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Mehdi Taj
elected as new
IFF President

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No obstacle to regain oil market share: Zanganeh

Iran's oil output has reached 3.9 million bpd

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — There is no obstacle to Iran regaining its lost share of the oil market after the lifting of inter-

national sanctions, Oil Minister Bijan Namdar Zanganeh said on the sidelines of the 21st International Oil, Gas, Refining and Petrochemical

Exhibition of Iran (Iran Oil Show 2016) in Tehran on Saturday. "Iran's crude oil and gas condensate exports are now totaled 2.45 million barrels

per day from 1.35 million barrels per day before the lifting of the sanctions," the Shana news agency quoted Zanganeh as saying. **→4**

Zarif says keeps watchful eye on JCPOA implementation



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PERSPECTIVE
By **Anthony Jacob**
Political analyst

KSA backstabs Muslims

No one can deny Israel's role in killing innocent civilians in Palestine over the last 68 years. Unjustified wars, killings, torture, confiscation of property, imprisonment and detention without trial is the order of the day in Palestine. Israel's 50-day war on Gaza in 2014 that killed more than 2140 Palestinians shocked the world. The apartheid walls around Palestine are enough proof of what Israel thinks of Palestinians and how it treats them. No doubt, the world rightly knows them as the apartheid regime. **→9**

Iranian-German troupe to stage "The Border" in Tehran

ART **TEHRAN** — A troupe composed of Iranian and German actors will perform the play "The Border" at the Andisheh Cultural Center in Tehran from May 19 to 27.

The play will be jointly directed by Jafar Mahyari from Iran and Britta Schramm from Germany. Mahyari is also the writer of the play.

The play unfolds the story of a conflict between two groups living on different sides of a borderline. However, peace and friendship ultimately prevail after a series of incidents.

"The Border" which resembles an art performance rather than a conventional play has no dialog and mainly relies on body language through a rich combination of light and music.

The cast of the play is composed of Saeid Abbak and Anahita Safikhani from Iran and Bernd Stollberger and Kristina Forster from Germany.

The troupe is scheduled to perform the play in Germany in July.

Analyst says U.S. weighing costs and benefits of alliance with S. Arabia

INTERVIEW
By **M.A. Saki**

TEHRAN — A professor of political science at Georgetown University says the United States is reviewing the advantages and disadvantages of its alliance with Saudi Arabia as the kingdom's "regional actions have created policy challenges" for Washington.

"The United States appears to be reevaluating the benefits and disadvantages of its alliance with Saudi Arabia," Shireen Tahmaasb Hunter tells the Tehran Times.

Following is the text of the interview:

■ Why did the Obama administration threaten to veto a bipartisan bill which allowed families victimized by the 9/11 terrorist attacks sue Saudi Arabia.

■ Some argue that Saudi Arabia's strategic importance to the U.S. is fading away. Do you agree with such a view?

A: The bill in question is about releasing the 28 pages of the report issued by the committee which investigated 9/11 events and looked into those involved in perpetrating it and which so far have not been released. Those who oppose the bill, believe that these pages may contain evidence of possible involvement of Saudi officials with the terrorists who committed the act. If this were to happen it could seriously damage Saudi-U.S. relations which are already strained over the Iran nuclear deal. The Saudis have threatened that they might sell off the assets they hold in America which also could be damaging to the U.S. Therefore, the president might have just wanted to discourage the House of Representatives from passing such a bill. **→9**

Modi's Iran visit may seal deal on Chabahar Port

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Iran in May 3rd week is expected to seal much awaited commercial contract for India's participation at the Chabahar port, Indo-Iran-Afghan trilateral pact for the use of Chabahar Port, and possible document on India's

participation in the Farzad-B gas field where ONGC plans to invest \$3 billion.

To give further teeth to Indo-Afghan ties via Iran the proposed Indo-Afghan-Iran trilateral agreement on Chabahar port is ready to be inked during PM's trip,

sources indicated. India has been waiting to secure this access for years to expand its partnership with Afghanistan, Central Asia and beyond.

Cultural and civilizational linkages apart, three pillars of future Indo-Iranian partnership will rest

on connectivity projects, energy partnership and trade and investments. In this regard the much delayed commercial contract for India's participation in the expansion of Chabahar Port is likely to be inked coinciding with the visit. **→4**

Tehran Times celebrates 37th anniversary edition with a look to the future

The 37th anniversary of the daily English newspaper Tehran Times was celebrated with fresh and enthusiastic faces and wisdom of aged senior employees.

The event brought broad smile and joy to staff, although the bittersweet memories of contributors who said their goodbyes, changed the mood of the function for a moment.

The oldest English newspaper was celebrated this year while the founder of the newspaper, Parviz Erfan, and the senior editor, Hamid Golpira were no longer around.

