not strategic stability."

Ryabkov said.

"Nevertheless, we can hear another thing. As in the issue of the Iran missile program, some of our counterparts prefer to call black white and vice versa," the high-ranking diplomat said. "We cannot get them to understand this evident logic and obvious truth."

"Since they are insisting, we say if you cannot do without discussions on the theme, it should be raised at the Joint Commission when the next session is convened," Ryabkov said.

If the other participants are eager to discuss the issue, Moscow "will be ready to discuss it" presenting its stance, he said.

'Canceling JCPOA merely endorsed by pro-war neocons'

A Los Angeles-based congressional staffer on Saturday asserted that canceling the nuclear deal is merely endorsed by "pro-war neocons" in the U.S. politics as well as the In particular, Moscow says that the Israeli regime, particularly Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

"I suspect the real reason behind

going to move the U.S. embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem [al-Quds] and so he is going to compensate by his failure to deliver on that promise by throwing Netanyahu a bone," Rodney Martin said, citing Bibi's attempts against the JCPOA after Trump won the U.S. presidency.

Martin further pointed to a poll that showed the majority of Americans believe that Trump should not pull the country out of the international deal, asserting that the public opinion "does not matter" that much as the president is being led by "a very small dangerous cabal. Hailed as a "great friend to the Jewish

people" by the Israeli premier, Trump has mended ties with Tel Aviv, which had gone sour under former President Barack Obama, in part due to his resolve to participate in nuclear negotiations with Tehran, which yielded a nuclear deal not welcomed by Ú.S. regional allies, namely Israel and Saudi Arabia.

Earlier on Saturday, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov warned against breaking up the Iran nuclear agreement with world powers, saving it is "vital for

Trump's Iran strategy: Aims versus narratives and perceptions

5) Prevailing dictatorship school of thought against democracy: News leaked from the White House and circulated through the media saying: a majority of Trump's cabinet members were against him on the JCPOA but the "stubborn president" refused to accept consultations.

6) Rationality vs. deafness: If Trump's stances were rational-oriented, all rational democratic states would have supported him, but majority-united and wisdom groups were against a deafness minority such as Saudi Arabia, the Zionist regime, and Bahrain. It was expected that Trump would lay out his strategy but he read an essay that apparently got prepared by Saudi

Arabia and Israel and was running on the same rails

7) Businessman vs. puppet: If Trump were to be a real politician and businessman, he would have looked for Iran's 80-million population market and pushed it to economic prone but he seemed to react as a puppet to respect Iran's regional enemies and rivalries. The U.S. Treasury sanctions deprive its government of doing business, export its production to Iran and materialize the "First America" motto. Trump's idea led him to a path which only respected anti-Iran illusions.

8) Confronting not blacklisting: Trump made endeavors for confronting and weakening the Islamic Revolutionary

Guard Corps (IRGC) by imposing more sanctions, while the IRGC has been under tough sanctions long-before. He wanted to label IRGC as a "terrorist group" but like his predecessors, he only introduced more sanctions.

9) Off center vs. on center: Trump was trying to emboss Iran's related issues as on center crisis but a huge amount of repercussion on social media denounced Trump for his fake word of "A.R.A.B Gulf" as an off-center issue.

10) Foreign policy and internal pressure: While Trump laid out his strategy on Iran, likewise his other policies; he faced much more pressure from U.S. authorities, think tanks and NGOs.

55th anniversary of Korea-Iran diplomatic relations opens a new era of diversification and mutual understanding

1 -> I think the relations of Korea and Iran is not stable. It extremely depends on 'trade and even worse, only on several items, especially oil. Trade partner can be switched at any time on better offer. I do not expect that Iranians continue to buy Korean products even though they can find better products at lower price. Likewise, Koreans are not expected to continue to buy Iranian oil when cheaper and better oil is available. We have to diversify our relation beyond trade so that various economic activities will be incorporated. The vital component of the current economic relations shall be changed from trade to investment.

Our economy shall be welded by investment, not glued by trade. Political, social, cultural cooperation shall be even more encouraged.

Without being supported by mutual understanding, stabilized and diversified relations cannot stand firm. We can buy something from whom we are ignorant

of, but nobody will lend money to whom he does not know well. Our knowledge for the other is superficial. Korea is not a land of JangGom and JuMong so much as Iran is not a country of oil and gas. More efforts need to be poured from both governments in order to make their people more familiar to the other's cul-

The vital component of the current economic relations shall be changed from trade to investment. Our economy shall be welded by investment, not glued by trade. Political, social, cultural cooperation shall be even more encouraged.

ture, history, mode of life, philosophy and so on. Governments' efforts shall be flanked with all people's support and participation. Tourism, cultural activities, student exchange could be effective in this regard. The more opportunities to expose ourselves, the closer we will become. This familiarity will fuel the engine of our friendship.

The journey we have been through so far is very fruitful. But mostly it is a face to face relation for transactions. During the new voyage we will embark, we need to sail together shoulder to shoulder. The compass in our hand directs diversification and mutual understanding.

Saudi, UAE secretly worked for Kurdistan secession

Like Israel, the House of Saud regime and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have supported the Iraqi Kurdistan region's push for secession in an attempt to "clip the wings" of Turkey, Iran and Iraq, a report says.

In an article published on Saturday, David Hearst, the editor in chief of the Middle East Eye (MEE) news portal, drew a parallel between Tel Aviv's stance on the Kurdish vote and that of Riyadh and Abu Dhabi.

The controversial Kurdish referendum took place on September 25, sparking strong objection from Baghdad and Iraq's neighbors, particularly Iran and Turkey

Only Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu publicly voiced support for what he called the "legitimate efforts of the Kurdish people to attain a state of its own."

Major General Yair Golan, former Israeli army deputy chief, also defended the Kurdish secession as well as the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK/Partiya Karkerên Kurdistanê), which is outlawed in Turkey.

"From my personal point of view the PKK is not a terrorist organization, that's how I see it," Golan said.

House of Saud regime, Tel Aviv see eye to eye

According to the report, while Saudi Arabia officially called for the cancellation of the plebiscite, behind the scene it supported the Kurds' plans to split the country and question the territorial integrity of its neighboring states.

The Saudi Royal Court reportedly dispatched a series of emissaries to encourage Kurdish Leader Masoud Barzani to go on with his secession project.

Former Saudi regime military general, Anwar Eshki, was among those figures who explicitly said that working for the creation of a greater Kurdistan would "reduce Iranian, Turkish and Iraqi ambitions."

"This will carve away one third of the territory of each country in favor of Kurdistan," he reportedly

Eshki further told Russia' Sputnik news agency that he believes "the Kurds have the right to have a



state of their own" and claimed that Iraq had "gone far in marginalizing the Kurds."

In July 2016, the ex-Saudi regime general paid a visit to Israel and met with a senior Israeli foreign ministry official and a number of Israeli parliament members

Israeli daily Haaretz at the time described the visit as "a highly unusual one," as Eshki could not have traveled to Israel without approval from the Saudi

UAE adds voice

Meantime, a "reliable source" told the MEE that Barzani's son, Masrour, who heads the Iraqi Kurdistan Region Security Council, made a secret visit to Abu Dhabi just a month before the September referendum.

UAE academics operating under the license of

Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Muhammad bin Zayed Al Nahyan issued statements of support for the Kurdich yets

Emirati professor Abdullah Abd al-Khaliq published a map depicting what he called the future state of Kurdistan and called on Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan not to penalize the Iraqi Kurdistan because of its "democratic" referendum.

Elsewhere, an Iraqi official told The New Arab media outlet that Erbil had signed a "memorandum of understanding" with Ibtesam al-Ketbi, chairwoman of the Emirates Policy Center, to help organize the Kurdish vote. The New Arab quoted another Iraqi official as saying that UAE Consul in Kurdistan Rashid Al-Mansouri had visited a polling station in Erbil. The UAE, however, denied the report.

(Source: Press TV)

Spain urges Catalonia secessionists to obey Madrid

450,000 rally against Spain takeover

The Spanish government has urged Catalonians to accept direct control from Madrid and ignore instructions from the restive region's secessionist leadership once it has been removed from power.

Sunday's message came a day after Madrid resolved to take the unprecedented constitutional step of firing the Catalonia government, a last resort to thwart its secession campaign and calm fears of unrest and economic turmoil in the heart of the euro zone.

The decision, to be implemented this week, brought tens of thousands of pro- secession protesters onto the streets of Barcelona on Saturday and was rejected by Catalan President Carles Puigdemont.

The regional parliament's speaker, Carme Forcadell, said she would not accept Madrid's move and accused Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy of staging a "coup". Spanish Foreign Minister Alfonso Dastis responded on Sunday with the call to obey Madrid.

"All the government is trying to do, and reluctantly, is to reinstate the legal order, to restore the constitution but also the Catalan rules and proceed from there," Dastis told BBC TV.

"We are going to establish the authorities who are going to rule the



day-to-day affairs of Catalonia according to the Catalan laws and norms ... I hope everyone will disregard whatever instructions they will be planning to give because they will not have the legal authority to do that."

Catalonia's leaders say they will not accept direct rule imposed by Madrid, raising the prospect that they and their supporters will seek to defy the Span-

ish government when the time comes to remove them from office. Rajoy's plan still needs Senate ap-

proval in a session set for Friday. Once it gains the expected approval Madrid can take full control of Catalonia's finances, police and public media and curb the powers of the regional parliament for up to six months, until fresh regional elections.

Street protests for and against separation in Catalonia have involved hundreds of thousands of people. Though a violent crackdown by national police during Catalonia's Oct. 1 secession referendum left hundreds injured, the protests have remained peaceful so far

But Rajoy's unprecedented plan to use special constitutional powers has angered both sides and raised concern over the potential for unrest if Catalan leaders resist and call for civil disobedience.

450,000 rally against Spain takeover

Moments after Rajoy announced that Spain would assume control of Catalonia's government, the streets of Catalonia's capital were once again filled with noise.

An estimated 450,000 people on Saturday gathered in Barcelona's center to protest against Madrid's move to impose direct rule over them, a move regional officials described as a "coup".

Carrying the Estelada, the single-starred flag that symbolizes an independent Catalonia, separatist supporters filled the city's streets and squares, while Spanish police helicopters buzzed overhead.

(Source: Reuters)

Britain's divorce bill figure will come in final Brexit deal

Britain can only come up with a figure for a financial settlement with the European Union when Brexit has been agreed, trade minister Liam Fox said on Sunday, warning leaders not to believe London is bluffing over a no deal. Prime Minister Theresa May won a reprieve last week in the talks to unravel more than 40 years of union, when EU leaders offered a signal that the negotiations could move on to a discussion of future ties in December.

But the British leader, weakened after losing her Conservatives' majority in a June election and failing to reset her agenda at an ill-fated party conference, faces several hurdles at home before being able to force the talks forward.

She must get legislation to sever ties with the EU through both houses of parliament, and, on Sunday, the opposition Labor Party said it would team up with Conservative rebels to try to force changes to the EU withdrawal bill.

Fox, speaking on ITV television, said Britain would offer the other 27 EU members "further assurance" on its divorce before the next summit in December to unlock the talks to make way for a discussion of future trade ties.

"I don't know what that number is but it's very



clear that we could only have that final number as part of a final agreement, we would want to know what the end state is," Fox said.

"Away from the hyperbole around the divorce bill there is actually a great deal of cooperation going on between us," he said, adding that the government would show the EU that "we are moving in the right direction" on the first phase of talks.

But he also said the EU should not believe that

Britain was bluffing by saying it was preparing for a no deal, describing trading according to World Trade Organization rules as "not exactly a nightmare scenario".

May faces a delicate balancing act, not only in Brussels where she must respond to the EU's demands for more concrete pledges on the so-called divorce bill, but also at home, where some of her lawmakers want her to walk away from the talks.

Upping the pressure on her, Labor's Brexit spokesman Keir Starmer said the party would back Conservatives hoping to amend the EU withdrawal bill, which seeks to 'copy and paste' EU law into British legislation to ensure Britain has functioning laws and the same regulatory framework when it leaves.

Starmer said he wanted six changes to the bill, including parliament getting a final vote on any Brexit deal and a "completely different approach" to the use of the powers the government will have under the legislation, which will not be put before parliament until next month.

"I believe there is a consensus in Parliament for these changes," he wrote in the Sunday Times news-

(Source: Reuters)

Jimmy Carter says would travel to North Korea



Former United States President Jimmy Carter said he would be willing to travel to North Korea on behalf of the Trump administration to help diffuse rising tensions, The New York Times reported on its website on Sunday.

"I would go, yes," Carter, 93, told the Times when he was asked in an interview at his ranch house in Plains, Georgia whether it was time for another diplomatic mission and whether he would do so for Trump.

Carter, a Democrat who was president from 1977 to 1981, said he had spoken to Trump's National Security Adviser Lt.-Gen. H. R. McMaster, who is a friend, but so far has gotten a negative response.

"I told him that I was available if they ever need me," the Times quoted Carter as saying.

Told that some in Washington were made nervous by Trump and North Korean Leader Kim Jong Un's war of words, Carter said "I'm afraid, too, of a situation."

"They want to save their regime. And we greatly overestimate China's influence on North Korea. Particularly to Kim," who, Carter added, has "never, so far as I know, been to China. And they have no relationship. Kim Jong-il did go to China and was very close to them."

Describing the North Korean leader as "unpredictable," Carter worried that if Kim thinks Trump will act against him, he could do something pre-emptive, the Times reported

"I think he's now got advanced nuclear weaponry that can destroy the Korean Peninsula and Japan, and some of our outlying territories in the Pacific, maybe even our mainland," Carter said.

In the mid-1990s, Carter traveled to Pyongyang over the objections of President Bill Clinton, the Times report said, and struck a deal with Kim II Sung, grandfather of the current leader.

(Source: Reuters)

Israel attacks on Golan sign of collusion with terrorists, Syria tells UN

Syria has criticized the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) for its inaction towards Israel's fresh acts of aggression against its territory in the Golan Heights, denouncing the attacks as an example of Tel Aviv's collaboration with terrorist groups.

In two letters sent to the UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres and the president of the UNSC, the Syrian Foreign Ministry condemned Israel's recent attacks as Tel Aviv's "desperate attempt" to support terrorist groups in the area.

The letters warned about the serious repercussions of Israel's repeated acts of aggression which they said constituted a flagrant violation of the principles of the UN Charter and the rule of international law, and expressed shock over the Security Council's failure to condemn such Israeli attacks.

On Thursday, Israel struck a Syrian artillery position near the southwestern town of Quneitra.

Also on Saturday, the Israeli military said it had attacked three Syrian government's artillery positions in the Golan Heights in response to what it claimed to be the firing of five projectiles from Syria.

The Israeli military said the projectile attacks did not bring about any damage or injuries in the Israeli-occupied area, but warned that the regime may start escalating such "retaliatory" measures.

It was Israel's second act of aggression against Syrian territory this week.

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 Takfiri militants fighting against government forces.

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

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: SANA)

BRIEF



Tehran to host 230 firms in intl. leather exhibit

TEHRAN — The Fourth International d e s k Exhibition of Footwear, Bag, Leather and Related Industry of Iran, which is going to be held in Tehran from October 25 to 28, will host 230 Iranian and foreign

Trade delegations from Russia, China, Italy and Turkey will also visit the exhibition, which will be held at the Tehran Permanent International Fairgrounds, IRIB news reported



Iran-China trade turnover exceeds \$24b in 8 months

ECONOMY TEHRAN — The value of trade between d e s k Iran and China registered a 24 percent rise in the first eight month of 2017 to exceed \$24 billion, Tasnim news agency reported.

According to China's customs administration, the two countries' trade turnover for the first eight months of 2016 stood at \$19.5 billion while the figure was reported to reach \$24.17 billion in the same time period in 2017.

Most of the increase is due to the jump in China exports

UK economic health in doubt as bank of England nears rate hike

UK inflation overshot its central bank target by one percentage point last month, rendering an interest rate hike from the Bank of England (BOE) almost inevitable, stirring debate over the British economy's poor overall performance.

A raise in the BOE base borrowing costs is almost certainly on the way due to above-target inflation and an improved foreign trade outlook. However, Brexit is still affecting the country's economic confidence, as the UK and the EU struggle to negotiate a post-Brexit framework for bilateral exchange in services, goods, and employment.

BOE Governor Mark Carney says the regulator expects inflation to continue to accelerate in October and November, rendering a rate hike almost inevitable by the year-end. This would be the UK's first increase in borrowing costs in roughly a decade.

UK consumer prices increased by 3 percent in September, overshooting the BOE's official target of 2 percent. This comes after August inflation was recorded at 2.9 percent. The pace of expansion in consumer prices is currently the highest since March 2012, when the British economy was recovering from the consequences of the European debt crisis.

"Interest rates have to rise to help tackle inflation and the sooner this happens, the better," Calum Bennie of Scottish Friendly says. "Consumers have been dealt a double blow of poor income growth and rising shop prices over the past year. For many, this has increased dependency on credit, but defaults (are) now on the rise."

A hike in base interest rates indeed helps tackle inflation, but it also has negative effects on GDP growth. Many observers have expressed their skepticism over the BOE's expected raise in borrowing costs, as the UK's pace of economic expansion is tepid due to the deteriorated investor sentiment and uncertainty surrounding the Brexit process.

According to the latest survey of the British economy from the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Brexit could slash at least £40 billion off the UK's GDP by the end of 2019 - in the case of Britain opting for a 'hard Brexit'.

Britain has enjoyed an expansion in its manufacturing sector and a rise in exports following the Brexit vote last year, and its stock market has repeatedly hit record highs, defying investor concerns. However, overall economic growth has been mediocre at 1.5 percent in mid-2017, whilst the EU – driven by the powerhouse German economy and the booming Eastern European markets - saw its GDP accelerate to 2.3-percent annual-

The UK's labor productivity is stagnant at its 2007 levels, according to the OECD report, whilst real household disposable incomes have slipped 0.2 percent year-on-year in Q2.

This means the BOE's tightening of monetary policies would require a fiscal stimulus. Yet, the cabinet of Prime Minister Theresa May does not seem to have a plan aimed at cutting taxes and increasing infrastructure spending. Fiscal austerity, as practiced by the cabinet at this point, coupled with the negative effects the higher interest rates would entail to the GDP, could hamper longer-term economic expansion in the UK.

*On one hand, the BoE doesn't want to heap pressure on borrowers by raising rates, potentially slowing economic growth from an already glacial pace," Laith Khalaf of Hargreaves Lansdown says. "On the other hand, consumer borrowing is rising at quite a clip, and inflation is also heading in the wrong direction, both of which suggest a rate rise is in order."

In UK inflation continues overshooting the BoE's target, and the central bank opts to not raise rates, Governor Carney would have to explain to Chancellor of the Exchequer Philip Hammond the reasons behind the BoE's inaction.

Currently, the BOE interest base rates are at a historic low of 0.25 percent, and the central bank's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) will decide whether to move the rates up at its next meeting in November.

Higher interest rates could also hinder the ongoing rebound in UK exports, as the pound sterling's FX rate would go up, whilst floating-rate mortgages of an overall decreased affordability of credit would squeeze the UK's consumer market.

The Exchequer would have to react to a rate hike by ensuring an increase in average wages and overall household incomes, which is hardly feasible under the cabinet's current austerity poli-

(Source: Sputnik)

Korean companies to build dam in west of Iran

ENERGY TEHRAN — South Ko-ters to be built on Bakhtiari River in Iran's in west of Iran, South Korean Ambassador to Tehran Kim Seung told IRIB news in an exclusive interview.

The dam with a height of over 300 me-

s k rea will construct a dam western city of Khorram-Abad through cooperation of South Korean companies will be one of the tallest dams in the world, the ambassador highlighted.

South Korea is calling for expansion of

Exports from industry, mining sectors shows up to 300% rise in H1

ECONOMY TEHRAN — The d e s k exports of 35 Iranian products from industry and mining sectors rose from 10% to 300% during the first six months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-September 22), the portal of Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) of Iran reported.