Ever since its establishment in 1979, the Tehran Times has always strived to keep abreast of the latest news on politics, culture, economy, etc., becoming a reliable news source for hundreds of foreign media outlets.

The deputy head of the Tehran-based newspaper, Hamed Soleimani, and the editor-in-chief of the paper, Hassan Lasjerdi, each delivered a speech, calling this year's motto of the Tehran Times "ethics and values."

The organization's specially baked birthday cake was cut by Mrs. Erfan and Marjan Golpira, representing respectively late Parviz Erfan and Hamid Golpira.



© Tehran Times/Asghar Khamseh

ARTICLE
By **Kaveh Madani**
Senior lecturer at Imperial College London

Water crisis in Iran: A desperate call for action

Drying lakes and rivers, declining groundwater resources, land subsidence, water contamination, water supply rationing and disruptions, forced migration, agricultural losses, salt and sand storms, and ecosystem damages are the modern water-related issues of a nation which was once recognized as the pioneer of sustainable water management. The government blames the current crisis on the changing climate, frequent droughts, and international sanctions, believing that water shortages are periodic. However, the dramatic water security issues of Iran are rooted in decades of disintegrated planning and managerial myopia. Iran has suffered from a symptom-based management paradigm, which mainly focuses on curing the problem symptoms rather than addressing the main causes.

The separation of "development" from "environment", and aggressive shortsighted regional development plans have resulted in unintended water problems whose long-term costs are significantly higher than their short-term benefits. No matter how advanced the Iranian water management system is in comparison with the other countries in the region, there is no doubt that Iran is currently experiencing a serious water crisis.

In theory, Iran is currently experiencing the growth and underinvestment problems that the West experienced in the 20th century or even today. However, what makes the current problems in Iran different from similar problems in the West is the depth and extent of the secondary impacts of development. Rather than proactive management to prevent water problems, Iran's reactive management has focused on curing the symptoms, whereas the causes of the problems are becoming worse over time. **→10**

MEDIA MONITOR



Bahonar says ready to open talks with reformists

TEHRAN — Mohammad Reza Bahonar, the vice speaker in the outgoing parliament, has shown interest to enter talks with reformists, the Etemad newspaper reported on Saturday.

Bahonar further highlighted the importance of political parties, saying a party system automatically acts as a filter for qualification of individuals running for parliament.

He also said if some principlists opposed to the nuclear deal were not in the candidate list probably the result of parliamentary elections would have been different.



Iran has no limit to stage military exercises: Dehghan

TEHRAN — Defense Minister Hossein Dehghan said on Saturday that Iran has no limit to stage military exercises.

The remarks by Dehghan came in reaction to a bill proposed recently by U.S. Republican congressman Randy Forbes that called for measures against Iran's military drills in the Persian Gulf.

Iran has the right to promote its defense capability, the minister said.

Dehghan also said Saudi Arabia, the U.S. and some other extra regional countries have been making efforts to undermine security in the Middle East but blame Iran for the insecurity.

Despite these moves Iran is the source of stability and security in the region, he added.



Iran feels responsible to host displaced migrants, official says

TEHRAN — From a humanitarian and religious point of view Iran feels a responsibility to host people displaced by violence, Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Consular Affairs Hassan Qashqavi said on Friday.

During a meeting with Inger Støjberg, the Danish minister of immigration and integration, Qashqavi urged the international community to be more cooperative toward refugees displaced by the wars in the Middle East.

The Danish official expressed concern over an increase in the number of migrants.

Støjberg also said that the Danish Ministry of Immigration and Integration is willing to expand consultation with Iranian officials.



Minoo Khaleghi case referred to dispute settlement council: Motahari

TEHRAN — MP Ali Motahari announced on Saturday that case of controversial lawmaker-elect Minoo Khaleghi from the Isfahan constituency has been referred to the inter-branch dispute settlement council.

Khaleghi is a reformist who secured a seat in parliament in elections on February 26. However, the Guardian Council has said she is not qualified as she had reportedly removed her headscarf in a female meeting outside the country. However, similar accusations have been made against her.



Iranian Navy will soon unveil home-grown CIWS

TEHRAN — Deputy Navy Commander Rear Admiral Gholamreza Khadem Bigham let slip on Saturday that the Iranian Navy will be soon receiving deliveries of a home-grown close-in weapons system (CIWS) similar to the American Phalanx system, Fars reported.

Deliveries will be available as soon as the Iranian Navy finishes testing the system.

Close-in weapon system is used for defense against anti-ship missiles.

Syrians' resistance against terrorism 'unprecedented': Velayati



Halqi praised Iran's help in seeking to settle the Syrian crisis.

Economic cooperation between the two countries was also discussed in the meeting.

During a separate meeting with Syrian Foreign Minister Walid Muallem, Velayati said that the two countries will expand cooperation in various spheres.