According to Masoud Kamali Ardakani, director general of the office for export development of industrial and mineral products at TPO, propane, butane, methanol, bitumen as well as wires and cables, stones, iron and copper, cement and ceramic tiles were among the products exported from the



First Vice-President Es'hag Jahangiri said on Saturday that Iran's annual nonoil exports currently stand at \$47 billion and the country is hopeful that the figure will hit \$100 billion per annum in the



dam-building cooperation with Iran, he said adding it is the second dam that South Korean companies will construct in Iran.

"We will contribute to the project both in financing and technology", the South Korean envoy noted.

Asserting that his country is willing to broaden ties with Iran in all sectors, the ambassador said: "We do not see Iran just a market, while we have a strategic view toward this country and want developed relations in all political, cultural and social fields."

IRISL's fleet average life to decrease to 16 years in Mar. 2018

ECONOMY TEHRAN — Through e s k the arrival of the first vessel Iran has purchased from South Korea on March 2018, the average life of the Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Lines (IRISL)'s fleet will be reduced to 12 years from the current 16 years, according to IRISL managing director.

As Mohammad Saeedi announced, the rest nine vessels will be delivered to IRISL some 10 months after the delivery of the first one, Tasnim news agency

In December 2016, IRISL signed an agreement with South Korea's Hyundai Heavy Industries Company, Ltd. (HHI)



based on which the S. Korean company will build mega-container vessels as well as tankers for carrying petroleum products for Iran.

"Maritime Transportation accounts for more than 87 percent of Iran's trade," according to Saeedi.

Oil markets unfazed by Trump's threats: Zanganeh

Iran's Oil Minister Bijan Zanganeh says global oil markets have remained unfazed by the recent positions of U.S. President Donald Trump against Iran's nuclear deal which the United States and five other states sealed in 2015.

"The oil market did not hear Trump's remarks," Zanganeh told reporters after a session in the Parliament to discuss the potential impacts of the U.S. president's recent remarks against the Iran deal - known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) - on oil prices.

"If Trump's threats had materialized, there should have been a rapid rise in prices of oil. This is while there have been no significant changes over the past week."

Trump announced last week that he would not con- Zanganeh had told the Parliament, should have increased tinue certifying the JCPOA after making a series of threats against the Islamic Republic.

While Trump did not pull Washington out of the nuclear deal, he gave the U.S. Congress 60 days to decide whether to reimpose economic sanctions against Tehran that were The U.S. president has come under widespread criticism

at home and abroad, with America's European allies reaffirming their commitment to the nuclear accord.

Iranian MP Hossein Naqavi Hosseini was quoted by media in Tehran as saying that Trump's anti-JCPOA stance, as

oil prices to as high as \$65 per barrel.

"However, Trump's remarks failed to produce any major impact," Hosseini told reporters, echoing Zanganeh's remarks that this showed the international community had not taken the American president's rhetoric seriously.

He further emphasized that the Iranian oil minister had told the MPs that Iran needed to accelerate plans to attract foreign investors in Iran's oil sector, stressing that a rise in investments would help drive Iran's economic development.

(Source: Press TV)

European banking union needs its final leg

European banking union has been an important step forward in the implementation of a fully functioning economic and monetary union. But it remains incomplete. The first two legs — the Single Supervisory Mechanism and the Single Resolution Fund — have been realized, but one is still missing: the European Deposit Insurance Scheme. Several proposals for the third leg have been put forward, but little progress has been made.

A widespread view is that no advance can be made on the EDIS until the issues related to banks' legacy assets are addressed. In particular, banks in peripheral Eurozone countries would need to reduce the large amount of non-performing loans and government bonds that they still hold. Other wise, the argument goes, the scheme would mean that depositors and taxpayers in the northern countries would have to share the risks accumulated by southern banks before the crisis.

Furthermore, premature introduction of the scheme could create moral hazard and reduce the pressure on banks and their national regulators to dispose of these assets and clean up their balance sheets.

Finally, in the event of sovereign debt restructuring, banks' high holding of government bonds remains a key source of concern, as it fuels the perverse loop between sovereign and bank risk, which was at the heart of the crisis. It is feared that the EDIS would give countries with high public debt an incentive to put pressure on their domestic banks to buy government bonds.

Progress has been achieved recently in reducing banks' holdings of NPLs, especially through new rules introduced by the Single Supervisory

However, holdings of government bonds are more complex. European authorities can hardly set limits for their banks independently of international regulatory standards. But since no country outside the Eurozone is considering such a measure, there is deadlock. The inability to agree on binding constraints for banks on sovereign debt is blocking progress towards the completion of banking union. The most recent proposals from the European Commission show a lack of any am-

This is highly disappointing. There are no good reasons for establishing a strict parallelism between deposit insurance and banks' sovereign risk. Indeed, in the event of a sovereign debt crisis a country's whole banking system would be affected, regardless of whether the banks held government bonds.

(Source: Financial Times)





IN THE NAME OF GOD

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN BROADCASTING

INTERNATIONAL TENDER NO. 96-07/132

Tender Holder:

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN BROADCASTING (IRIB)

Subject of Two-Stage Tender:

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The amount of **USD 59,280** which should be in the form of extendable bank guarantee Time and Place of Delivering Priced Bid:

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The date of opening envelopes A&B is at 8:30 a.m. on Monday Dec. 11, 2017 in the office of Vice President of IRIB Planning and Financial Resources and opening of envelope C will be after technical evaluation.

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INTERNATIONAL DAILY TEHRANTIMES

Controversial Azeri pipeline

The European Bank of Reconstruction and Development's board on October 18 approved \$500 million in

funding for the Azerbaijan-led TANAP pipeline, which

will facilitate the delivery of Caspian Basin natural gas to

groups, which accused the bank of disrespecting the

fundamental principles of multiparty democracy [and]

location of \$500 million would be made from its own

funds, but made no mention of a syndicated loan of up

to \$1 billion that the bank had been expected to ar-

range. The decision comes despite concerns over Azer-

baijan's suitability for support following the country's

decision early this year to drop out of an international

oil-and-gas monitoring agreement, as well as new alle-

the bank was sending the wrong signal by proceeding

with the disbursement. "We regret to see the extrac-

tion and import of additional fossil fuels into Europe,

benefiting only a handful of corporations and oppres-

sive governments, is valued more than sustainable development and freedom of ordinary people," said Anna

Roggenbuck, a policy officer at CEE Bankwatch Network. "We regret to see the extraction and import of additional fossil fuels into Europe, benefiting only a handful

of corporations and oppressive governments, is valued

more than sustainable development and freedom of or-

expected earlier this year but were delayed after Azer-

baijan pulled out of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI), a body that promotes transparency

and good governance in the oil and gas and mineral

sectors. Compliance with EITI rules was supposed to be

The decision has been further complicated by alle-

gations stemming from investigative reports published by The Guardian on the "Azerbaijan Laundromat," a Ba-

ku-financed effort to gain influence and prestige by fun-

neling nearly \$3 billion to influential organizations and

of Azerbaijan's dismal human rights record, and in par-

ticular, to promote the construction of the Southern Gas

Corridor, a larger project (of which TANAP is one part)

to ship Caspian gas to Europe, providing an alternative

Baku's ultimate aim appeared to be to blunt criticism

Decisions on the \$500 million of EBRD funding were

Representatives of watchdog groups asserted that

gations of high-level corruption.

a condition of the EBRD funding.

individuals in Europe.

to Russian gas exports.

The bank confirmed in a press statement that the al-

The decision prompted swift criticism from watchdog

receives \$500m funding

Western Europe.

the rule of law."

dinary people.

OPEC says 'all options are open' with compliance at record level

OPEC and its non-OPEC allies reiterated that all options to rebalance the oil market "are left open" as the producers announced the highest level of compliance with their agreement to curtail

The joint ministerial committee responsible for monitoring the agreement, known as JMMC, said on Saturday that producing countries achieved a record-high conformity level on their voluntary production adjustments at 120 percent in September, according to a statement on the website of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting

"The JMMC will continue to monitor other factors in the oil market and their influence on the ongoing market rebalancing process," it said. "All options are left open to ensure that every effort is made to rebalance the market for the



The 24 oil-producing nations that agreed in December to cut 1.8 million barrels a day of their production, initially for a six-month period, have already extended their deal once -- by nine months until the end of March 2018 -in an effort to lower crude inventories.

The JMMC said in the statement that commercial oil stocks in the OECD countries fell further in September and now stand at 159 million barrels above their latest five-year average. The stocks have been reduced by 178 million barrels since the beginning of this year, JMMC said.

OPEC and its allies are scheduled to meet in Vienna on November 30, while JMMC said in the statement its next meeting is scheduled for the preceding

(Source: Bloomberg)

Iraq's Kurdistan oil exports still sharply reduced

Oil exports from Irag's Kurdistan via the Turkish Mediterranean port of Ceyhan were still flowing at sharply reduced rates on Saturday and Sunday, two shipping sources told Reuters.

Flows were fluctuating at between 200,000 and 250,000 barrels per day versus normal flows of around

Exports have dropped from Wednesday last week when Iraqi military forces took over the Kirkuk area from the Kurdish Peshmerga forces, resulting in a sharp drop in output from nearby fields.

Iraqi oil ministry officials have said they were hoping to bring output back to normal by Sunday but it has not happened yet, one of the sources said.

Iraq said on Saturday it was increasing oil exports from the southern Basra region by 200,000 barrels per day to make up for a shortfall from the northern Kirkuk

The output from Kirkuk fell this week when Iraqi forces took back control of oilfields from Kurdish fighters who had been there since 2014.

The increase in Basra exports keeps Irag's total out-

of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), the oil ministry said in a statement citing Oil Minister Jabar

He said 200,000 barrels per day would be shipped from Basra on top of the usual volumes exported daily of more than 3.2 million barrels.

"These additional volumes will be produced until the northern oil output goes back to its previous level," he

In comments made later to reporters in Baghdad, he expected Kirkuk output to return to last week's level

An oil ministry official told Reuters on Thursday Iraq would not be able to restore Kirkuk's oil output to last week's levels before Sunday because of missing equipment at two of the largest fields of the region, Avana and Bai Hasan

Until these shutdowns, the northern oil region exported about 530,000 barrels per day, of which about half came from the semi-autonomous Kurdistan region and the rest from the disputed Kirkuk province, claimed by both the Kurds and the Iraqi central authorities.

A shipping agent monitoring crude arriving from



northern Iraq to the Turkish Mediterranean export terminal of Ceyhan said flows were unchanged from Friday, at 213,000 bpd.

The crude exported from Ceyhan is carried by a pipeline across Iraqi Kurdistan and then Turkey.

Kurdish Peshmerga forces deployed in Kirkuk in 2014, when the Iraqi army fled in the face of an advance by Islamic State militants. The Kurdish move prevented the militants from taking control of the oilfields.

(Source: Bloomberg)





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NATO grapples with serious organizational shortcomings

By Matthias Gebauer, Konstantin von Hammerstein, Peter Müller and Christoph Schult

The 2nd Cavalry Regiment is one of the oldest units in the U.S. Army. As early as 1846, soldiers from the unit fought against Mexico and in the American Indian Wars two decades later, elements of the unit stumbled into an ambush and were scalped. In 1905, the cavalry members put down a rebellion on the Philippines before going on to take part in two world wars. More recently, the 2nd Cavalry Regiment made several tours in Afghanistan and Iraq.

But on July 18, 2017, the 1st Squadron of the proud regiment came up against an opponent that it couldn't handle. At the Romanian-Bulgarian border, the unit's convoy found itself stopped by a simple border crossing. "We sat in our Strykers for an hour and a half in the sun just waiting for guys to manually stamp some paperwork," Colonel Patrick Ellis, the unit's commander, told the American website Defense One.

In times of peace, such a situation seems little more than burlesque. But in more serious circumstances, such a thing could limit NATO's ability to defend itself. Ever since Russia annexed the Crimean Peninsula in 2014, the Western alliance has been preparing to defend its territory against an aggressor, should it become necessary. But the bureaucracy associated with the international borders among the alliance's 29 member states likely slows troop convoys more effectively than any Russian tank trap ever could. And the problem isn't one of bureaucracy alone.

Since the end of June, a report marked "NATO SECRET" has been circulating in headquarters in Brussels that unsparingly lists the alliance's weaknesses. Under the innocuous title "Progress Report on the Alliance's Strengthened Deterrence and Defense Posture," the authors arrive at the shocking conclusion that "NATO's ability to logistically support rapid reinforcement in the much-expanded territory covering SACEUR's (Supreme Allied Commander Europe) area of operation has been atrophied since the end of the Cold War."

Cold Wa

Atrophy is a word used by doctors to describe the wasting away of bodily tissue, often the result of disuse due to injury. And it takes quite some time before strength is rebuilt. Twenty-seven years after the end of the Cold War, NATO's logistical infrastructure is apparently in a similar situation: Its functionality is limited.

There are shortages of almost everything: things like low-loaders for tanks, train cars for heavy equipment and modern bridges that can bear the weight of a 64-ton giant like the Leopard 2 battle tank. What good are the most expensive weapons systems when they can't be transported to where they are needed most? "The overall risk to rapid reinforcement is substantial," the report reads.

Not even the alliance's rapid-response unit can be relied upon. The "current status of enablement of SACEUR's AOR does not give sufficient confidence that even the NATO Response Force is able to respond rapidly and be sustained, as required."

The secret report from Brussels paints a picture of an alliance that wouldn't be in a position to defend against an attack from Russia. It would be unable to position its troops quickly enough, it lacks sufficient officers on staff and supplies from across the Atlantic are insufficient.

It is a vexing situation given that the Western alliance is (likely) militarily superior to, and (certainly) in much better shape economically than, Russian President Vladimir Putin's regime. Ultimately, though, as thousands of years of military history have shown, it is often unspectacular factors such as supply lines, provisions and logistics that determine victory or defeat. To be sure, hardly anyone really thinks that Russia might attack a NATO member state, but many in the alliance are convinced that only a credible military deterrence will prevent Putin from exerting political pressure on the alliance's easternmost countries like Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia.

Alliance's military architecture

As such, three years after the Crimea annexation, the alliance's military architecture is facing far-reaching restructuring. The period of the so-called "peace dividend" - a term referring to the years following 1989 when Western countries felt they no longer needed to spend as much money on their defensive capabilities - is over and Cold War command structures have returned. Once again, NATO should be prepared for a large military conflict, for a "MJO+," as it is called in military jargon. The invocation of Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty, whereby an attack on one member is seen as an attack on all, would constitute such a "Major Joint Operation Plus."

The alliance "must be able to rapidly reinforce a threatened ally or allies, to underpin deterrence in peacetime and crises, and to reinforce an ally or allies for defense in case of attack," the report reads. It must also be able to quickly mobilize and sustain troops, "whatever the nature, demand, destination or duration of the operation, mission or activity." To ensure that capability, a "robust civil/military logistics structure and enabling capabilities" are required, including lines of communication from North America to the eastern and southern borders of NATO territory and "intra-European routes."

Defense ministers from the 29 NATO member states assigned the task of reforming the alliance's command structures back in February. In the future, the alliance must be able to carry out several operations concurrently at the maximum "level of ambition," they said at the time.

Hitherto existing NATO command structures is "at best, only partially fit for purpose and, while it has not been tested, would quickly fail if confronted with the full NATO Level of Ambition," the secret NATO paper notes. This "level of ambition" is designed as "MJO+." In other words, NATO is preparing for a possible war with Russia.

NATO military leaders have long known that the alliance's command structures are no longer up to the task of a major conflict with Russia. A week ago Friday, they presented the NATO Military Committee with their suggestions for augmenting the officer staff. Now, all member states have the opportunity to comment on the plans and in early November, defense ministers will likely approve it.

(Source: Spiegel)

Trump isn't Hitler, but the lying...

By Charles M. Blow

It is a commonly accepted rule among those who are in the business of argument, especially online, that he or she who invokes Adolf Hitler, either in oratory or essays, automatically forfeits the argument.

The reference is deemed far too extreme, too explosive, too far beyond rational correlation. No matter how bad a present-day politician, not one of them has charted or is charting a course to exterminate millions of innocent people as an act of ethnic cleansing.

Hitler stands alone in this regard, without rival, a warning to the world about how evil and lethal human beings can be, a warning that what he did can never be allowed again.

That said, there are strategies that Hitler used to secure power and rise — things that allowed his murderous reign — that can teach us about political theory and practice. And very reasonable and sage comparisons can be drawn between Hitler's strategies and those of others.

One of those lessons is about how purposeful lying can be effectively used as propaganda. The forthcoming comparison isn't to Hitler the murderer, but to Hitler the liar.

"In the big lie there is always a certain force of credibility; because the broad masses of a nation are always more easily corrupted in the deeper strata of their emotional nature than consciously or voluntarily; and thus in the primitive simplicity of their minds they more readily fall victims to the big lie than the small lie, since they themselves often tell small lies in little matters but would be ashamed to resort to large-scale falsehoods."

Fabricating colossal untruths

"It would never come into their heads to fabricate colossal untruths, and they would not believe that others could have the impudence to distort the truth so infamously. Even though the facts which prove this to be so may be brought clearly to their minds, they will still doubt and waver and will continue to think that there may be some other explanation. For the grossly impudent lie always leaves traces behind it, even after it has been nailed down, a fact which is known to all expert liars in this world and to all who conspire together in the art of lying."

This demonstrates a precise understanding of human psychology, but also the dangerously manipulative nature that



"Trump has a habit of punctuating his more selfassured claims with the phrase 'believe me.' But when he wants space between himself and the words he is about to speak or tweet, he defers to other sources, relying on a rhetorical sleight."

operates in the mind of a demon.

And yet, as many have noted, no person of sound reason or even cursory political awareness can read this and not be immediately struck by how similar this strategy of lying is to Donald Trump's seeming strategy of lying: Tell a lie bigger than people think a lie can be, thereby forcing their brains to seek truth in it, or vest some faith in it, even after no proof can be found.

Trump is no Hitler, but the way he has manipulated the American people with outrageous lies, stacked one on top of the other, has an eerie historical resonance. Demagogy has a fixed design.

It should be mentioned that Vanity Fair reported in 1990 that Trump's first wife, Ivana, "told her lawyer Michael Kennedy that from time to time her husband reads a book of Hitler's collected speeches, 'My New Order,' which he keeps in a cabinet by his bed." The magazine pointed out that "Hitler's speeches, from his earliest days up through the Phony War of 1939, reveal his extraordinary ability as a master propagandist." (At the time, Trump said, "If I had these speeches, and I am not saying that I do, I would never read them.")

Trump has found a way to couch the lies so that people believe they don't emanate

from him but pass through him. He is not a producer but a projector.

One way he does this is by using caveats — "I was told," "Lots of people are saying" — as shields.

Jenna Johnson of The Washington Post addressed this in June 2016, writing about Trump's use of the phrase "a lot of people are saving":

"Trump frequently couches his most controversial comments this way, which allows him to share a controversial idea, piece of tabloid gossip or conspiracy theory without technically embracing it. If the comment turns out to be popular, Trump will often drop the distancing qualifier — 'people think' or 'some say.' If the opposite happens, Trump can claim that he never said the thing he is accused of saying, equating it to retweeting someone else's thoughts on Twitter."

In August of 2016, Gregory Krieg and Jeff Simon came to a similar conclusion about Trump's use of these phrases, pointing out on CNN:

"Trump has a habit of punctuating his more self-assured claims with the phrase 'believe me.' But when he wants space between himself and the words he is about to speak or tweet, he defers to other sources, relying on a rhetorical sleight."

Just this week, Trump told the colossal

lie that "President Obama and other presidents, most of them didn't make calls" to the families of fallen soldiers.

When called out about this lie, he quickly retreated to one of his shield phrases: "That's what I was told."

Trump's awkward process

He even projects his own ignorance onto others with his lies. As Steve Benen pointed out in July on MSNBC.com, Trump's "awkward process of discovery has, however, produced a phrase of underappreciated beauty: 'A lot of people don't know that.' These seven words are Trump's way of saying, I just learned something new, and I'm going to assume others are as ignorant as I am.'"