Muallem said that in addition to military cooperation, efforts should be made in political and economic spheres.

He also described Iran's power as "unique".

ETEMAD

MEHR

ISNA

IRNA

TASNIM

Rouhani: Iran and Turkmenistan gateways to Persian Gulf, Central and East Asia

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — President **d e s k** Hassan Rouhani said on Saturday that it is essential that Iran and Turkmenistan, due to their geostrategic locations, expand relations.

Iran as a gateway for linking Central Asian countries to the Persian Gulf and the Seal of Oman and Turkmenistan as a route for access to Central Asia and even East Asia should make efforts to strengthen cooperation, Rouhani said during a meeting with Turkmen Foreign Minister Rasit Meredow in Tehran.

Rouhani added, "Iran and Turkmenistan have had successful joint cooperation which should be expanded in line with serving the interests of the two nations and developing regional cooperation."

Iran and Turkmenistan share sea and land borders. The two countries are also linked by a railway system which extends to Central Asia.

Rouhani said the Caspian Sea's capacities should be used to expand ties.

Iran and Turkmenistan should have "good cooperation" on environmental is-



"Iran and Turkmenistan have had successful joint cooperation which should be expanded in line with serving the interests of the two nations and developing regional cooperation," Rouhani says.

Aref unveils 'Faction of Hopo' motto, vows to focus on economic concerns

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Mohammad Reza Aref, a **d e s k** leading moderate reformer who won the highest number of votes in Tehran in the February 26 parliamentary election, said on Saturday that he and his colleagues in the next parliament will do their utmost to realize the motto of "hope, serenity, and economic flourishing" in the upcoming parliament.

A week earlier, Aref said he will have its voice heard via a faction named "Faction of Hope."

"Implementing tenets of resistance economy and addressing social challenges are among our future plans," the reformist figure said.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Aref highlighted that the majority of the Iranian people are against extremism, seeing reformist mechanisms to counter challenges.

Aref secured a landslide victory in the February parliamentary elections in Tehran, topping rivals in Tehran.

The Stanford-educated figure is considered the main competitor for the post of parliament speaker, competing with the incumbent Ali Larijani who was reelected to the parliament from the Qom constituency.

Since its victory in parliamentary elections, the former first vice president has been insisting on an economic agenda for the next parliament.

Earlier, Aref had said if his faction succeeds in taking the parliament's helm, he will make it a priority to respond to the demands of Iranians.

Among these demands, he noted, are better economic indexes, promoting living standards, controlling inflation, and creating jobs, Aref explained.

Aref was on the top of the 30-member candidate in the Feb. election in Tehran. He and 29 others in the list captured all the 30 seats allocated for the metropolis of Tehran in the Majlis. They campaigned under the "list of hope".



Araqchi says Iranophilia brings JCPOA to fruition

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Iranian **d e s k** Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs Abbas Araqchi has said to fully reap the fruits of the JCPOA, an "Iranophilia" policy should be adopted.

"We should follow a policy of Iranophilia," the top nuclear negotiator said in a meeting in Alborz province on Saturday, IRNA reported.

He added, "Fueling Iranophobia should be avoided so as not to scare away foreign investors."

Earlier this month, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said "On paper the United States allows for-

ign banks to deal with Iran, but in practice they create Iranophobia so no one does business with Iran."

To achieve the goal, Araqchi said, foreign investors and business owners need to feel "an atmosphere of reassurance."

For the nuclear deal to translate into real economic gains, Iranians should be more patient, the leading diplomat noted.

"It takes time for the removal of sanctions to turn into economic exchange."

Although the nuclear deal is ending harsh sanctions against Iran, including banking ones, some foreign banks still have reservations resuming ties with Ira-



nian partners, fearing falling foul to the U.S. punitive measures.

Foreign investors' fear of entering the Iranian market even after the signing of

the deal was a key theme of a recent meeting between Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and his American counterpart John Kerry.

After the session, Secretary John Kerry told the press that the U.S. will not get in the way of foreigners doing business with Iran.

According to government spokesman Mohammad-Baqer Nobakht, the deal has already proven a political breakthrough, bringing 8 presidents, 5 prime ministers, 3 parliament speakers, and 14 foreign ministers to Iran since the deal went into effect in January.

Zarif says keeps watchful eye on JCPOA implementation

FM calls for support by incoming lawmakers

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Iranian Foreign Minister **d e s k** Mohammad Javad Zarif said on Saturday a "serious priority" of his team at the Foreign Ministry is to guarantee "the full implantation of the JCPOA by the West and other sides of the deal."

Following the signing of the nuclear deal between Iran and world powers, the two sides agreed on a monitoring mechanism to make sure the two sides remained committed to the terms of the deal.

Speaking to a gathering of lawmakers-elect, Zarif offered gratitude to the outgoing parliament for prominent role in contributing to actualization of the goals of the country's foreign policy agenda.