This is not a simple fear of the truth; it is a weaponizing of untruth. It is the use of the lie to assault and subdue. It is Trump doing to political ends what Hitler did to more brutal ends: using mass deception as masterful propaganda.

Maybe I have crossed the ink-stained line of the essay writer, where Hitler is always beyond it. But I don't think so. Ignoring what one of history's greatest examples of lying has to teach us about current examples of lying, particularly lying by the "president" of the most powerful country in the world, seems to me an act of timidity in a time of terror. It is an intentional self-blinding to avoid offending frail sensibilities.

I have neither time nor patience for such tiptoeing. I prefer the boot of truth to slam down to earth like thunder, no matter the shock of hearing its clap.

The world has seen powerful leaders use lying as a form of mass manipulation before. It is seeing it now, and it will no doubt see it again. History recycles. But the result doesn't have to be — and hopefully never will be again — a holocaust. It can manifest as a multitude of other, lesser horrors, in both protocol and policy, including the corrosion and regression of country and culture.

That is the very real threat we are facing. Trump isn't necessarily a direct threat to your life — unless of course you are being kept alive by health care that he keeps threatening, or if you're in Puerto Rico reeling in the wake of two hurricanes — but he is very much a threat to your quality of life.

The only question is: Are enough Americans sufficiently discerning to understand that this time they are the ones being manipulated?

(Source: The NYT)

Guilty conscience, mortal peril

Germany has been the force for European stability and restraint in the years since World War II, but now it may be the new "sick man of Europe."

The recent German elections were expected to produce an increased majority for Angela Merkel's Christian Democratic Party, which long ago outgrew its religious roots but remains the largest German political force. Merkel's victory now looks less like a triumph and more like a disaster.

Her Christian Democratic Alliance won 33 percent of the vote, 9 percent less than four years ago, and its worst performance since 1949. The Social Democratic Party, her traditional enemy/partner in government, lost more than 5 percent. A new party, the Alternative for Germany, a conservative nationalist party born in 2013, won 12.6 percent, and Die Linke, the Marxist left, received 9 percent.

Since neither the Social Democrats nor Die Linke will participate in the next government, and Alternative for Germany is an expression of opposition to the traditional conservatives, Frau Merkel has only two possible partners to form a majority: the libertarian Free Democratic Party and the Greens, both fundamentally opposed to the Merkel conservatives.

If Merkel succeeds in forming her coalition, it will be an unstable assemblage that will keep Germany on the verge of paralysis. In a way, she brought this on herself with an enthusiastic welcome to an avalanche of migrants just as the birthrate is falling among traditional Germans

German role in Europe

Over the half century since the end of World War II, Germany has been trying to erase the memory of uncontrolled nationalism, national socialism, the Nazis, Hitler, and World War II. But the rejection of all expressions of nationalism led to a failure of Germany to define itself as European. Now with the departure of Britain from the European Union, the weakness of France and the Low Countries, the German role in Europe is once more up for grabs.

The welcome for an avalanche of Muslim immigrants was meant to compensate for Hitler's destruction of



the Jews, that Germany is morally OK now. By 2000, the number of migrants had reached 3.5 million, mostly Turks. But as the Syrian civil war destabilized the Arab world, a huge wave of Arab and North African migrants has attracted more than 1.5 million newcomers, many of them young men entitled to reuniting their families in Germany, hence bringing in more migrants.

Almost half of the crimes committed in Berlin last year were attributed to recent migrants. Terrorist networks have formed. Welfare costs for the new arrivals have snowballed. Someone has to be blamed for all the mischief and bad judgment, and public-opinion polls say most Germans think the main danger to world peace and stability is the United States.

Germany's median age is now 46.8 with 40 percent of children having foreign roots. Since 2005, the population of new arrivals has increased by 24 percent, while native-born have declined by 5 percent. Demographers calculate that unless current trends are reversed, Germans of Christian and European extraction will be a minority within 20 years, and perhaps sooner.

Rolf Peter Sieferle, a former counselor to Merkel, has described Germany as "a society that can no longer make the difference between itself and the forces that dissolve it, [and] lives morally beyond its means." Harshly scolded by those with whom he once worked, he took his life last year. A collection of his notes, "Finis Germaniae" ("The End of Germany"), was published after his death. If he proves to be a prophet, it would mean as well the death of the Europe the world has known.

(Source: The Washington Times)

Thwarting terrorism in Nigeria

By Lai Mohammed

"If they fail to give us Biafra, Somalia will look like a paradise compared to what will happen to that 'zoo' (Nigeria)." These are the words of Nnamdi Kanu, leader of the so-called Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB).

On Sept. 20, the Federal Govern-

ment of Nigeria proscribed IPOB as a terrorist organization. I, as minister of Information and Culture and the spokesman of the government, call on our international partners to do the same.

agreed definition of terrorism, many nations' characterizations closely correlate. Basic to all of them is this: the calculated threat or use of violence to further a political, religious or ideological cause.

Back to Nnamdi Kanu: "I don't want peaceful actualization (of Biafra)"; "We need guns and we need bullets"; "If they don't (give us Biafra), they will die." Public announcement like these puts IPOB's designation beyond doubt in most jurisdictions: they are a terrorist organization, as ETA was in Spain, the Tamil Tigers was in Sri Lanka, and the PKK is in Turkey (all of whom are proscribed by the U.S. State Department).

Streams of cash

But it is not for the sake of a label we level this appeal. Currently, streams of cash come from across the globe to swell the organization's stockpile of weapons. Yet funding of terrorism is illegal in international law. Only with the group's correct categorization will our international partners be able to halt the financing — and with it, IPOB's future.

The threat posed by the organization may be low. IPOB commands little grass-root support in the South East (the region it calls Biafra). All South-East governors have collectively condemned IPOB's calls for secession.

And local traditional and religious leaders have weighed into the debate, restating that absolute integrity of Nigeria. Violence, much less terrorism, never solves grievance. And for that reason, the overwhelming majority of residents in the South-East reject IPOB.



They know the ballot box offers the best mechanism for redress.

In spite of this, the latent threat is high. Boko Haram similarly had little support in the North East in 2009. They didn't need it. Armed with terror and buoyed by government inaction, they seized large swathes of land.

Inertia in Abuja lubricated the group's advance. But now due to this government's actions, Boko Haram hold no local districts. This administration shall not make the same mistake as the last. We will take the rapid, precise and necessary action required to deal with IPOB now.

The government recognizes in IP-OB's lust for destruction a trait shared with Boko Haram. It also appreciates a qualitative difference in the threat.

Unlike Boko Haram — a regional insurgency — IPOB breeds insecurity across the whole nation. In their divisive and inciting rhetoric, they jeopardize

the very social fabric that binds us.

Nigeria is a multicultural nation. Our strength lies in our diversity. The Igbo — the ethnic group that IPOB claim to represent — live in the South East, as they do in every zone across Nigeria alongside Hausa, Ijaw, Fulani, Yoruba and more. Each district makes up its own rich tapestry, with ethnicities and religions intermingling to form unique communities.

IPOB's public announcements endanger Igbos that reside outside the South East. In claiming to speak for the Igbo, they falsely represent the group. But the public may sometimes miss this distinction. And whilst the government has taken all measures to soothe tensions, rumor still takes hold.

(Source: The Washington Times)

Iran's ballistic missile development is completely legal: William Beeman

A: The "decertification" was the result of a Congressional Bill that was passed in 2015, H.R.1191 - Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act of 2015. The Republicans in Congress refused to "approve" of the JCPOA unless this act was approved and signed by President Obama.

This a ct has nothing to do with the actual provisions of the JCPOA (which is a United Nations Resolution). Nor does it have anything to do with Iran's compliance with the terms of the JCPOA. What the act requires the President to do is to "certify" every 90 days that the JCPOA is in "the interests of the United States."

Presid ent Trump before he was electe d promised to "tear up" the JCPOA. He couldn't do that, and in fact he was forced to declare in September that Iran was in compliance with the JCPOA. So under this Congressi onal Act he declared that the JCPOA was not (or no longer) in the interests of the United States.

This throws the question of whether to re-impose sanctions on Iran back to Congress. They have 60 days to decide. This allows Trump to say that he reject ed the JCPOA without actually cancelling U.S. involvement in the agreement. If Congress decides to reimpose sanctions, it is unclear whether the United States will be in violation of the JCPOA.

Trump would love it if Iran decided to withdraw, because then he could blame Iran for pulling out. But the short answer is that Trump did this solely for his own political purposes, and not because Iran actually violated the act.

Reim posing Iran's sanctions by Congress is in fact tantamount to



JCPOA, like Iran's (completely legal)

ballistic missile development, support

for Hezbollah and President Assad of

Syria and even questions about re-

leas in g Iranian-Americans in prison

in Iran and other human rights ques-

tions. So this is very much up in the air,

but Trump has now washed his hands

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

ing this. The other P5+1 nations don't

agree. Moreover, the JCPOA is actually

a United Nations Security Council Res-

olution. At this point France and the

A: Only President Macron is say-

of further responsibility.

Europe will follow suit?

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: The important word is "tantamount." I don't know what Congress will do. The Senate has voted overwhelmingly for sanctions on Iran in the past. H.R. 1191 passed 99-1 and the additional sanctions on the IRGC earlier this year passed 98-2.

This means almost all Democrats voted for this. Congress is in a quandary about this. Some who voted for additional sanctions on Iran believe that reimposing sanctions will put the United States in breach of the JCPOA. Others say no.

Still others think that this situation will make it possible for the United States to bargain with Iran about matters that have nothing to do with the

United States have no power to renegotiate the JCPOA.

Howe ve r Congressional leaders

Howe ve r Congressional leaders and perhaps President Macron think that the possibility of reimposing sanctions will compel Iran to enter into negotiations on these non-nuclear is-

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: Well, I don't know for sure. You probably know more about the Iranian reaction than I do, but my guess is that as long as other nations don't reimpose sanctions, including the United Nations and the European Union, Iran will just let the United States do what it wants in complete isolation.

Technically the United States can claim that it has not broken the agreement, but you know that if sanctions are reimposed this is simply a political sophistry One thing that will be affected is the sale of Boeing jets to Iran. If Iran wanted to protest, they could immediately note that re-imposition of sanctions would kill this deal, and it would not be Iran killing the deal, but rather the U.S. Congress itself

Iran could also note that combined trade between Iran and the United States is now at about \$120million (imports and exports), and this would stop if sanctions are imposed. A third thing to tell Prime Minister Macron is that Iran is already using French banking sources that have no operations in the United States to process its trade deals, and if France doesn't uphold its part of the agreement, those financial resources will disappear.

JCPOA does not involve only US, Iran: Expert

Commenting on decertifying of the JCPOA by President Trump, director of the A.W. Clausen Center for World Business at Carthage Dr. Cyr says the JCPOA is a multi-lateral accord not a bilateral one between Iran and US.

According to many western thinkers who believe in Liberalism, international treaties and agreements are necessary for world security and stability. These multilateral approaches can guarantee the world security and stability by creating interdependency among many nations of the world.

After the Second World War, the US has always been trying to develop multilateral liberal regimes in order to keep its power and hegemony. But nowadays the world is witnessing that the US president Donald Trump is walking away from many of these agreements one after the other like Paris Climate Accord, TPP, NEFTA, UNESCO and recently trying to scrap the nuclear deal with Iran (JCPOA).

To know more about the issue and to find out that whether Trump's approach is a wise one or finally all his actions will result in weakening of the US power in the world, Tehran Times reached out to Dr. Arthur I. Cyr, director of the A.W. Clausen Center for World Business at Carthage.

Referring to unilateral measures of the US president Donald Trump, Dr. Cyr said, "There is at least one thing



worse than fighting with allies – and that is to fight with out them. Winston Churchill with that statement summed up a basic truth of international politics and war. His statement effectively addresses your questions.

Commenting on decertifying of the JCPOA unilaterally by President Trump and its possible consequences for the US, Cyr said "Churchill's words bear directly on the current debate over the nuclear agreement with

Iran. United States leaders seem to be preoccupied with talking to themselves, while ignoring partners in the agreement, including our most vital durable allies."

He added, "President Donald Trump has dramatically "decertified" Iran, arguing they are not abiding by the international agreement to deter developing nuclear weapons. This means Congress can now decide whether to re-impose economic sanctions. In fact, the Tehran government has carefully remained within the limits of the accord, while pressing at the margins. The actual agreement does not involve only the US and Iran. The P5+1 group that negotiated with Iran consists along with the US of Britain, China, France, Russia — the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council - plus Germany. Secretary of State John Kerry in the Obama administration demonstrated phenomenal energy, dedication and effectiveness in brokering the complex accord."

Cyr concluded, "The United States remains institutionally bound by membership in a range of international and regional organizations. As a current example, the U.S. remains within the international agreement on Iran's nuclear program, despite the dramatic statement by President Trump. Not many years ago, there was strong political sentiment in the US for leaving the UN. That is no longer the case."

Trump is not capable of rallying global opinion against Iran: Adib Moghaddam

The Tr u mp administration in this non-American world order, partially because of its incompetency and partially is not able to rally global opinion in favo ur of confronting Iran, says Arshin Adib Moghaddam, Professor in Global Thought and Comparative Philosophies and Chair of the Centre for Iranian Studies at the London Middle East Institute.

Following is the full text of his inter-

Ac co rding to Liberalism, international treaties and agreements are necessary for world security and stability. Some believe President Trump's exit from international treaties is a threat to liberalism. What do you think of this?

Well President Trump is certainly not a liberal person. Rather, he seems an angry and authoritarian character. He is not a freedom seeker in terms of his politics, both in the United States and internationally. I don't even think he knows the difference between conservatism and liberalism. Ultimately, his disrespect for the JCPOA is a good example for the inability of his administration to act strategically. A strategy would have required rallying glob all opinion in favour of confronting

Iran; this US administration is not capable of doing this, partially because of its incompetency and partially because we are living in an increasingly non-American world order.

What can be the possible effects of Trump's walking away from international treaties on international law and international and legal customs?

The im mediate effect has been already that this US government has lost even more international credibility. The respected countries in the world are those that ensure the freedom of their people and pursue a coherent foreign policy aimed at international security and stability. Canada under Trudeau is a good example, Merkel in Germany has done well, and Macron is taking good steps. None of these leaders sits easily next to someone like Donald Trump, but they would have been rather close to a President such as Obama. In this non-American order, the efforts by the Trump administration to confront Iran and North Korea do not gain traction beyond the moment. So it is ironic, yet logical given the analysis above, that it is the United States that has been hurt the most by questioning a multilateral agreement such as the JCPOA.

Liberal order is basically based on

multilateralism. Trump's exit from the Paris Climate Accord, TPP, NEFTA and possibly from the JCPOA is in contradiction with multil ateralism. Can such an approach guarantee the US power?

By detaching the US from international institutions, the global power of the country will diminish rather than increase. In an interconnected world, a multilateral strategy is necessary and prudent in order to channel diplomatic power to the global stage. The Trump administration does not seem to understand such realities, largely because they are in a state of delirium. Psycho-nationalist thinking does that to the human mind. It blurs the cognition of people. I have explored such dynamics in my new book "Psycho-nationalism" by Cambridge University Press.

Some say the regimes created after Second World War helped a lot to the US hegemonic power and the creation of the US favoured orders, but now these regimes do not serve the US interest anymore, so the Trump's measures to walk away from these regimes are very wise

to weaken the regimes and exit. What do

In the current world order which is increasingly multi-polar, where China, Russia, India and the EU are emerging as major gravitating centres, the United States simply can't go it alone. The international system was never really purely US dominated. Don't forget the bipolar order, when the Soviet Union dominated its own realm, including a good part of Europe. A prudent, strategic and powerful foreign policy has to create as many global nodal points for a country as possible, as many anchor points where the country can lodge into in order to pursuit its interest with a positive sum mentality which ensure the interest of others as well. If this is not the case, if a country isolates itse If, it loses the ability to manoeuvre and to extend -hence - its foreign policy orbit. Unilateralism is a counter-productive foreign policy choice. In the end, the Trump moment will pass and his politics will be a mere footnote in history - one that most Americans will want to forget sooner rather than later. After all, most of his countrymen think him the biggest embarrassment in US history.

Adventurous journey of miss diplomat to Washington

By Ali Alemi

In recent days, Mogherini's visit to the United States and her meeting with the U.S. authorities have been the media's attention. The current high representative of the European Union for foreign affairs, Federica Mogherini, is to travel to the United States in early November to meet with President Donald Trump and other officials in the country and discuss the issues of the JCPOA. Mogherini said that the meeting will be aimed at defending the nuclear deal with Iran. The EU representative for foreign affairs said:

"I'll go to the United States and will ask the lawmakers of this country not to walk away from the JCPOA. Clearly the ministers are concerned that messages on JCPOA might affect negatively opening negotiations or even the space [for] opening negotiations with DPRK." Regarding the recent remarks by Mogherini and her visit to the United States, there are some points that need to be addressed: Firstly, the European Union's policy on the JCPOA is still a dual policy. On the one hand, the United Europe emphasizes the need to maintain the nuclear deal, and on the other hand, they say it is possible to re-negotiate it with Iran. Mogherini and her companions are aware of the fact that any change in the nuclear agreement will be synonymous with the change in its content and the collapse of the legal and strategic balance of the document. Therefore, there is essentially no difference between "change of JCPOA" and "abrogation of JCPOA". What the Islamic Republic of Iran is focusing on today is not "form" and appearance, but the content and objective commitments of the parties. The commitments that the United States has not fulfilled in the past two years and the European Troika has not made any significant strides in reversing Washington's rebellion.

The second point is that our country's statesmen interpretation of the term "Defending the JCPOA" is different from what Mogherini has in her mind of this term. The only way to defend the JCPOA from the point of view of our country's authorities is to maintain the nuclear deal without the slightest change in it. However, it seems that according to Mogherini and her entourage, maintaining the nuclear deal means applying some changes in some of its essential sections. These sections are briefly summarized as follows:

1- Iran accepts inspecting its military sites and the International Atomic Energy Agency should be able to access these sites at any time.

2. The so-called Sunset clause, in which the end of the restrictions imposed on Iran's nuclear program is anticipated, is to be canceled, and these limitations will be subject to permanent constraints.

3. Iran's missile capability and the restrictions imposed on it, in the form of an addendum, should be attached to the nuclear deal between Iran and members of the P5 + 1.

Obviously, the insistence on any of these cases will be synonymous with the violation of the JCPOA by United States. In this context, the European Union must declare whether it is in Washington with this process or not. In the event of European co-operation with Washington, the European Troika is naturally out of the deal, and in this equation, there will be no difference between them and the White House officials. This is an issue that should be explicitly addressed to Mogherini by the diplomatic system of our country.

The fact is that during the recent days, Mogherini has not taken explicit positions in her statements regarding the JCPOA, in spite of the general defense of the nuclear deal with Iran. It is while any negotiations over the nuclear deal, and subsequently any changes in it, is not to be accepted by the Islamic Republic of Iran. Mogherini's trip to the United States will happen in a situation when in recent days, French and British officials have shown a green light on a renewed deal with Iran to Washington.

Trump has asked the French and English authorities to focus on these two issues: the inclusion of the Iranian missile capability in the JCOA, and revision of the so called "Sunset" Clause, and also to have a direct and thorough cooperation with IAEA Director General Yukio Amano on the issue of inspecting the military sites of Iran. It should be noted that Amano, with the announcement of the need to reinstate Section "T" of Annex 1 of the JCPOA, has actually launched the agency's mission in favor of Washington to inspect the military sites of our country.

Following the recent talks by Trump about the JCPOA, we are witnessing the continuation of this targeted game by the European Troika. British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson said in his latest position:

"The Americans are still part of the JCPOA, the suspension of sanctions has continued, and this is an important issue. Now it's possible that the congress will tear up the agreement, but I should point out that it is unlikely that such an incident will happen because we will try to convince our congressional friends and allies that the JCPOA is a worthy treaty. Many congressional delegates are inclined to correct the JCPOA, not to destroy it."

As can be seen, Boris Johnson has come up with the idea of normalizing a "correcting the JCPOA" by the U.S. Congress. Interestingly, the examples of this correction! were named by French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian.

"For us, the Vienna accord is a good accord... It is robust and coherent," said Le Drian. However he left the door open to further talks on what happens after a deadline in 2025, when certain limits on Iran's uranium enrichment are set to expire. "Washington would like to see the curbs extended in perpetuity" he continued, "We can open a preliminary discussions with Tehran on what happens after 2025. If the treaty is respected, Iran can fully exercise its rights under the Non-Proliferation Treaty. If safeguards or inspections are required on this date, we will start discussing them. It is also a way to avoid breaches today!

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One of the more common symptoms of the menopause is a persistent on-going feeling of exhaustion and fatigue - mental and physical. This article looks at the causes of fatigue and provides you with 8 tips to combat fatigue.

Menopause fatigue can be mental and physical

During menopause and perimenopause many women may experience an on-going and persistent lack of energy and feelings of tiredness and weakness. You may be surprised to find yourself feeling exhausted in a way that is unexplainable. The signs of menopausal fatigue include decreased wakefulness, lowered attention span, mental fuzziness, irritability, and memory lapses. You may find that you are lacking your usual zest for life

Can a change in hormones cause menopausal fatigue?

The main cause of menopausal fatigue is the change in hormone levels. Oestrogen, progesterone, thyroid and adrenal hormones are all involved in regulating cellular energy in the body which when compromised can lead to fatigue.

Physical menopausal symptoms like night sweats and insomnia contribute to fatigue. Many women find themselves suffering from a chronic lack of sleep and this is a contributory factor in fatigue during the day. Fatigue exacerbates menopausal symptoms such as anxiety, poor concentration, and a lack of confidence. You can easily find yourself in a spiraling,

Breaking the cycle of fatigue - 8

Breaking this cycle and getting better sleep will help reduce your feelings of fatigue.

1. Take a power nap

Many women find it very helpful to have a short 20 minutes nap during the day to reduce fatigue. If you work in an office, and if it is possible, find a quiet place during



help rest the mind, lower heart rate and

blood pressure, and produce feelings of

deep relaxation which can be drawn on

thoughts and emotions. You may have a lot

of different changes going on in your life

(physical, mental and emotional) and it can

be very helpful to write to yourself about

them as a way of getting perspective and

6. Use herbal or nutritional support

Many women find Siberian Ginseng or

Adrenal Support help to give them more

energy and aid in rebalancing hormones.

Magnesium can help sleep - either take

a supplement or use a spray oil before

going to bed. It's best to consult an expert

nutritionist or herbalist who can advise on

your needs and potential deficiencies at

midlife. Many of us are depleted by the time

Keep a diary or journal to log your

during busy or stressful times.

5. Keep a diary

charting change.

your lunch break and close your eyes. A power nap is an essential tool to revitalize our bodies and mind.

2. Relax at your desk

If this is not possible for you, find a way to relax. If, for example, you're at a desk all day, carry out a regular breathing exercise. Close your eyes, breathe in deeply and slowly to the count of 4, and then breathe out slowly to the count of 6. Do this 10 times each hour. Each exercise will only take 15 seconds, but the impact will be huge. Put a yellow sticky note on your computer to remind yourself. Your colleagues will notice the new, revitalized you!

3. Fresh air

Make sure to get out into the fresh air at lunchtime and during other breaks - hail,

4. Find a technique that you like Consider taking up mindfulness, Feldenkrais or yoga. These practices can having a very good diet. Avoid caffeine as much as possible - especially after lunch. Chamomile tea or other herbal teas of your choice are a great alternative. 7. Don't over-exercise

can be counter-productive.

Fatigue can be greatly helped by doing gentle exercise but you can increase fatigue by over-exercising. Regular gentle exercise, such as walking, swimming, cycling and dancing, can be very beneficial during the menopause to balance a wide range of symptoms, but remember - over-exercise

we get to our late 40s having run ourselves

ragged in our 30s and 40s - often despite

In addition to changing hormone levels and poor sleep patterns, menopausal fatigue can be caused by factors such as low iron levels, stress, too much work, food allergies, and other nutritional deficiencies. Our adrenal system is working hard to rebalance hormones during menopause, therefore it is important not to put your adrenal glands under additional pressure. So try to reduce stress, and cut down on stimulants such as coffee, alcohol and

8. A relaxing bedtime routine

Try to get into a positive, relaxing, and regular routine in the evening. Make sure not to over-stimulate your brain before going to bed. Wind down gently for at least an hour. Try not to work at the computer or watch TV in bed. Rather - perform some relaxing stretches, or have a candlelit lavender bath!

Have your evening meal at least four hours before going to bed. Avoid coffee, alcohol, and other stimulants during the evenings. Replace them with calming herbal tea such as chamomile tea. Have a look in your health food shop for a wide range of relaxing and sleepy time herbal tea blends and find one that you like. It is beneficial to drink these teas in the afternoon as well as

(Source: mysecondspring.ie)

other nutritional deficiencies. Home remedies for ear infections

In addition to changing hormone levels and

poor sleep patterns, menopausal fatigue can

be caused by factors such as low iron levels,

stress, too much work, food allergies, and

Ear infections are caused by bacteria or viruses in the middle ear. Ear infections occur more often in children than adults. Some causes and contributing factors that lead to ear infections are wax buildup, upper respiratory infections, food allergies, environmental allergies, fetal alcohol syndrome, genetics, nutritional deficiencies and internal injuries. Some common signs that someone is suffering from an ear infection are pain in the ear, tugging at the ear, difficulty sleeping, headache, poor response to sounds, high fever, fluid draining from the ear, vomiting, diarrhea and so on

The ear is made up of three parts: outer, middle and

An ear infection can occur in any of the three parts. Inner ear infections are the most serious. It is important to treat an ear infection to prevent complications, including damaging or rupturing the ear drum. Untreated ear infections can also lead to chronic recurrence and can even cause deafness! It is important to consult a doctor, but for immediate relief you can try some natural treatments. There are many time-honored, simple and easy home remedies that can help to get rid of the pain and other symptoms of an ear infection.

1. Salt

Salt is probably the most readily available home

- Heat up one cup of salt on a pan over low heat for a few minutes. You can also heat it in a microwave or double-boiler.
- Place the hot salt on a cloth and seal the open end with rubber band (or tie a knot)
- When it is bearably hot, lay down and put the cloth on the affected ear for 5 to 10 minutes.
- Repeat this remedy daily as many times as needed. The heat generated from the sock will help draw out fluid from the ear and relieve swelling and pain.

As an alternative, you can use one cup of rice in the same manner described above.

2. Garlic

Garlic has antimicrobial properties and natural pain relieving qualities, making it highly effective in the treatment of ear infections. There are a few ways to use garlic as a home treatment.

Home Remedies for EAR INFECTIONS 1. Heat up 1 cup of salt on a pan over low heat for a 2. Place it on a cloth or sock and seal the open end When it is bearably hot, place the salt pouch on the infected ear for 5-10 minutes. SALT 4. Repeat the remedy daily as many times as needed.

- Make garlic oil by cooking two garlic cloves in two tablespoons of sesame oil or mustard oil until it turns blackish. Strain the solution. When it is bearably hot, use two to four drops of this oil in the infected ear as ear
- Alternatively, you can also boil two or three fresh garlic cloves in water for five minutes, then crush them and add some salt. Put the mixture in a clean cloth and place it against the affected ear.
- Consuming two to three cloves of raw garlic daily also helps speed up the healing process.

You can also use holy basil to treat minor earache and ear infections. It can relieve ear pain as well as reduce

• Crush four to five fresh holy basil leaves gently to extract the juice. Apply the basil juice on or around the infected ear. Avoid getting the juice in the ear canal.

• You can also mix a few drops of holy basil oil with an equal amount of carrier oil like coconut oil. Soak a cotton ball in the mixture and gently wipe just inside the ear, around the outer edge and behind the ear. Repeat the process twice daily.

4. Apple cider vinegar

To get rid of the fungus that may be causing the ear infection, apple cider vinegar is a good option.

- Mix one part apple cider vinegar with an equal amount of water or alcohol. Soak a cotton ball in the
- Put the cotton ball in your ear like a plug and leave it for about five minutes.
- Remove the cotton ball and lay down on your opposite side to drain the liquid from the ear. Use a hair dryer to dry your ear as much as possible.

If apple cider vinegar is not available, you can use white vinegar. If the cause of the ear infection is in the Eustachian tubes, try gargling with apple cider vinegar.

One of the main causes of an ear infection is wax in the ear catching some fungal or bacterial growth leading to a blockage in the Eustachian tubes. You can easily clear the obstruction with the help of olive oil.

- Warm some olive oil slightly. Put a few drops of the warm oil into the infected ear.
- The oil will cause the wax to soften. Remove the infected wax with cotton-tipped swabs. Be careful not to put the swab too far in the ear or you might damage

Alternatively, you can also use mustard oil. 6. Warm water bottle

As soon as possible, apply some heat to the infected ear. This will quickly relieve some of the pain and will also prevent micro-organism infestation.

- Press a warm water bottle or heating pad against the ear.
- You can also use a warm compress. Dip a clean washcloth in lukewarm water, ring out the excess water and then place the washcloth on the infected ear.
- Do not apply heat to the ear for long periods of time. Start with five minutes, remove the heat for a while and then repeat the process as needed.

(Source: homeremedies.com)

Frequently asked questions about colds and the flu

Here are the answers to six commonly asked questions about colds and the

■ When should I stay home from work

or keep my child home from school? A. Use your judgment to determine when you are feeling too sick to go to work or when your child is feeling too sick to go to school. It is important to stay home when you are most contagious. For colds, you are contagious the entire time you have symptoms, but you are most contagious right after you contract the viral infection, before you even have symptoms. For the flu, adults are most infectious from the day before

symptoms start until about the fifth day

When should I see my doctor? A. If you experience any of the common flu symptoms or if your

symptoms do not go away as quickly as you would expect, see your doctor. How can I avoid passing my cold

or flu on to my family? A. There are many steps you can take to try to avoid spreading germs to the people around you. Always cover your mouth and nose when you sneeze or cough, either with a tissue or by coughing or sneezing into your elbow. Throw used tissues away immediately, ideally into a toilet where they can be flushed away without anyone else

touching them. Wash your hands often, especially after you sneeze, cough, or touch your eyes, nose, or mouth. Keep your distance from others—don't kiss, hug, or stand so close to someone that saliva might get on them when you talk. Make sure someone is disinfecting household surfaces and items

frequently, including children's toys. Why do colds and the flu increase in the winter?

A. Cold weather itself does not cause colds, but people are more likely to stay indoors and spread cold germs to one another when it's cold outside. There is emerging evidence that influenza spreads most efficiently at

low temperatures and in low humidity, which may explain why cases of the flu increase so much in the winter

Is there any truth to the old saying "Feed a cold; starve a fever"?

A. No. When you have a cold or the flu, you should be sure to eat healthful foods and drink plenty of fluids, but there is no need to eat more or less than usual.

Is it okay to get a flu shot when I have a cold?

A. Yes, you can get vaccinated when you have a cold as long as you are not feeling very sick and do not have a

(Source: health.harvard.edu)

7 reasons you should eat grape seeds



Many people who eat grapes on a regular basis make the mistake of throwing out the small grape seeds because their flavor isn't as nice as that of the fleshy part of the fruit.

The truth is that today we know it's a waste to miss out on the large quantity of nutrients contained in the seeds.

Many companies in the cosmetics and pharmaceutical industries are using these tiny seeds to produce natural treatments for various diseases.

But it's also advised to consume them in their raw form because despite their bitter flavor, they could provide your body with important benefits to optimize its function.

For those of you who are still spitting out this important part of your grapes, in today's article we want to share 7 reasons why you should start eating grape seeds today.

1. Grape seeds are rich in antioxidants

Grape seeds are rich in compounds known as phenolics, proanthocyanidins, and tococerol whose antioxidant power is able to protect your body from the damage caused by free

They also pack a significant amount of vitamin C, and beta-carotene, which are known to counteract many of the environmental factors that can directly impact your health.

2. They help cleanse the bloodstream

Thanks to their nutrient and antioxidant content, these seeds may also help cleanse your blood by removing the waste products from medicines and other harmful elements that build up in your bloodstream.

Because of this, they're an appropriate solution for people who are at risk for heart disease because, among other things, they stimulate good circulation and prevent clots from forming.

Because it's rich in antioxidants, grape seed extract it's no surprise that could help stop the these damage to your cells and prevent the development of cancer of the breast, skin, or prostate.

3. They prevent cancer

Because of their high seeds recommended fighting breast, skin, and prostate cancers.

against free radicals help to stop cellular damage that increases your risk of developing this disease.

4. They reduce the effects of tobacco use

Both smokers and second hand smokers benefit from the nutrients in grape seeds to fight the harmful impacts from inhaling toxic compounds.

Thanks to their ability to purify the bloodstream, much of the harmful waste is eliminated and this helps protect your

5. Grape seeds are antibacterial and anti-inflammatory

Their antibacterial properties could inhibit microbial growth and prevent and treat various types of infections.

They also have anti-inflammatory effects that can help reduce the severity of disorders like:

- Arthritis Dermatitis
- Fluid retention
- Ulcers Sinusitis

Urinary tract infections **6.** They prevent premature aging

One of the main benefits of grape seeds comes from

their content of OPC antioxidants, which inhibit the activity of malignant cells. This prevents premature aging of the skin and organs, tissues and cells.

Thanks to this, when you consume grape seeds on a regular basis your body stays younger and more wrinkle free, avoiding premature aging of the skin.

7. They protect the lungs

The antibacterial and antihistamine effects of grape seeds fight allergies, strengthening and protecting your lungs to prevent infection and other diseases that can impair their

Because they also boost your immune system, they reduce your risk of getting the flu, colds, and other conditions that are associated with the respiratory system.

How should you eat grape seeds?

You can eat grape seeds with the whole grape, if you choose. But there are also natural stores and herbalists who sell grape seed extract or capsules that are intended to be included more regularly into your diet.

The maximum recommended intake is 300 mg per day, but you can eat as many grapes as you like without worry.

Some great ways to incorporate grape seed into your diet are with recipes for:

- Smoothies
- Soups Cocktails
- Desserts

Let's try them! The taste might not be the greatest, but it's not unbearable either. Now that you're aware of all the benefits grape seeds can have for your body, why not start taking advantage of them now.

(Source: steptohealth.com)

CEVA

10 hot titles of IT world

By Alireza Khorasani

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

Elon Musk got permission from Maryland officials for his Boring Company to build a 10-mile tunnel in the state, the Baltimore Sun reported. The tunnel would be the first part of Musk's envisioned hyperloop to transport people underground between New York and

The dual-SIM variant of the Samsung Galaxy Note8 has received another price cut in the US. Last we heard, eBay seller never-msrp was offering the unlocked, Exynos-powered model for \$819.99. And a quick look at the listing now reveals the tag has dropped further to \$799.99.

3- Study says body cameras don't always change police behavior.

body cameras didn't significantly affect officers' use of force or the number of civilian complaints in either direction. While there were actually 74 more uses of force per 1,000 officers when body cams were present, that's roughly consistent with a typical range of differences when the equipment comes

Russia experiments with using blockchain tech for

The Russian ministry of economic development has announced that it will run a pilot project in Moscow in the first half of next year, to see how reliable blockchains really are for land registry purposes.

The U.S government issued a rare public warning that sophisticated hackers are targeting energy and industrial firms, the latest sign that cyber attacks present an increasing threat to the power industry and other public

The agencies warned that hackers had succeeded in compromising some targeted networks, but did not identify specific victims or describe any cases of sabotage.

Bitcoin surged to a record high of more than \$6,000 , pushing its market capitalization to \$100 billion at one point, as investors continued to bet on an asset that has a limited supply and has paved the way for a whole slew of crypto-currencies.

Japanese trading house Mitsubishi Corp plans to set up a joint venture with U.S. data center operator Digital Realty Trust and build around 10 data centers in Japan by 2022 for 200 billion yen (\$1.8 billion),

Tokyo-based Mitsubishi expects the centers to help meet growing demand for information storage from customers of California-based Digital Realty and generate sales of around 20 billion yen to 30 billion yen in 2022, the business daily reported, without citing sources.

Soon, though, the "Hey Google" command will call up the virtual assistant on handsets. Google is in the midst of sending out a notification to Android users telling them that Google Assistant can be trained to respond to both "Hey Google" and "Ok Google." It is a matter of syllables. The latter has 4 and the former has 3. That makes it easier and quicker to say "Hey Google."

Twitter CEO took a Russian impostor's bait in

The Daily Beast found a pretty big one, when it confirmed via Internet archives that Twitter co-founder and CEO Jack Dorsey unwittingly retweeted posts from a phony Black Lives Matter advocate

According to Cnet, Huawei is working on a foldable phone that could be released as early as 2018 perhaps at about the same time with Samsung's longrumored Galaxy X foldable phone.

Fake iPhone X has a fake notch

We're only one week away from iPhone X pre-orders, but the counterfeit market is already offering a variety of similarlooking devices to a particular crowd. As I anticipated, I came across one such clone while wandering around Hong Kong's Global Sources electronics fair earlier today, courtesy of a



Shenzhen company by the marvelous name of Hotwonder. Its Hotwav Symbol S3 (also not the best name) is essentially an entrylevel 4G Android phone shamelessly packaged into an iPhone X-like body, except for one notable difference: the screen "bezel" is white instead of black.

The Symbol S3 only uses a rectangular display a 6-inch 1,440 x 720 IPS panel.

The Symbol S3's spec sheet lists Android 8.0 as its operating system, and it can be equipped with either MediaTek's new MT6739 chipset (1.3GHz, 4x Cortex-A53, dual-LTE or LTE + WCDMA) or its much older MT6592 (1.7GHz, 8x Cortex-A7, 3G only). The device also packs a 2,900 mAh fixed battery (no wireless charging here), 16GB of internal storage and a mere 2GB

(Source: Engadget)

Vision is the next big challenge for chips

I wrote about the ways that semiconductor companies are developing heterogeneous systems to reach higher levels of performance and efficiency than with traditional hardware. One of the areas where this is most urgently needed is vision processing, a challenge that got a lot of attention at this year's

The obvious application here is autonomous vehicles. One of the dirty secrets of self-driving cars is that today's test vehicles rely on a trunk full of electronics (see Ford's latest Fusion Hybrid autonomous development vehicle below). Sensors and software tend to be the big focus, but it still requires a powerful CPU and multiple GPUs burning hundreds of watts to process all this data and make decisions in real-time. Earlier this month, when Nvidia announced a future Drive PX Pegasus board, the company conceded that current hardware doesn't have the chops for fully autonomous driving. "The reality is we need more horsepower to get to Level 5," Danny Shapiro, Nvidia's senior director of automotive reportedly told journalists.

But it's not just automotive. Embedded vision processors will play a big role in robotics, drones, smart surveillance cameras, virtual reality and augmented reality, and human-machine interfaces. In a keynote, Chris Rowen, the CEO of Cognite Ventures, said this has led to a silicon design renaissance with established IP vendors such as Cadence (Tensilica), Ceva, Intel (Mobileye), Nvidia, and Synopsys competing with 95 start-ups working on embedded vision in these areas-including some 17 chip startups building neural engines.

In embedded vision, Pulin Desai, a marketing director at Cadence said, there are three separate systems for inference: Sensing (cameras, radar and lidar, microphones), pre- and post-processing (noise reduction, image stabilization, HDR, etc.), and analysis with neural networks for face and object recognition and gesture de**Intelligent Vision Processing**



DSLR, Mirrorless and Action Cameras

tection. The sensing is handled by sensors and ISPs (image signal processors) and the pre- and post-processing can be done on a Tensilica Vision DSP, but Cadence has a separate Tensilica Vision C5 DSP that is specifically designed to run neural networks.

Desai talked about the challenges of creating an SoC with an embedded neural engine for a product that won't reach the market until 2019 or 2020. The computational requirements for neural network algorithms for image recognition have grown 16X in less than four years, he said. At the same time, neural network architectures are changing rapidly and new applications are emerging so the hardware needs to be flexible. And it needs to handle all of this within a tight power budget.