"Hand in hand with the government, the Majlis made



it possible to further our foreign policy, especially when it comes to the JCPOA," Zarif highlighted.

Also, Zarif requested the lawmakers-elect to work in tandem with the Foreign Ministry, vowing to keep an intimate connection with them.

"One of our principal tenets is to reach our goals through benefitting from Majlis representatives' ideas," Zarif noted, saying the brainstorming will present a "united front" against regional bullying.

In a veiled reference to opponents of the JCPOA, Zarif reminded the importance of a united backing of foreign policies at the international scene, urging lawmakers-elect to look at issue from an international lens.

Time right for Canada to reengage with Iran: Globe and Mail

A leading United Nations expert on human rights in Iran says now is the time for Canada and other countries to re-engage with Tehran as it looks to improve its relationship with the outside world, according to The Globe and Mail newspaper.

Ahmed Shaheed, UN special rapporteur on the situation of human rights in

Iran, made the comments to a Senate committee Wednesday. His appearance before the committee comes as the Liberal government looks to re-engage with Iran, after a period of soured relations under the previous Conservative government.

"I believe that now more than ever, it is time for, in my view, Canada and the

world community to work hand in hand to find ... effective and creative ways to engage with Iran on human rights as they look to broaden their political, economic and cultural links with the outside world," said Shaheed in a video appearance from Geneva.

"Inclusive engagement with Iran and continued focus on human rights are not

in, my view, mutually exclusive realities," he said.

Foreign Affairs Minister Stéphane Dion has said that Canada will re-engage with Iran on a "step by step" basis, as it still has concerns about the government's "very questionable" human-rights record and its role in the region, especially for Israel.

Bishop: Australia values its longstanding relationship with Iran

Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs Julie Bishop said that Australia values its longstanding relationship with Iran.

Bishop announced in Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Website on Saturday that Ian Biggs has been appointed as Australia's next Ambassador to the Islamic Republic

of Iran.

In 2014-15, total two-way trade with Iran was valued at more than \$354 million. We look forward to enhancing commercial opportunities following implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action nuclear deal and the lifting of most international sanctions on Iran, she said.

Australia has significant reasons for engaging Iran on issues of shared interest and concern, including the fight against terrorism in Syria and Iraq, as well as the common challenges of people smuggling and illegal migration, she added.

Biggs is a senior career officer of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Until recently he was Acting First Assistant Secretary of International Security Division.

He has served overseas as Ambassador to Turkey, and Saudi Arabia, Chargé d'Affaires in Baghdad, and Deputy Head of Mission in Vienna and Damascus.

(Source: ISNA)

Resistance to emerge stronger from attacks: Nasrallah

Seyyed Hassan Nasrallah, the secretary general of the Lebanese resistance movement Hezbollah, vows that resistance movements would come out stronger from attacks and assassinations.

Nasrallah made the comments during a televised speech in the Lebanese capital, Beirut.

In a ceremony held by the Islamic Resistance Support Association, Nasrallah expressed his movement's willingness to overcome any new challenges and possible financial sanctions, saying Hezbollah will defeat its enemies.

He once again criticized the House of Saud regime Arabia for labeling Hezbollah as a terrorist organization, saying such a move aims to tarnish its reputation and please the United States.

He said the Saudi regime failed to convince fellow Muslim states to join its stance against Hezbollah, adding that the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) did not recently reach consensus in its final statement against the resistance movement.

Nasrallah also thanked Indonesia, Iraq, Tunisia and Algeria and other supporters of the resistance while hailing Iran's unwavering support.



He also said that Syria is engulfed in a war because of its support for resistance movements in Palestine and Lebanon, adding the U.S. and Israel target Hezbollah and its backers.

He also said Riyadh regime, a main

backer of the Takfiri militants, is escalating conflicts in Syria and Yemen in a bid to thwart any peace efforts.

The House of Saud regime has been adopting a raft of measures against Lebanon in reaction to the latter's refusal to

side with Riyadh against Iran.

The Arab kingdom has been targeting Hezbollah, which has been fighting Saudi-backed extremism inside both Lebanon and Syria.

Earlier this year, Lebanese Foreign Minister Gibran Bassil refused to back a motion drafted by Saudi Arabia against the Islamic Republic, prompting Riyadh to retract a \$4-billion aid pledge to Lebanon and demand an apology, which Lebanon refused to give.

The motion had sought to condemn Tehran over January attacks on vacant Saudi diplomatic premises. The attacks occurred during otherwise peaceful protests against Saudi Arabia's earlier execution of prominent Shia cleric, Sheikh Nimr al-Nimr.

Some local media reports in Lebanon have, meanwhile, said the Saudis may be applying pressure to secure the release of a member of the royal family held in Lebanon since last October on drug charges.

Abdul-Mohsen al-Waleed Al Saud was detained in Beirut after authorities seized two tons of amphetamine pills before they were loaded onto his private plane.

(Source: Press TV)

MSF urges Kenya not to shut down Dadaab refugee camp

Medical charity Doctors without Borders (MSF/Médecins Sans Frontières) has urged the Kenyan government to reconsider their decision to shut down the Dadaab refugee camp, warning that closure would risk the lives of more than 300,000 refugees.

In a statement released late on Friday, Liesbeth Aelbrecht, MSF head of mission in Kenya, said the move to close the world's largest refugee camp "once more highlighted the continued and blatant neglect of millions of refugees around the world".

Earlier on Friday, the Kenyan government said it would close two refugee camps, including Dadaab and Kakuma, due to security and economic challenges.

The closure of the camps will have adverse effects and the international community should collectively take responsibility for the humanitarian needs that arise, Karanja Kibicho, permanent secretary at the Interior Ministry, said.

The government had also disbanded the Department of Refugee Affairs, which works with humanitarian organizations looking after the welfare of refugees, Kibicho said.

The Kenyan official also said that the voluntary repatriation process for refugees in place since 2013 has been very slow.

Kenya has been hosting the refugees for nearly 25 years and it had taken its toll on the country, Kibicho said.

Dadaab in eastern Kenya is the largest camp, with more than 330,000 ref-



ugees, mainly Somalis escaping a conflict that has raged on for more than two decades.

The Kakuma camp hosts 190,000 refugees, the majority of them South Sudanese escaping civil war in their country.

Kibicho said the camps were breeding grounds for fighters.

Al-Shabab, the Somali armed group, has vowed attacks on Kenya after Nairobi sent its troops into Somalia to fight the group as part of the African Union forces.

The Somali armed group has launched a number of deadly attacks inside Kenya in retaliation of the military intervention.

It's not the first time Kenya has threatened to send refugees back home that international rights groups have condemned.

Amnesty said the move is reckless and could lead to the involuntary return of refugees to countries where their lives could still be in danger.

(Source: agencies)

U.S. getting tougher with Israel over settlements: report

The United States will endorse a tougher tone with Israel in an upcoming international report that takes Tel Aviv to task over settlements, demolitions and property seizures on land the Palestinians claim for a future state, diplomats told The Associated Press.

The U.S. and its fellow Mideast mediators also will chastise Palestinian leaders for failing to rein in anti-Israeli violence. But the diplomats involved in drafting the document said its primary focus will be a surge of construction in settlers housing in the West Bank and east al-Quds (Jerusalem).

The U.S. approval of the harsh language marks a subtle shift. Washington has traditionally tempered statements by the so-called "Quartet" of mediators with careful diplomatic language, but the diplomats said the U.S. in this case will align itself closer to the positions of the European Union, Russia and the United Nations, who emphasize Israel's role in the Mideast impasse.

The report's release is sure to infuriate Israel, where officials are already bracing for expected criticism. And on the other side, although the mediators will endorse some long-standing Palestinian complaints, the Palestinians are likely to complain the report does not go far enough.

Diplomats acknowledge the report, which could come out in late May or



June, will be largely symbolic, requiring no action. It could be unveiled at the UN and possibly sent to the Security Council for an endorsement, according to the diplomats, who included three U.S. officials. They all demanded anonymity because they weren't authorized to discuss the unfinished work publicly.

The diplomats said the report is intended to highlight obstacles to a two-state peace agreement — the stated goal of both Israeli and Palestinian leaders — and offer recommendations for restarting negotiations in a process that is stalled.

Another diplomat said Israel will be put "on notice" that its appropriation of land isn't going unnoticed.

The document won't look only at east al-Quds activity and West Bank settlement construction, but also at a "problematic trend" of legalizing smaller so-called outposts, the officials said. In addition, it will criticize Israel for a growing backlog of housing block approvals.

(Source: AP)

UN envoy: Dozens of ISIL mass graves found in Iraq

More than 50 mass graves have been discovered in territory formerly controlled by the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Daesh) terrorist group in Iraq, including three burial pits in a football field, the United Nations envoy has said.

Jan Kubis, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Iraq, told the Security Council on Friday that evidence of the "heinous crimes" committed by the group in Iraq were being uncovered as territory is retaken from ISIL.

"More than 50 mass graves have been discovered so far in several areas of Iraq," he said.

Iraqi forces, with backing from the US-led coalition that carries out daily air strikes against ISIL, have retaken significant ground in recent months.

In the city of Ramadi, three graves containing a total of up to 40 sets of remains were found in a football field on April 19, said Kubis.

Ramadi was retaken from ISIL when Iraqi forces seized the main government compound late last year, but the city was completely retaken only in February.