The Vision C5 is a neural network DSP (NNDSP) designed to handle all neural network layers with 1,024 8-bit or 512 16bit MACs in a single core delivering one trillion MACs per second in one square millimeter of die area. It can scale to any number of cores for higher performance and it is programmable. Manufactured on TSMC's 16nm process, a Vision C5 running at 690MHz can run AlexNet six times faster, Inception V3 up to nine times faster, and ResNet50 up to 4.5 times faster than "commercially available GPUs," according to Cadence.

The Kirin 970 in Huawei's new Mate 10 and Mate 10 Pro is the first smartphone SoC with a dedicated neural processing unit capable of 1.92 teraflops at half-precision (Cadence noted this several times but did not specifically state that it uses the Vision C5). Apple's A11 Bionic also has a neural engine and others are sure to follow. The Vision C5 is also targeted at SoCs for surveillance, automotive, drones, and wearables.

The competing Ceva-XM Vision DSPs are already used in camera modules, embedded in ISPs such as Rockchip's RK1608 or as separate companion chips for image processing. Ceva's solution for neural networks is to pair the CEVA-XM with a separate CNN Hardware Accelerator with up to 512 MAC units. Yair Siegel, Ceva's marketing director, talked about the growth of neural networks and said that state-of-the-art CNNs are extremely demanding in terms of computation and memory bandwidth. The Ceva Network Generator converts these models (in Caffe or TensorFlow) to fixed-point graph and partitions it to run efficiently across the Vision DSP and Hardware Accelerator. Ceva says that the Hardware Accelerator delivers a 10X in comparison to using the DSP alone on TinyYolo, a real-time object recognition algorithm.

Synopsys is taking a similar approach with its EV6x Embedded Vision Processor, which can combine up to four CPUs (each with a scalar unit and wide vector DSP) with an optional, programmable CNN Engine to accelerate convolutions.

The CNN Engine is scalable from 880 to 1760 to 3520 MACs delivering up to 4.5 trillion MACs (or a total of 9 teraflops) on TSMC's 16nm process at 1.28GHz. A single EV61 vector DSP with CNN engine uses less than one square millimeter of die area and Synopsys said the tandem is capable of 2 trillion MACs per watt. Gordon Cooper, a product marketing manager at Synopsys, emphasized the tight integration between the vector DSPs and the CNN accelerator and said that the solution delivered the performance per watt to handle challenging applications such as ADAS (advanced driver assistance system) for pedestrian detection.

Qualcomm's solution to this problem has been to add new instructions, called Vector eXtensions or HVX, to the Hexagon DSPs in its Snapdragon SoCs. First introduced two years ago, these are already used to power the HDR photography features on Pixel phones-despite Google's recent development of its own Pixel Visual Core-and Google has previously demonstrated how offloading a TensorFlow image-recognition network from a quad-core CPU to a Hexagon DSP can boost performance by 13x.

But Rick Maule, a senior director of product management at Qualcomm, said that over the past couple of years the company has learned that customers need more processor cycles and faster memory access. Qualcomm's solution is to double the number of compute elements, boost the frequency 50 percent, and embed low-latency memory in those compute elements. These "proposed changes" would increase performance from 99 billion MACs per second on the Snapdragon 820 to 288 billion MACs per second, resulting in a 3X speed-up on the Inception V3 image-recognition model. In addition to performance improvements, Qualcomm is working to make neural networks easier to program with its Snapdragon Neural Processing Engine, and abstraction layer, and Halide, a domain-specific language for image processing and computational photography. (Source: zdnet)

Google is rolling out a Try Now button on the Play Store



TRY NOW

INSTALL

After first unveiling the Android Instant Apps platform at Google I/O 2016, the web giant is finally taking steps to introduce the new initiative to the public. If you hit up the source link, you will land on a list of app within the Play Store that already support the technology and thus have a new "Try Now" button.

Pressing it actually launches the particular app, or at least parts of it instantly, without having to go through a traditional install process.

To participate in the neat little public demonstration of one aspect of Instant Apps technology you do have to be running a fairly recent Android OS: Android 5.0 (API level 21) through Android 8.0 (API level 26).

(Source: playgoogle)

Razer's new webcam and microphone for streamers



Razer is upping its streaming game with two new "streamer certified" peripherals, a webcam with a builtin ring light called Kiyo as well as a USB condenser mic

The \$100 Kiyo's built-in light has 12 levels of brightness to help light your face for those important picture-in-picture streams on Twitch. It also outputs highdef video at 720p with 60 frames per second (FPS) or 1080p at 30 FPS. The Seiren X also retails at \$100 and comes with a removable desk stand so you can set it up anywhere you are streaming from. It connects via USB and has 25mm condenser capsules, according to

(Source: theverge)

Twitter explains why it takes time to roll out new safety rules



Twitter has been trying to stamp out harassment, violence and abuse on its platform for years, but it's nowhere near achieving that goal. Since its administrators regularly get a lot of flak for not moving fast enough to make the website safer, Twitter has published a post explaining why it takes time to conjure up and roll out new policy changes.

The company says creating new rules "requires in-depth research around trends in online behavior, developing language that sets expectations around what's allowed, and reviewer guidelines that can be enforced across millions of Tweets."

(Source: Twitter)

Facebook Messenger users can now send/receive money through PayPal







PayPal has announced that they have expanded their collaboration with Facebook by adding their service for P2P payments in the social networking giant's Mes-

senger application. To access the feature - in both one-on-one chats and group chats - tap on the blue plus icon, then select the green colored Payments button, and then select PayPal to send funds.

The feature is currently only rolling out in the US and limited to iOS, with Android support coming soon.

Meanwhile, PayPal also introduced a customer service bot for Messenger, allowing you to seamlessly receive payment and account support directly in the messaging app.

(Source: paypal)

Baidu plans to put a driverless bus on Chinese roads next year



Chinese search giant Baidu has some bold new targets for its self-driving auto plans.

Baidu CEO Robin Li outlined company's self-driving vehicle goals for the next few years onstage at the Wall Street Journal's D.Live technology conference, touting a plan to roll out driverless busses in China next year, semi-autonomous vehicles by 2019, and fully autonomous cars by 2021. Li also revealed that Baidu spends about \$1.5 billion on self-driving R&D efforts annually, which amounts to about 15 percent of the company's revenue.

Baidu will partner with Chinese automaker BAIC Motor to make the self-driving vehicles, since the tech company has focused primarily on developing its autonomous platform, rather than actually making cars.

(Source: mashable)

LTE balloons are floating over Puerto Rico



About a month after Hurricane Maria's devastating landfall on Puerto Rico and a couple of weeks after the FCC gave clearance, Project Loon is bringing wireless internet to people on remote parts of the island.

The project uses balloons circling the Earth at high altitude to provide wireless connections.

According to Project Loon, each balloon can provide coverage across up to 5,000 sq/km, so it hopes to cover most of the island.

The access is provided using LTE band 8, and should work for AT&T customers using devices like most recent iPhones (they will need an update first), Galaxy devices (from the \$6 on), Moto G, Motorola Z2 Force, plus the BlackBerry Passport and KEYone.

(Source: blog.x.company)

Flowers use optical effects to attract pollinators: study

optical effect in order to attract pollinating insects such as bees. What is a "blue halo" and how does it help with the pollination

A new research details the way some flowers make an effort in order to be seen by their pollinators. The study, conducted by researchers from the University of Cambridge, the Adolphe Merkele Institute, and the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, has found that some flowers have structures on their petals that generate a subtle optical effect, attracting pollinators such as bees.

These nanostructures scatter light particles in blue to ultraviolet shades. When they interact with light from a certain angle, it generates an optical effect called the "blue halo" because of its color shade.

Naked eye

Blue halos aren't exactly easy to see with the naked human eye. However, it is apparently visible to the flowers' targets which are the pollinating insects. Scientists were able to replicate the blue halos in order to test its effects on pollinating bees. They manufacture an artificial surface replicating the blue halos and found that the bees can see it. In fact, the bees responded to the blue halo and took it as a signal



to locate the flowers.

Results of the experiment with the bees suggest that these blue halos actually allow them to find the flower faster. In a way, the flowers evolved to communicate with

In humans, our eyes can sometimes identify blue halo in flowers with dark pigments. Amazingly, in the case of bumblebees, they can distinguish which flowers have the blue halo and which ones don't, even if they are the same color.

Blue halos aren't exactly easy to see with the naked human eye. However, it is apparently visible to the flowers' targets which are the pollinating insects.

toreceptor activity in the blue-UV parts of the spectrum," said Edwige Moyroud of Cambridge's Department of Plant Sciences, lead author of the study.

Messy structures

Upon studying the nanostructures further, researchers found that the structures are actually quite messy and inconsistent, with the ridges on the petal's surface in "disorder." Though the initial belief was that the disorder is just a by-product of evolution, researchers find that this is actually what helps the flowers to generate the

"It came as a real surprise to discover that the disorder itself is what generates the important optical signal that allows bees to find the flowers more effectively," said Professor Beverley Glover of Cambridge's Botanic Garden, senior author of

Further, their findings also suggest that the flowers evolved the nanostructures many times and independently of each other and yet they came to develop the same optical effect, eventually supporting their symbiotic relationship with pollina-

(Source: Tech Times)

NASA just discovered a huge, twisted magnetic tail hidden behind Mars

NASA has found an invisible, twisted magnetic tail trailing behind Mars as it orbits the Sun, caused by the effects of rushing solar winds, and perhaps explaining more about how the Martian atmosphere escapes into space.

This unique insight was revealed by readings from the Mars Atmosphere and Volatile Evolution Mission (MA-VEN) spacecraft, which showed how the Red Planet's local magnetic fields behave differently from the global magnetic field around Earth.

Interactions between magnetic fields in the Sun's solar winds, and the pockets of magnetism left on Mars, could give remaining atmospheric particles an escape route out into space, according to scientists at the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center in Maryland.

"We found that Mars' magnetic tail, or magnetotail, is unique in the Solar System," says one of the team, Gina DiBraccio.

Martian atmosphere

"It's not like the magnetotail found at Venus, a planet with no magnetic field of its own, nor is it like Earth's, which is surrounded by its own internally generated magnetic field. Instead, it is a hybrid between the two."

The solar winds, made up of electrically conducting

gas blown out by the Sun, are thought to have stripped away much of the Martian atmosphere billions of years

Now, those same winds are causing the unique magnetotail effect as their combine with the leftover regions of magnetism still present on certain parts of Mars.

The solar winds carry their own magnetic fields, and if they hit a region on Mars oriented in the opposite direction, it causes an effect called magnetic reconnection. It's here that the invisible twist happens.

"Our model predicted that magnetic reconnection will cause the Martian magnetotail to twist 45 degrees from what's expected based on the direction of the magnetic field carried by the solar wind," says DiBraccio.

"When we compared those predictions to MAVEN data on the directions of the Martian and solar wind magnetic fields, they were in very good agreement."

That magnetic reconnection could also be pushing more of the already thin atmosphere on Mars out into space, as electrically charged ions in the planet's upper atmosphere respond to the magnetic field created by the

Magnetic reconnection

The magnetotail essentially gives these particles a path to follow to flow off the planet, using energy created by the magnetic reconnection – like a stretched rubber band suddenly snapping back into place, according to NASA.

Because MAVEN is continually changing its orbit in relation to the Sun, it's been able to map the magnetic fields of Mars in their entirety, and build up a map of the way the magnetotail is sent twisting and fluctuating by the solar winds.

Next, the researchers want to examine readings from instruments on MAVEN besides the magnetometer to confirm that reconnected magnetic fields are indeed contributing to atmospheric loss, and to what extent.

(Source: sciencealert.com)

Length of incision may affect pain after cesarean delivery

Both short and long surgical incisions for cesarean births are associated with increased pain after delivery, suggests a

Based on the findings, the authors recommend an optimal range for cesarean incision length to be between 12 and 17 centimeters (about 4.5 - 6.5 inches), and advise that neither shorter nor longer incisions be performed when possible.

"To our knowledge, this 'Goldilocks effect' of surgical incision length on pain outcomes has not been previously reported, and merits further investigation to unravel the effects of short-term tissue stretch and increased tissue trauma on acute and chronic post-cesarean pain," said lead researcher Ruth Landau, M.D. associate director of obstetric anesthesia

Medicine in Anesthesiology at Columbia University Medical Center in New York.

Tremendous variability

"We were surprised to find tremendous variability in surgical incision length. While the median length was 15 centimeters, the range was from 9 to 23 centimeters, which may in part be due to the surgeons' practice and patients' body characteristics."

The study included 690 women undergoing elective cesarean delivery, of which 37 percent had a repeat cesarean who were evaluated pre-operatively and followed for up to 12 months. Both the shorter and longer extremes of surgical incision length were associated with increased pain.

and director of the Center for Precision than 12 cm or about 4.5 inches) were who had a cesarean for the first time (4.7 more likely to report higher pain scores immediately after delivery, which, according to the authors, likely indicates intense tissue stretching during delivery. Women with longer incisions (more than 17 cm or about 6.5 inches) were also more likely to report higher pain scores, including wound hyperalgesia, or an increased sensitivity to pain around the surgical incision.

Cesarean delivery

Consistent with the researchers' previous work, chronic pain after cesarean delivery was extremely rare, with less than 3 percent of women reporting chronic pain one year after their cesarean delivery. Among those who underwent a repeat cesarean, chronic pain was reported by 12 Women with shorter incisions (less of them, compared to seven of the women

percent vs 1.6 percent).

Overall at one year, surgical-related pain symptoms, mostly described as "tender pain," were reported by 4.7 percent of women, and neuropathic symptoms such as itching, tingling or numbing were reported by 19 percent.

The multicenter study evaluated numerous factors including the influence of ethnicity, body mass index (BMI), psychological parameters and previous scar characteristics for women with a prior cesarean delivery as well as current wound characteristics. The study found that while women with a high BMI were more likely to have a longer surgical incision, not all women with longer surgical incisions were (Source: EurekAlert)

IKCO to Develop Its Market in Kazakhstan

Iran Khodro Industrial Group (IKCO), Middle East's largest car manufacturer, will develop its market in Kazakhstan with dispatching varied and high-quality cars to this neighboring country, Public Relations Dept. of the company reported.

Given the above issue, IKCO will showcase its new high-quality cars in AUTOPARTS-AUTOSHOW 2017 in the International Exhibition Centre in Almaty, Kazakhstan, in order to revive its market in this Asian country.

It should be noted that IKCO is a wellknown brand in Kazakhstan car market and is equipped with vast sales and after-sales network in this country.

Moreover, IKCO has thus far supplied

diverse and different products from its portfolio in Kazakhstan market and is after expanding sales to boost its share of

It is worth mentioning that IKCO has obtained the necessary certificate of Custom Union Declaration-EAC, special of Kazakhstan automotive market, and the worldwide automotive standard of Euro 5. With the coordination made in this regard, IKCO will supply Kazakh market with its high-quality cars according to the aforementioned standards.

According to its new roadmap in Kazakhstan, IKCO plans to dispatch its quality cars to this country and for this purpose, the company will showcase its new

products such as "RUNNA", "DENA", "SOR-EN" and CNG-sipping "SAMAND" in this international auto exhibition in Almaty,

IKCO has a vast experience in manufacturing CNG cars. Since these types of vehicles are a priority for Kazakhstan public transportation system due to their low fuel consumption, IKCO is currently negotiating with Kazakh Taxi Company in order to export its products to this

Kazakhstan is in the CIS region and is at the focal attention of the world's largest automakers, so that many of these car manufacturers have established branch offices and also manufacturing

bases in Kazakhstan.

In order to have a brilliant presence in Customs Union member states, IKCO has concluded a contract for assembling some of its cars in Kazakhstan - the issuances of which has been defined by the company as its salient objectives in this

As the largest and leading automaker in the Middle East region, IKCO has had a strong presence in the car markets in the CIS states such as Russia. IKCO Samand is one of the most popular passenger cars in this country and also other countries such as Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Armenia and Belarus. (Translated by M.

Mahab Ghodss Consulting Engineering Co. Named Exemplary Exporter in 2017

In a glorious ceremony held on the executive of Mahab Ghodss Consult-National Exports Day, Mahab Ghodss Consulting Engineering Company was introduced as exemplary and model exporter in 2017, the Public Relations Dept. of the company re-

For this reason, a Plaque of Honor and Statue was awarded to the chief ing Engineering Company.

It should be noted that Mahab Ghodss Consulting Engineering Company is awarded for the second consecutive year as model and ex-

emplary exporter in 2017. This great achievement is an unparalleled and unmatched honor for Mahab Ghodss Consulting Engineer-

Management of the company seized this opportunity to express its special thanks to the industrious staff, workers, laborers and engineers for this great achievement, Public Relations Dept. of the company conclud-



Teenage dinosaur fossil discovery reveals what puberty was like for a tyrannosaur

Scientists have been digging in Utah's Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument for two decades now, and they've found other fossils belonging to the species they expect the new discovery to represent. But this one is an adolescent dinosaur and in very good condition, two features that make it extra special.

The team still needs to finish uncovering the bones before they can make real judgments about what the discovery represents. "When you first find these fossils, often they're very sort of unremarkable-looking, because most of the time very little of the fossil is exposed," Randall Irmis, a paleontologist at the Natural History Museum of Utah, told Newsweek. "Once you start uncovering a little bit and you see that hey, a lot of these bones are still connected in life position, you start to

That's the case with the current example, which Irmis says he expects belongs to a species called Teratophoneus curriei, a relative of the famed Tyrannosaurus rex that followed it about 15 million years later. (Like its more famous follower, T. curriei was a voracious carnivore with stubby, two-fingered arms.) The paleontologists know they're missing the tip of the tail and maybe a couple of toes, but they're confident they have at least three-quarters of the dinosaur's skeleton.

That includes the skull, the bones of which are still connected precisely as they were when the tyrannosaur was alive. "I can already say that based on what we saw in the field, the skull looks absolutely spectacular," Irmis says. That's convenient, since the skull will play a key role in the scientists' final identification of the dinosaur's species. (Source: Newsweek)

Fiber optic lines can double as earthquake detectors

You might not need an extensive sensor network or a host of volunteers to detect earthquakes in the future -- in fact, the lines supplying your internet access might do the trick. Researchers have developed technology that detects seismic activity through jiggling in fiber optic lines.

Laser interrogators watch for disturbances in the fiber and send information about the magnitude and direction of tremors. The system can not only detect different types of seismic waves (and thus determine the seriousness of the threat), but spot very minor or localized quakes that might otherwise go

Fiber-based detection isn't strictly new, but it previously centered around acoustic sensing that required wrapping them in cement, sticking them to a surface or otherwise making sure they contact the ground (to make it easier to spot impurities in the signal). That's not necessary with the new method -- you can use existing fiber lines housed in plastic pipes. It should be considerably easier and cheaper to implement these de-

There are plenty of challenges to making this a reality. It's limited by the size of the fiber network, so it could miss rural areas that don't have much if any fiber. And the current proof of concept is a relatively modest 3-mile loop around Stanford University. It could be a much more daunting prospect to run a sensor network across an entire city, let alone cross-country. This could still be far more affordable than rolling out dedicated sensors, however, and the sheer precision of using fiber (every part of the line counts) could provide earthquake data that hasn't been an option before.

(Source: engadget.com)

DNA techniques could transform facial recognition technology

When police in London recently trialed a new facial recognition ystem, they made a worrying and embarrassing mistake. At the Notting Hill Carnival, the technology made roughly 35 false matches between known suspects and members of the crowd, with one person "erroneously" arrested.



Camera-based visual surveillance systems were supposed to deliver a safer and more secure society. But despite decades of development, they are generally not able to handle real-life situations. During the 2011 London riots, for example, facial recognition software contributed to just one arrest out of the 4,962 that took place.

The failure of this technology means visual surveillance still relies mainly on people sitting in dark rooms watching hours of camera footage, which is totally inadequate to protect people in a city. But recent research suggests video analysis software could be dramatically improved thanks to software advances made in a completely different field: DNA sequence analysis.