The envoy said that the humanitarian crisis was worsening in Iraq, with nearly a third of the population, or over 10 million people, now requiring urgent aid - double the number from last year.

He projected that a further two million people could be displaced by the end of the year by new military campaigns aimed at driving out ISIL.

Iraqi and Kurdish forces launched an offensive in March in the province of Nineveh, of which ISIL-controlled Mosul is the capital. ISIL have held Mosul since June 2014.

Kubis urged Iraqi leaders to resolve differences that have led to street protests in Baghdad, saying that the turmoil will only help ISIL maintain its foothold.

Last week, protesters in Baghdad stormed parliament



after MPs again failed to approve nominees for a cabinet of technocrats to replace the government of party-affiliated ministers.

(Source: AFP)

Egypt sentences six to death in espionage case

An Egyptian court on Saturday sentenced six people to death, including two Al Jazeera journalists, who were accused of leaking state secrets to Qatar.

The case of jailed former President Mohamed Morsi, who is also charged for espionage for Qatar, was however, adjourned.

The judgment will either be approved or reduced in June after consultations with Egypt's mufti, the highest Sunni religious leader in the country. The court may or may not consider the mufti's feedback.

Egyptian law requires the mufti to sign off on death

sentences. His opinion is not binding but is usually respected by courts.

The defendants have the right to appeal the verdict. Morsi has already been sentenced to life and 20 years in prison in three separate trials.

Al Jazeera rejects Egypt's allegations that the network was collaborating with Morsi's elected government.

Overthrown in 2013

Muslim Brotherhood-backed Morsi was overthrown by the military in July 2013 after mass protests a year after he took office as the first democratically elected

leader.

Senior leaders in the Muslim Brotherhood and their followers have been sentenced to death in different cases since military Leader Abdel Fatah el-Sisi overthrew Morsi's government.

The Muslim Brotherhood, which has since been banned, has dismissed the sentences and other harsh verdicts as politically motivated.

The Egyptian government has repeatedly said that the country's courts operate independently.

(Source: Al Jazeera)

NEWS

Khan becomes first Muslim mayor of London



Sadiq Khan, the son of a bus driver, became London's first Muslim mayor on Saturday, seeing off a Conservative challenger who attempted to link him to extremism and securing a much-needed win for his opposition Labor Party.

Khan's victory, which also makes him the first Muslim to head a major Western capital, was confirmed shortly after midnight inside London's futuristic glass and steel city hall following a day of mixed news for Labor in elections elsewhere in the country.

Dealt a crushing blow in Scotland, where it came third behind the Scottish National Party and Britain's ruling Conservatives, Labor did better than expected in England, saving its left-leaning leader from an early challenge.

But the big prize was the London mayor vote, which pitted Khan, 45, who grew up in public housing in inner city London, against Conservative Zac Goldsmith, 41, the son of a billionaire financier.

"This election was not without controversy and I am so proud that London has today chosen hope over fear and unity over division," Khan said in a short speech after the results.

"I hope that we will never be offered such a stark choice again. Fear does not make us safer, it only makes us weaker and the politics of fear is simply not welcome in our city."

Plaudits for Khan flooded in from as far afield as New York, whose mayor Bill de Blasio said on Twitter: "Sending congratulations to London's new mayor and fellow affordable housing advocate, @SadiqKhan."

Khan's 13.6 percent margin of victory over Goldsmith was the widest in a London mayoral election in 16 years, showing that a bitter campaign marred by accusations that Khan had links to extremists and charges of anti-Semitism within Labor ranks had failed to deter his voters.

The Labor lawmaker replaces Conservative Boris Johnson, who ran the city of 8.6 million people for eight years. A top campaigner for Britain to leave the EU, Johnson is seen as a contender to succeed David Cameron as party leader and prime minister.

The Conservatives were keen to keep hold of the post, which does not run the City of London financial district but has influence over government in lobbying for the capital. The mayor is responsible for areas such as policing, transport, housing and the environment.

Khan, looking exhausted after a much delayed result, made an emotional speech referencing his Pakistani father, who he said would have been "proud that the city he chose to call his home has now chosen one of his children to be the mayor."

Accusations

Khan held his lead in the opinion polls, despite accusations by Goldsmith that he has shared platforms with radical Muslim speakers and given "oxygen" to extremists.

Khan says he has fought extremism all his life and that he regrets sharing a stage with speakers who held "abhorrent" views. The Labor Party accused Goldsmith and the ruling Conservative Party of smearing Khan.

Goldsmith denied the charge, saying he had raised legitimate questions over his opponent's judgment - but the tactics do seem to have backfired, with some voters interviewed by Reuters saying they found the campaign "disgusting and slimy".

While fighting those charges, Khan, a former human rights lawyer, also distanced himself from the newly elected Labor leader, Jeremy Corbyn, after a row over anti-Semitism.