Since the Metropolitan Police installed the first CCTV cameras in London in 1960, up to 6m of them have now been deployed in the UK. And body-worn cameras are now being issued to frontline officers, creating not only even more video footage to analyze, but also more complex data due to constant camera motion.

Yet automated visual surveillance remains mostly limited to tasks in relatively controlled environments. Detecting trespass on a specific property, counting people passing through a given gate, or number-plate recognition can be completed quite accurately. But analyzing footage of groups of people or identifying individuals in a public street is unreliable because outdoor scenes vary and change so much.

(Source: The Conversation)

Standford University commemorates Maryam Mirzakhani

SOCIETY TEHRAN — Standford University held e s k a memorial on Sunday for Maryam Mirzakhani, the Iranian genius mathematician and the first-ever female winner of the prestigious Fields Medal prize who died of breast cancer on July 14.

Entitled "In Memory of the Life and Legacy of Professor



Maryam Mirzakhani", the ceremony was hosted by Stanford Mathematics Department Mathematics Research Center.

During the event, Maryam's family, friends and colleagues recalled their mem-

Some photos from different stages of her personal and academic life went on screen during the ceremony and some pieces of Persian music was also performed during the event.

At the memorial, in lieu of flowers, contributions were made to the Maryam Mirzakhani Graduate Fellowship.

The two times gold medal winner in the International Mathematical Olympiad, Mirzakhani received her Bachelor of Science in mathematics from Iran's Sharif University of Technology in 1999 and earned a PhD degree in mathematics from Harvard University in 2004 and became full professor of mathematics at Stanford at the age of 31.

From 2004 to 2008 she was a Clay Mathematics Institute Research Fellow and an assistant professor at Princeton University. She was a professor at Stanford University. Her honors include the 2009 Blumenthal Award for the Advancement of Research in Pure Mathematics and the 2013 Satter Prize of the American Mathematical Society.

Mirzakhani also became the first woman and the first Iranian to be awarded a Fields Medal.

Her honors also include the 2009 Blumenthal Award for the Advancement of Research in Pure Mathematics and the 2013 Satter Prize of the American Mathematical Society.

She is survived by husband the Stanford computer scientist Jan Vondrák and their 6-year-old daughter Anahita.

Rock slide in Iran destroys homes, kills two

SOCIETY TEHRAN — A rock slide in suburb of the e s k southwestern city of Ahvaz destroyed two homes Sunday morning, killing two children of four and five



The slide happened at 6:45 a.m. and it completely buried two houses with dirt and several large boulders and wrecked another one. Four persons survived and were hospitalized.

The Manba-e Ab neighborhood is located in eastern Ah

vaz and houses over 1,170 families.

LEARN ENGLISH

Daily Life - Computer Games

A: Mark where have you been? I've been calling you all

B: I've been playing computer games.

A: What? So you blew me off yesterday and today over a stupid video game? What game is so important that you have no time for me anymore? What are you playing?

B: It's called Counter Strike it's a first person shooter game. It's awesome. It's a multi-player game where you can go online and compete against players from all over the world.

A: You've been wasting your time on this? I can't believe it! It doesn't even look fun or challenging!

B: My laptop is on my bed. If you think it's so easy then get

online and try to beat me.

B: Dammit! How are you killing me with a single shot? It's not fair! I don't want to play anymore! Let's go get something to

A: Can you bring me something? I am totally **hooked** on

Key Vocabulary

blow someone off: to ignore someone or not appear to an appointment

waste: use more than necessary challenging: difficult in an enjoyable way

beat: defeat

hooked: addicted

Supplementary Vocabulary

strategy: a plan to obtain a specific result simulation: something that imitates reality to seem real real-time: describes when a game is played live hardcore: being extremely dedicated to something

to own: to win a battle and take over the enemy in a game

(Source: irlanguage.com)

'Iran lagging behind the world in protecting the environment'

We should keep environment safe for next generations: Kalantari

ENVIRONMENT TEHRAN — In regard e s k to factors determining environmental standards Iran is among countries that is lagging behind the world in safeguarding the environment, the chief of the Department of Environment said on Saturday.

Isa Kalantari made the remarks with a touch on various environmental challenges Iran is currently grappling with, IRNA reported.

"We are ranked first in soil erosion, vegetation destruction, loss of biodiversity, and waste of energy worldwide and this is not something to be proud of," Kal-

"The environment doesn't solely belong to us, it belongs to the next generations and the way we are treating it [the Earth] might not be able to sustain us let alone the generations to come, we are supposed to keep it safe for them,"

"We only have 2,700 rangers and 17 million hectares of protected areas and national parks, we can't make any progress in conserving the environment unless the public join hands in protecting it," he highlighted.

The top environmental official further expressed his deep concerns for water shortage in the country which he has voiced on multiple occasions since his



appointment as environment chief.

Since the establishment of the Ministry of Energy in 1961 Iran's renewable water resources [total amount of a country's water resources -internal and external resources- both surface water and groundwater, which is generated through the hydrological cycle] amounted to 132 billion cubic meters, Kalantari explained, regretting, "now the number is calculated

at 88 billion cubic meters." "At the time with 132 billion cubic me- on the renewable water resources, with

ters of water we withdrew some 50 billion cubic meters annually, however, currently with only 88 billion cubic meters of water the water removed from available sources for human use is about 97 billion cubic meters per annum. Currently we withdraw more than 110 percent of our renewable resources while the number should be restricted to 40 percent," he noted.

"This is also an indicator of pressure

88 billion cubic meters of water we are allowed to withdraw some 35 billion cubic meters to meet international standards,"

Kalantari went on to say that by running out of water wildfires erupt in forest and Cheetah's prey declines and so does

"We believe that road kill is the major culprit of cheetahs' extinction while water scarcity is the biggest issue here," he

Once Iran's total livestock population amounted to 65 million in 1982 which believed to exceed meadows carrying capacity, now the number has grown to 120 million, Kalantari pointed out, saying, "With such figures and numbers we won't succeed in protecting the environment, we do not have the potential to produce

Commenting on the waste management in northern Iran Kalantari noted that leachate drained from the garbage is threatening the marine life in Caspian Sea and that on average some 6,000 tons of garbage is produced in northern parts of the country everyday which are mostly thrown away where water flows into the rivers.

"Now we can try not to let things get worse, but we can't reverse the damages or set things right even in medium-term,"

Data collection, bycatch reduction, halting illegal fishing slow sharks decline

The demand for shark products, including meat and fins, is increasing in Asia. Hammerhead sharks and the sharks from the Carcharhinidae family that have 'black fins' are susceptible for this kind of exploition in Asia.

Dr. Rima Jabado, a marine biologist, came to the UAE on vacation and she has now been in this region for almost 10 years. In fact, she channeled her childhood passion for marine wildlife into a conservation career. During the past decade, she has probably accomplished more on behalf of Persian Gulf' sharks than anyone can

Investigations from many countries in Persian Gulf showed that fish stock is depleting and have reached worrisome levels. The Tehran Times had an interview with Dr. Rima Jabado who carried the first long-term research project, the Gulf Elasmo Project, on sharks and rays in the region.

Below is the text of the interview.

According to IRNA news agency published on September 23 Iranian police force found about 45 blacktip sharks (Carcharhinus limbatus) and also lemon shark (Negaprion acutidens) onboard a foreign ship. Crew members (7 foreigners) were sentenced to jail and fined 300 million rials (\$7,500) for catching each individual of blacktip shark. What is your opinion about this kind of illegal catching? What impact does the illegal trade have on Persian Gulf Reserves?

A: Illegal fishing is a very serious issue that drives overfishing and is particularly harmful to many species, especially threatened ones. In the [Persian] Gulf, many populations of species are already overfished with little egulations in place to protect them. If this is exacerbated by illegal fishing, the situation is likely to become worse very quickly, which is unsustainable.

Would you please tell me about the conservation status of blacktip sharks (Carcharhinus limbatus) and also lemon shark (Negaprion acutidens) in Persian Gulf?

A: Blacktip sharks are some of the most common species that are landed in the [Persian] Gulf. They are considered vulnerable and their numbers have declined by at least 30-50% in the past 40 years. In the broader region, studies indicate that their stocks have collapsed



off (for example in India). The lemon shark is in a worse situation and is considered Endangered with population numbers having declined by more than 50% in the past 50 years. This species depends a lot on coral reef habitats as well and these have also declined over the years due to habitat destruction and degradation.

As a member of International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) shark specialist group, what is your assessment about the most important threats to 184 species of sharks, rays, and chimaeras in

A: The IUCN Red List Assessment that was undertaken in the region evaluated 153 species in total and determined that the largest threat to them in the region is fishing, particularly the impact of bycatch. For example, even if many species are not targeted, they get caught in fishing gear targeting other species, like shrimp trawling which has a high level of bycatch of sharks and rays. Illegal fishing is of course another major threat.

Can you please expian the process of Red Listing in this region?

A: We held a workshop that brought together scientists and fisheries experts from across the region. We reviewed previous information that has already been published but we also sourced unpublished data on fisheries catches. The most important information included species-specific data series of catches from each country. This allowed us to determine which species had declined and how big the decline was over a certain

number of years. Based on this information, we used the

guidelines for Red List assessments from the IUCN and determined what the status of each species was.

And, which susceptible species are closing in on

A: For species that occur in the Gulf, the sharks that were most threatened included two species hammerheads (Great Hammerhead, Sphyrna mokarran, and Scalloped Hammerhead, Sphyrna lewini), and the Sand Tiger Shark (Carcharias Taurus). For the rays, the most threatened species included the two species of sawfishes (Green sawfish, Pristis zijsron, and Narrow Sawfish, Anoxypristis cuspidate).

Do you have a full assessment of the chondrichthyan

A: Unfortunately, we don't. There are still many species that we have no information about and there is a lot of data, especially species-specific, that is lacking. This is why it is really crucial for countries to be collecting data on their landings and the discards in various fisheries.

■ What is your suggestion to Department of the Environment of Iran (DoE)?

A: I think their example of enforcement is a great effort to halt illegal fishing by implementing legislation and they should continue doing it to ensure that threats to already sensitive stocks are reduced. Continuing with the data collection on sharks and rays in Iranian waters

■ What concerted national and regional efforts can slow shark and ray stocks decline?

A: The priority for action is data collection. There is still limited capacity for shark identification and species-specific data collection in the region so it is really important to build capacity and ensure that accurate data can be collected. We also need to find alternatives to reduce bycatch in fisheries and train fishermen to release unwanted catches. Finally, we need government to start enforcing legislation to ensure that illegal fishing is halted.

The whole assessment for the region would not have been possible without scientists cooperating and sharing information. It's a great first step and should not be the last. We need to continue working together to collect data and provide support to ensure we can conserve shark and ray stocks in the region.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

'50,000 tons of trash generated a day in Iran'

Iranians throw away around 50,000 tons of trash a day, director general for municipalities and rural management organization, affiliated with the Ministry of Interior, said.

"This means that some 800 grams of trash is produced by an average Iranian in metropolises," Ahmadi said, adding, "Per capita waste production amounts to 710 grams and 470 grams in cities and villages respectively."

روزانه ۵۰ هزار تن زباله در کشور تولید میشود

مسعود احمدی مدیر کل دفتر هماهنگی عمرانی و خدمات شهری سازمان شهرداریها و دهیاریهای کشور در همایش روز زمین پاک اعلام کرد: روزانه ۵۰ هــزار تــن زبالــه در کشــور تولیــد میشــود. احمدی ادامه داد: ایس به ایس معناست که سرانه زباله در کلانشهرهای کشور ۸۰۰ گرم است. همچنین سرانه زباله در روستاها ۴۷۰ گرم، در شهرها ۷۱۰ گـرم مـی باشـد.

ENGLISH PROVERB You reap what you sow

Explanation: your actions dictate the consequences For example: Of course you're exhausted in class—you stay up too late! You reap what you sow.

PHRASAL VERB Whisk off

Meaning: take someone to another place, usually unexpectedly

For example: She whisked her husband off for a romantic weekend.

ENGLISH IDIOM Walking papers

Explanation: if you are given your walking papers, your contract or a relationship has ended

For example: After causing a diplomatic incident, Carter got his walking papers.

U.S. completely destroyed Raqqa like they did with Dresden: Kremlin

Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Daesh) terrorists left Raggah, their former "capital" in Syria, as part of a deal with the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) and the U.S.-led coalition. Thus, the U.S.-backed Kurdish-dominated SDF announced full control over

Konashenkov complained that the West had turned down Russia's requests for humanitarian aid to Syrian civilians.

"What is behind the rush by Western capitals to provide targeted financial help only to Raqqah?" he asked. "There's only one explanation - the desire to cover up evidence of the barbaric bombardments by the U.S. air force and the coalition as fast as possible and to bury the thousands of civilians 'liberated' from Daesh (ISIL) in the ruins."

The Russian official also accused the U.S. of overplaying the significance of the fall of Raqqah.

"The bravura statements by official representatives of the U.S. administration about the 'outstanding victory' over Daesh in Raqqah prompt bafflement," he

Konashenkov estimated that some 200,000 people had lived in Raggah before the crisis erupted in Syria in 2011, but now not more than 45,000 people remained there.

The U.S. and its allies have been bombarding what they call ISIL positions inside Syria since September 2014 without



any authorization from the Damascus government or a United Nations man-

The airstrikes, however, have on many occasions resulted in civilian casualties and failed to fulfill their declared aim of countering terrorism.

SDF militants capture key oil field in Dayr al-Zawr

Meanwhile, the U.S.-backed alliance of militants, Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), says it has seized control of one of Syria's largest oil fields in the eastern Dayr al-Zawr Province.

The SDF announced on Sunday the capture of al-Omar oil field, situated some 10 kilometers north of the town of

al-Mayadin, which was recently liberated from the grip of ISIL terrorists by government forces.

With ISIL on the retreat amid government advances in Dayr al-Zawr, the SDF has recently pushed to capture as much territory as possible in the province, including a number of gas fields.

The developments are seen by analysts as a prelude to further flare-up of tensions in the region.

The SDF, which is dominated by the Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG/ Yekîneyên Parastina Gel) militia, has reportedly shelled the positions of pro-Damascus troops on several occasions.

Earlier this week, ISIL terrorists left

part of a deal with the SDF and the U.S.led coalition. Thus, the SDF announced full control over the city.

Kurdish militants in neighboring Iraq have likewise overrun territory in the course of fighting with ISIL there.

On Thursday, the YPG militants held "victory" parade in Raggah, during which they put up a huge poster of Abdullah Ocalan, the jailed leader of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK/Partiya Karkerên Kurdistanê) that is outlawed

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."

End of ISIL caliphate in sightElsewhere, U.S. President Donald Trump announced the full liberation of the Syrian city of Ragga from ISIL, following a campaign that saw the city leveled and almost depopulated.

"I am pleased to announce that the Syrian Democratic Forces, our partners in the fight against in Syria, have successfully recaptured [Ragga] — the terrorist group's self-proclaimed capital city," Trump said in a statement.

Together, our forces have liberated the entire city from ISIL control," the statement read.

(Source: agencies)

Indonesia demands answers after military chief denied U.S. entry

Indonesia intends to send a diplomatic note to the United States Secretary of State and summon Washington's deputy ambassador in Jakarta to explain why the head of its military was denied entry to the United States, Indonesian officials said on Sunday.

Armed Forces Commander Gen. Gatot Nurmantyo was about to board a flight on Saturday when the airline informed him that the U.S. Customs and Border Protection had denied him entry, military spokesman Wuryanto told a news conference in Jakarta.

Nurmantyo was going to the United States at the invitation of General Joseph F. Dunford Jr., chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, to attend a Chiefs of Defense Conference on Countering Violent Extremism being held in Washington on Oct. 23-24, Wuryanto

It was not clear why he was stopped from entering the United States, Wuryanto said, adding that the general did not have any problem during his visit to the United States in February 2016.

"We've asked for clarification to the U.S., to the Department of State as well as the embassy in Jakarta and until now we're still waiting for that clarification," Indonesia's Foreign Affairs Minister Retno Marsudi told Reuters.

The ministry's spokesman Arrmanatha Nasir earlier said Indonesia's embassy in Washington was to send a diplomatic note to the U.S. secretary of state demanding explanation for the incident.

The ministry will also summon the U.S. deputy ambassador in Jakarta on Monday to seek explanation, Nasir said, adding that the ambassador is presently not in

The U.S. embassy in Jakarta said in a statement it was in touch with Nurmantyo's staff to facilitate his travel, but

"U.S. Ambassador Joseph Donovan has apologized to Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi for any inconvenience to General Gatot," the embassy wrote. "We remain committed to our Strategic Partnership with Indonesia as a way to deliver security and prosperity to both our

Nurmantyo has frequently courted controversy in Indonesia because of his actions and what analysts perceive as his political ambitions. The general promotes the notion that Indonesia is besieged by "proxy wars" involving foreign states and even a renewed communist

Indonesian President Joko Widodo said this month



that the armed forces should stay out of politics and ensure their loyalty is only to the state and the govern-

Indonesia, the world's biggest Muslim-majority country, generally enjoys good ties with the United States although in the past ties between the two countries' armed forces have been strained by alleged rights abuses involving Indonesia's military.

(Source: AP)

Over 600,000 Rohingya have fled to Bangladesh: UN

More than 600,000 Rohingya refugees have fled Myanmar for Bangladesh since violence erupted in northern Rakhine in August, a United Nations report said on Sunday

The grim new landmark comes as authorities in Bangladesh were bracing for another possible surge in Rohingya arrivals, with thousands from the Muslim minority believed to be stranded along the border waiting to cross.

Rohingya refugees have headed for Bangladesh in huge numbers after militant attacks on Myanmar security forces in Rakhine state sparked a major army crackdown on the community likened to ethnic cleansing by the UN. Now the UN-led Inter-Sector Coordi-

nation Group (ISCG), which is directing the humanitarian effort, has said an estimated 603,000 refugees from Rakhine have crossed the border into Bangladesh since August 25.

"Cross border movement of over 14,000 newly arrived refugees has been verified in the past week," the ISCG report

Bangladesh border guards are also concerned the relaxation later on Sunday of a temporary ban on fishing in the Bay of Bengal could see a surge in



people-smuggling along the coast as unscrupulous captains return to the seas.

Rohingya refugees already in Bangladesh have received videos from families across the border showing thousands of displaced Muslims massing near crossing points, waiting for an opportunity to

"We have seen some videos sent by people across the border. There are

many gathered there. The number could be big," Border Guard Bangladesh commander Lieutenant Colonel S.M. Ariful Islam told AFP, without giving an estimate.

Around 10,000 refugees were left stranded in no man's land near Anjumanpara village for three days last week after being prevented from crossing into Bangladesh. They were finally permitted by authorities to enter on Thursday.

The influx has slowed since then, with charities and officials reporting about 200 people crossing the Naf River dividing the two countries.

(But) those that came told us thou sands were still stranded on the other side of Naf," Jashim Uddin, a volunteer for the International Organization for Migra-

Another border guard told AFP an estimated 10-15,000 refugees were heading to Anjumanpara but had been pushed back.

"We heard from their relatives that the Myanmar army has stopped them from heading to the border," said a Border Guard spokesman, Iqbal Ahmed.

Refugees arriving on Sunday described violence in their villages in Rakhine and food shortages that had forced countless people to flee.

"We hardly had any food for the last 10-15 days. They torched our home. We did not have any choice but to leave," Yasmin, who goes by one name, told AFP at the coastal village of Shah Porir Dwip.

Authorities meanwhile are on high alert for fishermen seeking to ferry refugees to Bangladesh via the open sea as the temporary fishing ban expires later on Sunday.

China fears its top envoy in Pakistan might be killed, seeks more security

China has asked Pakistan to step up security of its newly-appointed ambassador in Islamabad in the wake of threats to his life from a terrorist organization, according to media reports.

The Chinese Embassy made the request in a letter written to the interior ministry on October 19, saying a member of the banned terrorist group East Turkestan Islamic Movement (ETIM) has sneaked into Pakistan to assassinate its ambassador.