The Labor leader ordered an inquiry into charges of anti-Semitism after suspending Ken Livingstone, a political ally and a former London mayor, for saying Adolf Hitler had supported Zionism.

The impact of the crisis was difficult to gauge in the election of more than 2,700 local officials and new devolved authorities in Scotland and Wales.

Compared to the last regional elections in 2011, Labor's share of the vote was down 9.2 percent in Scotland and 7.6 percent in Wales, allowing a strong showing for the anti-EU UK Independence Party before a referendum on membership of the bloc on June 23.

But, with fewer losses in England than expected, Corbyn was able to rally enough support to prevent an early challenge.

Corbyn, who was elected as party leader last year on a wave of enthusiasm for change and an end to 'establishment politics' among mostly younger members, welcomed some of the results and said he would fight to re-establish Labor in Scotland.

"We hung on and we grew support in a lot of places," he said.

But he did little to quell criticism of his leadership in a party which has moved from crisis to crisis, the latest the row over anti-Semitism forcing Corbyn to suspend Livingstone.

Richard Angell, director of Labor activist group Progress, said the party had to refocus on issues that concern voters.

"Corbyn need to shake up his operation, kick out Ken Livingstone as a first step to nailing the anti-Semitism problem and focus on voter-friendly policy," he told Reuters.

(Source: Reuters)

JUMP

No obstacle to regain oil market share: Zanganeh



The implementation of the nuclear deal has paved the way for industrial development of the country, he said. "Domestic companies in cooperation with foreign partners will manufacture products which will not only be used inside the country, but also will be exported to regional countries. To this end, foreign investment and state-of-the-art technology are both required."



Western sanctions cut Iran's oil output to 2.7 million bpd from 3.9 million bpd.

The sanctions barred foreign investments in the Iranian oil industry and also limited a low ceiling of 1 million bpd on the country's oil exports.

On May 4, National Iranian Oil Company Managing Director Rokneddin Javadi said that Iran's oil output now stands at 3.7 million bpd, stressing that the country has already been able to return its oil production to pre-sanctions levels.

Modi's Iran visit may seal deal on Chabahar Port



Iran had offered India stake at Chabahar in the early years of the past decade. However, negotiations only intensified after nuclear deal between P5 + 1 and Iran last year. India is extending 150-million credit line for making of jetties and berths at Chabahar port.

Simultaneously India is in talks to build rail link between Chabahar Port and Zahedan that will link Delhi with rest of Iran's railway network. A team from IRCON was in Iran this week to discuss this project and another railway connectivity projects in that country. India will also supply \$400 million of steel rails to Tehran. At the same time both India and Iran are hoping to give momentum to the International North-South Transport Corridor of which both are initial signatories along with Russia. Iran is the key gateway in this project.

Securing hydrocarbon sources is a priority for India as Delhi and Tehran would look to expand the basket in the coming years. Modi's visit, sources indicated, will expedite India's participation through a document which will pave the way for commercial contract at a later stage. An ONGC-led consortium had discovered Farzad-B offshore gas field in 2008 but was unable to proceed due to sanctions. Last year, ONGC submitted a proposal of \$3 billion to Tehran for development of the field.

Meanwhile, Tehran is keen to increase its oil exports to India in the backdrop of increasing demands. Since February-March this year India's oil imports from Iran has increased and reached 350,000 barrels per day.

Chabahar is not just aimed at getting access to Afghanistan as India has plans to set up units in its SEZ including a fertilizer plant in joint venture with Iran on lines of the plant in Oman. But pricing of gas is important for securing fertilizer. There are plans of \$20 billion investment from India in Chabahar port complex and SEZ. (Source: Economic Times)

NEWS

Italian textile machinery roadshow in Iran

A total of 26 Italian textile machinery manufacturers will be taking part in the forthcoming roadshow in Iran organized by the Italian Trade Agency and supported by the Ministry of Economic Development. The gradual elimination of international sanctions will allow Italy's textile machinery industry to recover market shares lost in recent years.

The textile machinery roadshow in Iran will kick off on 22 May, and until 30 May a total of 26 Italian manufacturers (of which 23 are ACIMIT associated members) will be taking part in a series of technology symposia programmed in some of the Country's major cities (Teheran, Yazd, Isfahan, Mashhad). This mission, organized by the Italian Trade Agency and ACIMIT, the Association of Italian Textile Machinery Manufacturers, with the support of Ministry of Economic Development, will allow Iranian textile manufacturers to measure their knowhow with some of Italy's primary producers of textile machinery, and become acquainted with the most up-to-date solutions for the different steps involved in the textile production process.

"In recent years, international sanctions have delayed the modernization process required for local industry to continue to be competitive in a global context," explains Raffaella Carabelli, President of ACIMIT, "In 2004, Iran was ranked among the top ten markets for Italian exports in the sector. After years of stagnation, our businesses have begun to do steady business in Iran. I'm confident that this roadshow will contribute to allowing us to recoup lost time."