The letter, circulated in the local media, was written by the focal person for the multi-billion dollar China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) Ping Ying Fi who asked the interior ministry to "enhance the protection" of the ambassador and other Chinese working in the country.

This, the letter says, will not only help foil the nefarious designs of the terrorist but will also help in nabbing others involved in the plot.

China has appointed Yao Jing, who has served as Chinese Ambassador to Afghanistan, as its new envoy to Pakistan. Yao replaced Sun Weidong, who served as China's Ambassador to Pakistan for three years and re-

cently returned to his country.

In the letter, Ping shared details of the terrorist's passport and demanded his immediate arrest and handover to the Chinese embassy. It identified the terrorist as Abdul Wali.

The interior ministry and the Chinese embassy have declined to comment on the letter.

The security of Chinese officials in Pakistan is a major issue and the Army has been tasked to provide security to the Chinese working on various projects

(Source: The Time of India)

Federal judge in Hawaii expands block on Trump travel ban

A United States federal judge in Hawaii extended his halt of U.S. President Donald Trump's travel ban on citizens from six Muslim-majority countries.

U.S. District Judge Derrick Watson, who stopped the ban from taking effect this week, on Friday converted his temporary restraining order to a preliminary injunction.

Watson's ruling, issued in Honolulu, applies only to the six Muslim-majority countries of Iran, Libya, Syria, Yemen, Somalia and Chad, although the ban, announced in September, also limits travel from North Korea and Venezuela.

Trump has said the restrictions are needed to tighten security and prevent terrorist attacks, and his administration reserved its right to appeal the injunction.

Opponents say the ban violates the U.S. Constitution because it discriminates against Muslims while overstepping the bounds of U.S. immigration law by discriminating by nationality. (Source: Reuters)

Italians vote in autonomy referendums in shadow of Catalonia crisis

Two wealthy regions of northern Italy began voting on Sunday in referendums for autonomy, ballots that could fan regional tensions in Europe at a time when neighboring Spain is striving to prevent Catalonia from breaking away.

Lombardy and Veneto, regions that are both run by the once openly secessionist Lega Nord party, are holding non-binding votes which the party hopes will deliver it a mandate to negotiate better financial deals from Rome.

Unlike the Spanish region of Catalonia, which held an independence referendum on Oct. 1 despite it being ruled unconstitutional, the Italian referendums are within the law.

Like Catalonia, Lombardy and Veneto complain they pay far more in taxes than they receive. Lombardy, home to financial hub Milan accounts for about 20 percent of Italy's economy - the euro zone's third-largest. Veneto, which includes the tourist magnet Venice, accounts for 10 percent.

Lega Nord was established in the 1990s to campaign for an independent state of "Padania", stretching across Italy's north, from around Lombardy in the west to Venice in the east. It no longer campaigns for secession but argues that taxes the north sends to Rome are wasted by inefficient national bureaucracy.

The referendum results are not binding, and some of the Lega's political opponents say it is a waste of time and money. Under Italy's constitution, regions can enter into negotiations at any time with Rome to take on more functions from the center.

Lombardy's leader, Roberto Maroni, says a strong victory for "Yes" would give him a mandate to bargain hard in Rome.

Thousands march in Berlin against far-right AfD

Thousands of demonstrators marched on Sunday in Berlin, in protest against the far-right Alternative for Germany's debut in parliament next week.

Bearing posters with slogans like "Stop AfD", "My voice against incitement" or "My heart beats for diversity", the demonstrators rallied two days before AfD lawmakers will join other MPs at the first sitting of Germany's newly-elected parliament.

percent of the vote in the watershed general election in September and became the country's third biggest party. Its arrival in the Bundestag is a political earthquake for postwar Germany, as the AfD's top figures have repeatedly smashed

The Islamophobic and anti-migrant AfD garnered 12.6

taboos with their claims on German identity or by challenging Germany's culture of atonement over World War II. But the party proved appealing to voters angry with Chan-

cellor Angela Merkel's border policy, which allowed more than one million asylum seekers into the country since 2015. Calling on people to join the protest on Sunday, the pop-

ular movement Campact urged Germans to "steal the show

(Source: AFP)

Iraqi fighter jets kill 25 ISIL terrorists near Syria border

More than two dozen members of the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Daesh) Takfiri terrorist group have been killed when Iraqi Air Force fighter jets bombarded their positions in the country's troubled western province of Anbar near the border with Syria.

The media bureau of the Iraqi Defense Ministry announced in a statement on Sunday that 25 ISIL terrorists were killed as Iraqi military aircraft launched precision strikes in the desert region of the province, English-language online newspaper Iraqi News reported.

The statement added that 13 vehicles used by the Takfiris were also destroyed in the aerial assaults.

On October 10, 17 ISIL terrorists were killed as Iraqi warplanes pounded a militant convoy travelling along a road linking the small town of Akashat to the militant-held town of al-Qa'im, located nearly 400 kilometers northwest of the capital Baghdad.

Brigadier General Saleh Ali said at the time that the airstrikes also destroyed a number of ISIL arms depots and vehicles in the surrounding areas.

On October 5, Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi said Iraqi armed forces had liberated Hawijah, driving ISIL Takfiris out of their last bastion in the oil-rich northern province of Kirkuk.

Abadi said on August 31 that the northwestern city of Tal Afar, located 200 kilometers northwest of Kirkuk, and the entire Nineveh province had been purged of ISIL Takfiri terrorist group.

(Source: Press TV)

All you need to know ahead of the Best FIFA Football **Awards**

Cristiano Ronaldo, Lionel Messi and Neymar will battle it out for the 2017 Best FIFA Player of the Year award.

The trio are in contention for the top prize ahead of the awards ceremony in London. Last year s winner Ronaldo is the favourite to retain the title - but can Messi spring an upset?

It isn>t the only award up for grabs with several more being handed out on the night.

Here is all you need to know ahead of the awards cere-

When is it?

The Best FIFA Football Awards will be held at the London Palladium on October 23.

 $\underline{\text{It}}$ is due to get underway at around 7:30pm, local time. What awards are up for grabs

Here is a list of the awards and the contenders.

Men's Player: Cristiano Ronaldo, Lionel Messi. Neymar Women's Player: Deyna Castellanos, Carli Lloyd, Lieke

Men's Coach: Massimiliano Allegri, Antonio Conte, Zinedine Zidane

Women's Coach: Nils Nielsen, Gerard Precheur, Sarina Wiegman

Goalkeeper: Gianluigi Buffon, Keylor Navas, Manuel Neu-

Puskás: Deyna Castellanos, Olivier Giroud, Oscarine Masuluke

Fan Award: Borussia Dortmund supporters, Celtic supporters, FC Copenhagen supporters

(Source: Mirror)

Guardiola laments 'a really sad day for democracy'

Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola has lamented "a really sad day for democracy," after the Spanish prime minister declared Catalonia would be stripped of its political autonomy.

On Saturday Mariano Rajoy announced article 155 of the Spanish constitution would be invoked - once passed by the Spanish senate of which his party has a clear majority - clearing the path for Spain to take control of the elected Catalonian parliament and its institutions.

The move comes three weeks after the controversial referendum on Catalan independence - a vote which had been declared illegal and banned by Madrid - was violently disrupted by Spanish police. Last week Guardiola dedicated City's 2-1 Champions League win over Napoli to Jordi Sanchez and Jordi Cuixart, two imprisoned pro-Catalan independence leaders.

And he was asked about the situation again on Saturday, in the wake of City's 3-0 Premier League win over Burnley at the Etihad Stadium. He said: "It's a really sad day for democracy. I thought in the 21st century, those kind of things didn't happen.

"Especially, for example, the Catalan parliament is older than the Spanish parliament itself.

"I am really, really sad. The Catalan people just wanted to vote and we want to be listened to and let the people say what they wanted to be [part of Spain or independent].

"They did not allow us even that, the PP [Rajoy's ruling Partido Popular] didn't allow us to vote. They did what they did today just as the people protested with no violence.

"I think it's a really, really sad day for democracy. The only thing we wanted was to be listened to. Society's demands are stronger than any laws and I think, again, it is a really sad day for all of Europe and all the world what they did today."

City's win saw them move five points clear at the top of the Premier League table, with rivals Manchester United losing 2-1 away to newly promoted Huddersfield Town.

(Source: Irish Times)

ederer and Nadal secrets to resurgence revealed

Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal have both made significant changes to their playing styles in order to propel them back to the top, according to Henri Leconte.

Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal have turned back the clock this season and are once again dominating the tennis world. The pair have claimed two Grand Slam titles each this term,

winning a combined total of 12 events on the tour. Injuries to many of the top players, including Andy Murray, Novak Djokovic and Stan Wawrinka have certainly played into

the duo's hands. However, former French Open finalist Henri Leconte thinks both Federer and Nadal deserve huge credit for they way they have adapted their games in the last year. "Roger and Rafa have dominated like the old days," Leconte

told Sky Sports. "It seems like they have only two players on the ATP tour but it's been a vintage year because of the amount of injuries. "Tennis has changed. It's quicker, harder, and players have to be more prepared to stay at the very top level.

"Roger took time off completely which helped him recycle his mental energy and physicality.

"He was very happy to come back at Wimbledon and play a different type of tennis.

"Rafa was the opposite in the fact that he has become more and more confident, raising his game to become even more

aggressive - it's a big change. Nadal currently sits top of the ATP rankings with Federer breathing down his neck after his triumph in Shanghai earlier this month. The 36-year-old will be hoping to close the gap further in the Swiss Indoors next week after Nadal was forced

to pull out due to injury. Federer has been handed a tough draw in the first round of the Swiss Indoors after he was paired with American wildcard

Dangerous Tiafoe, 19, took Federer to five sets at the US Open in August before falling to defeat.

He is in the same side of the draw as David Goffin and Jack Sock, while Juan Martin del Potro is in the bottom half.

(Source: Daily Express)

Ex-AC Milan defender elected **Tbilisi mayor**

Former AC Milan defender and Georgia international Kakha Kaladze is to run for mayor of the country's capital

Now 39, Kaladze is running as a candidate for the ruling Georgian Dream party against seven other candidates in the field. Kaladze, who made nearly 250 appearances for Milan before retiring at Genoa in 2011, said after a campaign event that he considered his career in sport was good preparation for politics.

'Every time when I talk about success in politics or in sport, I stress how important it is to have a team of profes-

A National Democratic Institute report stated this month that Kaladze has more than 30 per cent support among likely voters - more than any other candidates

His closest competitor is likely to be Zaal Udumashvili, a well-known former television anchor who is representing opposition party, the United National Movement. The result may have to be decided in a second round run-off.

Kaladze though, can enter the voting with due confidence after receiving backing from the founder of the Geor-



man, Bidzina Ivanishvili.

'I'm sure Kaladze will be elected as a mayor, said Nugzar Malkhazashvili, a 47-year-old doctor and resident of Tbilisi

Before making his dream move to AC Milan, Kaladze enjoyed a three-year spell at Dynamo Kiev after joining from Dinamo Tbilisi, before moving to Italy gian Dream party and Georgia's richest where he spent nine years of his foot-

ball career, where he won the Serie A title, as well as two Champions League's.

Kaladze's post-career included a handful of investments in Georgia, Ukraine, Italy and Kazakhstan.

He entered politics in the year he retired, 2012, becoming an active supporter of Ivanishvili and also served as energy minister and deputy prime minister in governments dominated by

His campaign includes promises to solve problems with traffic by building new roads and overpasses, improve ecology by constructing new parks and green zones and to address education and healthcare problems.

He said he was already looking beyond the election, and focusing on how he will fulfil his promises.

'I don't see October 21 (the election day) as a problem. I anticipate difficulties after October 21,' Kaladze added.

'We will have serious challenges, but I hope that we will overcome all difficult

Economic Promises

Kaladze has promised to boost Tbilisi's economy by ramping up tourism, simplifying government and bureaucracy, and creating a new transporta-

Georgian Dream has been accused of using administrative resources — a term for the use of the bureaucracy, favorable state media coverage, and loyal officials to coerce or intimidate voters — and other forms of pressure to ensure victory for its own candidates.

Kaladze has rejected the allegations. (Source: Daily Mail)

Candidates make cases to lead U.S. Soccer



Steve Gans and Eric Wynalda stated their respective cases to replace current U.S. Soccer Federation president Sunil Gulati on Saturday.

Speaking before the National Council of the U.S. Adult Soccer Association, both candidates were given five minutes to lay out their vision, and then answered several questions.

Gulati was in attendance, but declined to make a formal presentation, having spoken earlier in the day to smaller, region-based groups. Another announced candidate, Paul Lapointe, was unable to attend due to a prior commitment. Landon Donovan, who has been reportedly mulling a run, wasn't in attendance.

Gulati, who told ESPN FC he had yet to decide whether to run for re-election in February, did make some brief remarks in which he said that despite the U.S. men's national team's failure to qualify for the World Cup, he thought the USSF "is in pretty good shape."

That provided an opening for Wynalda, a former U.S. international and now a broadcaster with Fox Sports. He said he agreed with Gulati that things were OK, but said the "problem is that's not good enough

Wynalda added: "[Gulati's] work is appreciated, but we might have hit the ceiling here and it's time to build a couple of new floors, and I really do think I can get you there."

As the lesser-known of the two candidates, Gans spent more time talking about his background, and why that makes him qualified to lead the USSF.

Gans spoke of his passion for the sport growing up as a youth player, and the work he's done around the game as an attorney that has consulted soccer organizations both in the U.S. and abroad, at youth and professional level. He is also the father of two children who took part in the development academy.

"I think I understand all segments," he said. "My larger point is I respect all segments of this game."

He added: "This job is bigger than iust the national team. This is about leading an organization, growing the pie. It's about business deals and consensus building."

The candidates were asked what made them qualified to run the USSF. Gans pointed to his business background. Wynalda indicated that vision and direction were what the USSF

(Source: Soccernet)

Pliskova eases past Williams in Singapore opener



Karolina Pliskova put on a ruthless display of big hitting to swat aside crowd favorite Venus Williams 6-2 6-2 in the opening match of the WTA Finals at the Singapore Indoor Stadium on Sunday.

The 37-year-old Williams is making her first appearance since 2009 at the elite eight-woman event but her Czech opponent hit the ground running and never looked back after she broke the American's serve early in the first set of the group match. The strategy was pretty much es-

tablished in the opening game, with Williams, the 2008 champion, looking to come to the net whenever possible, while Pliskova was happy to rely on her powerful groundstrokes from the baseline.

Pliskova found her range immediately for a routine hold in the first game but Williams struggled when it was her turn to serve as the Czech capitalised on some sloppy play from the American to break with a booming forehand.

A flustered Williams settled in the fourth game to finally get on the scoreboard with a second ace of the match and, after the pair exchanged breaks, Pliskova moved 5-2 ahead with a sumptuous volley after work-

ing the American around the court. Another double fault gave the

world number three her first set point and she duly wrapped up the opener in 32 minutes when Williams went long with an errant backhand. "I think my serve was pretty good

today but the scoreline makes it look easier than it was," Pliskova said in a courtside interview.

The second set began with both players holding comfortably before Pliskova edged ahead in a pivotal third game when she fended off two break points with a brilliant volley and an ace before sending down two more huge serves to stay in control.

Williams was now struggling for both range and control and Pliskova, buoyed up by the tough hold in the previous game, pounced on another poor sequence of points from her opponent to break again and surge

Pliskova held to love for a 5-2 lead before a big forehand winner brought up three match points and, while Williams played her best tennis of the match to stave them off, a wayward backhand on the fourth gifted her opponent victory in just 74 minutes.

(Source: Reuters)

Ibrahimovic has 'minimum' five or six years left, claims Raiola

Manchester United striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic has a "minimum" of five or six years left as a player, according to his agent Mino Raiola.

Ibrahimovic enjoyed a wonderful first season at United before suffering serious knee ligament damage in April, an injury which is expected to keep him out of action for the rest of the year.

Despite that setback and his lengthy rehabilitation, United opted to offer him a new one-year deal and it was confirmed in August that he was to remain at the club for this season.

Although it remains to be seen how the 36-year-old fares upon his return, Raiola is adamant that he could play into his 40s, before joking how they are going to change their relationship in terms of finances.

"He has so much in him," Raiola told Expressen. "I think minimum another five or six years. I won't let him stop, he has to work for me now.

"I have been working for him for several years, now it's my turn. My children are grown up and I need money. "We have agreed that he is only working for me for five years now. So we're flipping it now. The salary



comes to me and he gets the commission."

Raiola expects to continue to have a close bond with Ibrahimovic when he does eventually retire, though he does not necessarily think the striker will make a particularly good coach.

"He will always be in my life if he is a football player, carpenter, investment banker, director or coach," he added. "It does not matter. But ****, God help the one who gets him as a coach.

"I want to see the player saying Zlatan does not know what he is talking about. If there is a meeting when Zlatan finds someone who thinks he's better than him, I want a hidden camera."

United have not set a specific return date for Ibrahimovic, but Raiola is certain that he is making great progress, even claiming that Dr Freddie Fu – the doctor overseeing his rehab – wants to study his knee because it is 'the best' he has seen.

"Yes, they [medical scientists] want to [study his knee], Fu says so," said Raiola.

"He says he has never seen such a strong and pure knee after such a long career as Zlatan has. Imagine all the bangs [his knee has received].

"This is a professor who takes care of athletes from all over the world and works with an American football

"He says he has never seen anything like 40 years." It's the best knee he has ever seen. This damage would be Himalayan to many, but to Zlatan it's a small hill. He

(Source: Goal)

Spain ease past Iran in U-17 World Cup quarters

S P O R T S Spain eased their way into the d e s k semi-final of the FIFA U-17 World Cup India 2017 after defeating Iran 3-1 in Kochi on Sunday.

It was the European champions that dominated proceedings from the kick-off, with Abel Ruiz putting them ahead before the quarter-hour mark. On the rebound, the Spain captain drove his shot past Iran goalkeeper Ali Gholamzadeh.

La Rojita nearly doubled their advantage, but Gholamzadeh made a superb save to deny Cesar Gelabert at his feet, with the ball flying over the Iran crossbar.

Any hopes Team Melli had of a comeback ended on the hour mark, as Sergio Gomez scored a fantastic goal when he took a Ferran Torres pass before turning and beating Gholamzadeh with long-distance strike off his left foot. Torres then added a third goal when he finished off Mohamed Moukliss's low cross.

Though Saeid Karimi pulled a goal back for Iran, Spain held on to secure their spot in the last four and a meeting with Mali in Navi Mumbai on Wednesday.

Iran started the competition with a 3-1 victory over Guinea in Group C and defeated Germany 4-0 and Costa Rica 3-0 in their following matches.

Abbas Chamanian's boys defeated Mexico 2-1 in Round of 16 to make history by advancing to the World Cup quarter-final for the first time.



Two Iranian players banned for smoking hookahs



S P O R T S d e s k teghlal players were banned until further notice after they were caught smoking hookahs.

Persepolis midfielder Mohsen Mosalman and Esteghlal winger Vouria Ghafouri have been suspended by ethics committee of Iran Football Federation

The rule means that the players will

miss Tehran derby which is scheduled for Thursday at the Azadi Stadium.

Esteghlal football club have protested the suspension but it seems the committee will not raise the bar.

It's crushing blow for two teams since they are two key players for their teams

A shisha session reportedly is equal to smoking 100 cigarettes.

Iran to play Ukraine in Kiev: report



S P O R T S Media reports sugd e s k gest that Iran national football team will face Ukraine in a friendly match in Kiev on November 14.

The Iranian media had already reported that Team Melli will play Panama on November 10 in Vienna, Austria.

on November 10 in Vienna, Austria.

Team Melli have 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.

Iran are also expected to 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.

Hamilton blasts to U.S. Grand Prix pole

AUSTIN, Texas (Reuters) — Lewis Hamilton pulverized the track record to claim pole position on Saturday ahead of a U.S. Grand Prix that could secure the Mercedes driver's fourth Formula One world championship.

Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel, the Briton's closest rival but 59 points behind with four races remaining, qualified second with a prodigious effort just when it seemed Mercedes

Hamilton, chasing his fifth win in six years at the Circuit of the Americas, dominated every phase of qualifying and will be champion on Sunday if he scores 16 points more than the German

"I love this track, it is such a fantastic track to drive," he said. "It's going to be a great race, a tough one, but I'm the best prepared I can be."

Vettel is the only other driver to have won at the Texas track and will do everything he can to deny the Briton a 62nd victory but will also be haunted by two retirements in

the last three races.

Hamilton's pole, in a time of one minute 33.108 seconds on a gusty afternoon, was the 72nd of his career and

world record in Valencia

Jepkosgei breaks own half marathon

11th of the season.

It also allowed him to claim another of Michael Schumacher's all-time Formula One records with an unprecedented 117th front row start.

While Mercedes look sure to clinch the constructors' championship for the fourth year in a row on Sunday, with a 145-point advantage over Ferrari, Hamilton played down his own chances of wrapping things up in America.

"I think it's highly unlikely that's going to be the case," the 32-year-old told the cheering crowd from the pit straight after parking up.

"Sebastian did a great job today to bring the Ferrari back up there. I think ultimately all I can do is do the best I can of my abilities and we are going to work as hard as I can to get maximum points.

"Sebastian is right there so unless he makes a silly mistake, which is unlikely as he's a four-times world champion, then we are going to be seeing it (the battle) continue on to other races."

VERY POOR

Vettel's time of 1:33.347 put him ahead of Hamilton's team mate Valtteri Bottas, who qualified third and shares

the second row with Red Bull's Australian Daniel Ricciardo.

"My lap was very poor in Q3 (the third phase) and I knew I had to deliver," said the German, whose mechanics changed the car's chassis after he complained about the handling in a fraught Friday practice.

"I got it right when it mattered at the end. It's important to get the front row because I believe our race pace is really good."

Ferrari's Kimi Raikkonen qualified fifth with Max Verstappen sixth for Red Bull, but the Dutch 20-year-old has a 15-place grid penalty meaning French driver Esteban Ocon moves up to the third row for Force India.

Spain's Carlos Sainz, preparing for his first race for Renault after switching from Toro Rosso, will start seventh alongside compatriot Fernando Alonso in the McLaren.

New Zealander Brendon Hartley, making his Formula One debut at Toro Rosso, will be last on the grid after qualifying 18th but with a 25-place penalty for an engine change decided on before he arrived in the team.

Haas's Kevin Magnussen was handed a three-place penalty for impeding Force India's Sergio Perez.

Scolari's Guangzhou Evergrande win CSL

Kenya's Joyciline Jepkosgei took one second off her own world record when she won the Valencia Half Marathon in a time of one hour 4.51 seconds on Sunday.

The multiple world record-holder reached 15 kilometers in 45:59 which put her target in jeopardy -- when she set the previous record of 1:04:52 in Prague in April, she had clocked 45:37 at the same stage.

Jepkosgei dug deep in the closing stages, however, and by the 20-km mark, where she clocked 1:01:30, she was only five seconds off world-record page

A thrilling run down the final straight allowed her to beat the clock and reach the finish line in 1:04:51 to set her sixth world record this year.

"It was my first race in Valencia, I enjoyed a lot, the weather is nice, the



circuit is perfect to run fast," said Jepkosgei, who will turn 24 in December. "I hope to come back in March for the World Half Marathon Championships."

Bahrain's Abraham Cheroben won the men's race in 59:11, grabbing his third win in four years in Valencia.

(Source: Reuters)

Guangzhou Evergrande sealed their seventh successive Chinese Super League title in emphatic fashion on Sunday, thrashing Guizhou Renhe 5-1.

The win put Luiz Felipe Scolari's side

nine points clear of Shanghai SIPG, who slipped to a 2-1 loss against Guangzhou R&F, with just two games remaining.

The title was Scolari's third in a row

The title was Scolari's third in a row, matching Marcello Lippi's record of three straight championship wins.

They were two goals ahead inside the first 17 minutes against Guizhou thanks to strikes from Gao Lin and Alan Carvalho.

Wang Fan pulled one back with a lob just before the half hour mark but an own goal by former China international Du Wei restored Guangzhou's two-goal cushion.

A fourth from Yu Hanchao put the result beyond any doubt, with Muriqui put-



ting the icing on the cake in injury time.

SIPG, meanwhile, were behind after just five minutes as Jiang Jihong gave R&F the lead and Eran Zahavi, the league's leading scorer, netted his 25th goal of the season four minutes into the second half before Hulk pulled one back.

(Source: ESPN)

World Taekwondo Grand Prix: Armin Hadipour claims silver

TASNIM — Iran's Armin Hadipour Seighalani won a silver medal at the World Taekwondo Grand Prix series event Saturday night.

In the men's under 58kg final, world silver medalist Mikhail Artamonov of Russia defeated Hadipour Seighalani with a three-point score in golden point after a rather uninspiring 0-0 draw in regulation time.

The bronze medals went the way of Thailand's Tawin Hanprab and Spain's Jesus Tortosa Cabrera.

Sajjad Mardani of Iran had already won a bronze medal in the men's over 80kg.

A total of 213 athletes from 56 countries, plus one refugee team, are competing across four male and four female Olympic weight categories at the Grand Prix in London from Oct. 20 to 22

Iran win sumo championship in World Elite Games

Press TV — The national Iranian workers' sumo wrestling team ended their campaign at the World Elite Games 2017 in Turkey with commendable displays of gripping skills, and finished as the champion in the international sporting event.

Milad Rahimi Aliabadi exhibited a fantastic performance in the final contest of men's 100-kilogram weight category, and proudly clinched the yellow medal, Amateur Federation of Workers' Sport of the Islamic Republic of Iran website reported. Mostafa Mahmoudi did not emerge triumphant in the fi-

nal of the 85-kilogram section, and picked up a silver medal. Additionally, Alireza Tanha, Majid Rezaei Omran and Moslem Faramarzi were awarded a gold medal each in the lightweight division. In the super heavyweight division, Alireza

Alizadeh managed to earn a bronze medal.

Shoja' Maghsoudi and Abolfazl Cheravi also finished second and third in the minus 75-kilogram weight class, and bagged a silver and bronze medal respectively.

The World Elite Games 2017 kicked off in Turkey's seaside resort of Kemer, located 40 kilometers (25 miles) west of the city of Antalya, on October 19, and will finish on October 22.

Iran into FINA Water Polo Development Trophy final

TASNIM — Iran defeated Uruguay 15-7 Saturday night en route to the final match of the FINA World Men's Water Polo Development Trophy.

The Iranian team had previously defeated the South American team 15-8 in the competition's group stage. Aleksandar Ciric's team will play host Malta in the final

match.

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 Trophy in Kuwait City, Egypt and Saudi Arabia came second and third respectively.

Arsenal smash five at Everton

The pressure on Everton manager Ronald Koeman increased as his side dropped into the relegation zone after a 5-2 defeat to Arsenal at Goodison Park.

Arsenal made by far the brighter start against opponents whose lack of confidence was soon apparent, and the visitors were almost ahead after only four minutes.

But that early dominance was to prove in vain when Everton took the lead through a superb goal from Wayne Rooney.
Granit Xhaka was closed down quickly inside his own half by Idrissa Gueye, with Rooney picking up possession to curl a

stylish finish past Petr Cech from the edge of the area.

The goal rattled Arsenal, who were almost two down when Petr Cech was challenged by Dominic Calvert-Lewin but saw the ball run to safety, but the Gunners levelled with five minutes left until the break when Pickford stopped a low shot from Xhaka but Nacho Monreal smashed in the rebound.

Arsenal began the second half on the front foot and took the lead in style after 53 minutes as Sanchez swung in a fine cross from the left and Ozil, arriving in the penalty area, glanced a deft header past Pickford.

And Everton's hopes of finding a way back into the game were soon hit when Gueye lunged in late on Xhaka to pick up a second yellow card as the under-fire Koeman looked on in frustration from the touchline.

With 74 minutes played, Koeman and Everton were condemned to another defeat as Arsenal sliced through again, Ozil finding space and squaring for Alexandre Lacazette to crash in an emphatic finish.

Arsenal boss Arsene Wenger brought on Jack Wilshere for his first Premier League appearance for the club since last August, the midfielder replacing Lacazette for the last 12 minutes, and his side almost added a fourth when Xhaka's strike hit the bar.

They did find one after 90 minutes when Wilshere slid the ball through to Ramsey, who placed a neat finish beyond the demoralized Pickford.

Everton pulled one back when Oumar Niasse struck after a mix-up between Cech and Monreal in stoppage time, but there was still time for Arsenal to add a fifth through a fine angled strike from Sanchez.

(Source: Eurosport)

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"Once Hamoun" receives honorable mention at **Portugal Cine'Eco**

R TEHRAN — Iranian filmmaker Mohammad e s k Ehsani's documentary "Once Hamoun" has received an honorable mention at the Cine'Eco, an international environmental film festival in Portugal.



A scene from "Once Hamoun" by Mohammad Ehsani

"Once Hamoun" was screened in the short film competition, the Persian service of ISNA reported on Sunday.

The documentary reviews the numerous environmental and social problems caused by the shrinkage of Lake Hamoun in the southeastern Iranian province of Sistan-Baluchestan.

Over 600 documentaries from more than 30 countries were screened at the festival which took place at the Municipal House of Culture in Seia from October 14 to 21.

Fox signed O'Reilly again knowing of new harassment settlement

NEW YORK (Reuters) — Bill O'Reilly, the Fox News commentator forced to resign in April, agreed to a \$32 million sexual harassment settlement in January, and the network's parent knew about the deal when it gave him a new contract the next month, the New York Times reported on Saturday.

The previously undisclosed agreement, at least the sixth involving O'Reilly or the company related to harassment charges against him, was "extraordinarily large" for such cases, according to the newspaper, which cited two people "briefed on the matter" as its sources.

Twenty-First Century Fox Inc (FOXA.O) acknowledged that it had been aware of O'Reilly's settlement with Lis Wiehl, a former Fox News legal analyst, when it signed a contract extension with "The O'Reilly Factor" host in February.

The company "was informed by Mr. O'Reilly that he had settled



Former Fox News Channel host Bill O'Reilly poses on the set of of context, false, defamatory, his show "The O'Reilly Factor" and obviously designed to in New York March 17, 2015. embarrass Bill O'Reilly and to

the matter personally, on nancial terms that he and Ms. Wiehl had agreed were confidential and not disclosed to the company," 21st Century Fox said in a statement emailed by spokesman Nathaniel Brown.

The Times report was strongly disputed by O'Reilly spokesman Mark Fabiani, who called it a malicious smear aimed at harming the conservative talk show host's career.

"In its latest diatribe against Bill O'Reilly, the Times printed leaked information provided by anonymous sources that is out (Reuters/Brendan McDermid) keep him from competing in the marketplace," Fabiani said in a statement emailed to Reuters.

Wiehl could not be immediately reached for comment. But Fabiani provided Reuters with a copy of what he said was an affidavit from her, saying she had settled her differences with both O'Reilly and Fox News, and had no claims against either one of them.

"At the end of 2016, I hired counsel who prepared a draft complaint asserting claims against Bill O'Reilly," the notarized document said. "We have since resolved all of our issues. I would no longer make the allegations contained in the draft complaint."

According to the Times, top executives of 21st Century Fox, including Rupert Murdoch and his two sons, Lachlan and James, decided in January to retain O'Reilly despite being made aware of the fresh complaints, the Times reported. The next month, the company gave O'Reilly a contract extension worth \$25 million a

The disclosures follow allegations reported earlier this month by The New York Times and The New Yorker that Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein sexually harassed or assaulted a number of women in incidents dating back to the 1980s. Reuters was unable to independently confirm any of the allegations, and Weinstein, 65, has denied having non-consensual sex with anyone.

Tony Cragg's huge marble sculpture to embellish TMCA courtyard

TEHRAN — A huge marble sculpture designed by Tony Cragg is being created by a group of Iranian artists under the supervision of the British sculptor in the courtyard of the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art.

The artwork is scheduled to be unveiled within the next month during a special ceremony, which will be attended by Cragg.

"The 3.20cm high sculpture consists of two compound geometric columns inside each other interacting with one another," Cragg said Sunday in a press conference at the museum, which will showcase artworks by the sculptor at to an exhibit on Tuesday.

A number of huge sculptures and a collection of drawings by Cragg will be put on display at the exhibition titled "Roots and Stones".

"My interest is shapes, from geometry to industrial materials. I make the sculptures from the industrial materials and make them into the forms of what you see today," Cragg said.

He added that he mostly makes use of large pieces of plastic, bronze or stone in producing his artworks.

"Over the past 150 years, sculptures have had dynamic and dramatic changes. In the past, most of the sculptures were figurative but artists broke out with looking at different materials and not making only copies of figures. Sculpture plays an important role in our lives," he explained.

He also gave a brief explanation about the evolution "As I held more exhibits, I went to different places and

found more materials and worked on new projects. I found out that I do not want to make pre-existing forms and I am not interested in copying nature," he remarked.



British sculptor Tony Cragg attends a press conference at the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art on October 22, 2017 to brief the media about his new exhibit "Roots and Stones".

He said that he currently spends most of his time making drawings that he really loves. "It is the basis of everything I do before I start to work," he noted.

Afshin Derambakhsh and Tiel Berkner are the curators of the exhibition, which will be running until January 12,

Berkner expressed hope that the project would act as a long lasting friendship between Iran and the world.

A 5-meter-high sculpture is the highlight of the exhibit, which will be inaugurated by Cragg.

Iranian tragedy on ISIS cruelty wins award at Religion Today Film Festival



A scene from Iranian filmmaker Behruz Nuranipur's "A157 R T TEHRAN — Iranian

d e s k filmmaker Nuranipur's "A157", which narrates the tragedy of three Kurdish girls who became pregnant after being raped by members of ISIS, was named best documentary at the 20th Religion Today Film Festival in İtaly, the Cinema Organization of Iran announced

"A157", Soureh Pictures Company's

powerful documentary, has been acclaimed in several Iranian and international events.

The film received the award for best documentary at the 15th Signs of the Night International Festival in the Italian town of Urbino this year in April.

It also won the special jury award in the feature documentary category at the 9th Cinéma Vérité, Iran's documentary film festival in Tehran in 2015.

Busan festival winner says Iranians dislike Trump

TEHRAN — Iranian d e s k director Oarai, whose debut feature "Blockage" won an award at the 22nd Busan International Film Festival in South Korea on Saturday, said that Iranians dislike U.S. President Donald Trump. He made the remarks in response to

Trump's address at the United Nations General Assembly on September 19, in which Trump claimed to side with the Iranian people against the Iranian government.

"He doesn't know we don't like him," Qarai said after accepting his award during the closing ceremony of the event in the South Korean city.

"Blockage" and "After My Death" by Kim Uiseok from South Korea shared the best film award in the New Currents category at the Busan International Film Festival.

U.S. director Oliver Stone presided over the jury in the New Currents competition, which highlights first and



Iranian director Mohsen Qarai in an undated photo second features by filmmakers from

Projects from Iran nominated for Middle East Architecture Awards

A R T TEHRAN d e s k number of Iranian projects have been nominated for the Middle East Architecture Awards, which will be presented on November 22, the

organizers announced on Fridav. In the Residential Project of the Year category Iranian projects received three of the seven nominations.

The nominees for this section are Orsi Khaneh by Keivani Architects and Woof Shadow by Tachra Design, both located in Tehran. In addition, Through Garden House by BAM Architects Office, a residence designed for a retired man who has left the chaotic city life in Isfahan to live in the nearby village of Parvaneh, is another Iranian project given a nod for this category.

Hashtgerg Official Building by DAAL Architecture Studio is the sole Iranian the Year award.

Cheshmeh Zoorkhaneh by Arash G. Tehrani, a sports center in Tehran, and Hessaby Monument by Peyman Esaghi & Amin Molazade, which has been built in memory of Iranian scientist Sayyed Mahmoud Hessabi in his homeland of Tafresh, have received nominations in the Community & Cultural Project of the Year category.

Diba Commercial Center by Arash G. Tehrani and Tosan Tajhiz Factory by L.E.D. Architects, both located in Tehran, are competing for the award for Best Commercial Project of the Year.

Flexible Bridge by Mohammadreza Kohzadi, Chabahar Free Zone Complex designed by Hajizadeh & Associates for a cultural complex in the southern Iranian free zone of Chabahar, and

nominee for the Sustainable Project of Islam History Museum by Mohsen Hozi won the nominations in the Concept Design of the Year section.

In the Leisure & Hospitality Project of the Year, Lavasan Restaurant by Boozhgan Architecture Studio is the sole Iranian nomination. Monammad Knavarian, the founder

of Mohammad Khavarian Design Studio, has been nominated for the award for the Young Architect of the

Four Iranian architects also are competing for the award for the Architect of the Year. The architects are

Elham Geramizadeh and Ehsan Hosseini, the founders of Logical Process Office: Behzad Atabaki, the founder of Behzad Atabaki Studio; and Farshad Mehdizadeh, the founder of



Orsi Khaneh by Keivani Architects has received a nomination in the Residential Project of the Year category at the Middle East Architecture Awards.

How Wim Wenders puts the snap back into Polaroids

LONDON (BBC) — Wim Wenders became a major filmmaker when, in the 1970s, German cinema became cool around the world. His hits included "The American Friend" and "Paris, Texas". But Wenders was privately experimenting with one of the most straightforward of visual technologies - the Polaroid stills camera. Thousands of those shots were thrown away - but now a selection of surviving images has gone on display in London.

Wenders says when he started taking Polaroid pictures in the mid-1960s it had nothing to do with art.

"It was just part of my life. I would photograph things to do with movies I was making, or when I travelled. It was useful and fun - which I think is what Polaroids were for

Instant photography - doing away with a separate and lengthy process of developing film outside the camera arrived commercially in 1948. It was the creation of Polaroid's founder Edwin Land.

In the early years the images were black and white.

The big step forward was the arrival of the Polaroid sx-70 camera in the early 1970s. "It was science fiction and nobody had seen anything like it. You pointed the camera and took the picture and then it came out - an empty, blank bit of white paper. And before your eyes it slowly turned into the image you had shot a few moments before. It was exhilarating in its colors and brightness.

"You have to remember that at this time people didn't have even VHS tape - we were in a simpler, analogue world. So to be able to create and record a visual image almost immediately seemed extraordinary.

Now some 200 of the images are on display in London, under the title "Instant Stories". Some of them show well-known people the director worked with such as the actor Dennis Hopper. Others are landscapes or pictures of odd corners in places Wenders visited such as New York or Sydney.

There are also close-up images of a TV set showing the 1956 film "The Girl Can't Help It", with appearances from Eddie Cochrane and Gene Vincent. "It's still my favorite rock and roll movie. And suddenly with a Polaroid you could photograph something you enjoyed and you had it in front of you to hold, almost at once. At the time it was extraordinary."

"The other great thing is that if friends were in the image you could give it to them and that's what happened to many of the pictures I took.

"I'd had traditional cameras since I was six or so and I enjoyed using them. But there was a whole new spontaneity with the Polaroid which I think some people are now starting to rediscover the way they've rediscovered music on vinyl.

"Everyone says, 'oh the kids aren't interested in physical objects any more: they don't want a book or a newspaper or a CD.' But the kids will regret it when they're older: if you're 25 you have to realize that

the phone which seems so great now will one day be yesterday's technology and lots of the digital images we all have will be hard or even impossible to look at.'

But doesn't a modern smartphone produce images far more sophisticated than any Polaroid camera did 40 years ago? Wenders says the basic character of the

technology was part of the appeal. "I think people who look at the images will find a sort of beauty here. The colors the process produced are great, though the monochrome images are attractive too." The director points out a particular black and white picture. "It's the Hoboken Terminal in New York and I was shooting a film 30 years ago there called "Lightning Over Water".

These places are mainly gone." For a long time the pictures just went up on Wenders' refrigerator and then were stored away in cigar boxes. "But they remain unique: they only existed once and there's no negative and you can't duplicate it. Forty years later they seem quite precious."