In 2015, Italian exports towards Iran amounted to 8 million euros. Iranian demand is spread out over all types of production, but Italian finishing and spinning machines are the primary exports.

"Italy's textile machinery industry is a world leader for the quality of the technology proposed," comments president of ACIMIT. "We now have the possibility of returning to a market that has a great tradition, with even more success than in the past and with very interesting prospects. Thanks also to the support of Ministry of Economic Development and the Italian Trade Agency, our sector will take on the role of a strategic partner in Iran's textile industry." (Source: textileworld.com)

Iran's oil exports to Europe reach 500,000 bpd

TEHRAN — Iran's oil and gas condensate exports increased to 2.5 million barrels per day (bpd) from which the share of exports to Europe is 500,000 barrels, IRNA quoted Seyed Mohsen Qamsari, the director for international affairs of National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC), as saying on Friday.

According to IRNA's report, in Friday news conference which was held on the sidelines of Tehran's 21st International Oil, Gas, Refining and Petrochemical Exhibition (Iran Oil Show 2016), the director commented, "Before sanctions, Iranian oil export to Europe was 500,000 to 600,000 barrels and hopefully it will exceed the pre-sanctions level in the upcoming months".

Further in the event, Qamsari referred to the contracts with European companies and said that the company has signed oil contracts with France's Total, Greece's Hellenic and a number of Italian companies. "All the contracts signed in post-sanctions era are in the form of long-term contracts"



he added.

In response to a reporter's question about oil tankers carrying Iranian oil, the official said, "shipments to Europe are sent by non-Iranian tankers and only the ship-

ments to Turkey are delivered by Iranian tankers.

Asked about oil and gas condensate stored at sea, the official stated that Iran does not have oil stored at sea. "Of course,

Iran's mining sector offers \$40 billion for foreign investment

TEHRAN — Iran offers \$40 billion investment opportunities to the foreign entities for development of its mining sector, according to Mehdi Karbasian, the head of Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO).

The official made the remarks in the 3rd Europe-Iran Forum in Zurich, Switzerland as Mehr news agency reported on Friday.

In the event attended by senior managers of prestigious mining, investment, finance, banking and insurance companies from all around the world, Karbasian said that Iran has a comprehensive plan for the development of mining sector.

Head of IMIDRO also asserted that based on the road map drawn up for 2025, Iran's steel demand will rise to 40 million tons. "In this regard we are planning to achieve a capacity of 55 million tons of steel production from which 15 million tons will be allocated for export", he noted.

Referring to Iran's economic advantages, Karbasian said, "Iran is one of the least expensive countries for investors in mining and mineral industry".

He also pointed out that Iran is located in a region with a market of more than 300 million people. The country has a population of about 80 million and the GDP of \$400 billion. Iran is located at the heart of the Middle East. This suggests that in fact Iran will be the center of export and transportation in the region which will have significant benefits for the investors.

Karbasian also noted that unlike some of the oil producing countries, Iran is not dependent only on oil. "Other spheres like petrochemical, automotive, agricultural, food, rug, shipbuilding and mining industries are making revenue for the country", he said.

The government is planning for a growth rate of 8 percent for the economy in the Sixth National Development Plan (2016-2021) and the mining sector has a great potential in this program.

Tehran, Minsk sign economic roadmap to treble bilateral trade

TEHRAN — During the 13th meeting of Iran-Belarus Joint Economic Committee held in Minsk, the two countries inked an economic cooperation roadmap for 2016-2017, according to which the economic interactions between the two sides will reach \$250 million per annum, up from the current \$75 million, IRNA reported.

The document was signed in the presence of Iranian Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade Mohammad-Reza Nematzadeh, who headed a 50-member delegation, and his Belarusian counterpart Vitaly Vovk.

"The two countries are duty-bound to pave the way for increasing the volume of common trade balance," Nematzadeh said.

In addition to boosting the bilateral trade and investments, the penned agreement seeks transfer of advanced technology, holding exhibitions, manufacturing of biosensors and microprocessors via nanotechnology for the medical

there are a few shipments of condensate which are ready for export" he explained.

He noted that Iran's oil exports increased from one to two million bpd and it is natural not to have enough tankers to export this amount.

■ Importing 12 million liters of gasoline per day

Referring to the country's gasoline import, Qamsari, said, "So far this year, 12 million liters of gasoline have been imported daily from Asian countries".

Regarding cooperation with the Sweden's Vitol, he noted, "Iran delivers gasoil and other petroleum products to this company and receives gasoline in return".

It is worth mentioning that renowned international companies from 38 countries across the globe are participating in the 21st International Oil, Gas, Refining and Petrochemical Exhibition of Iran (Iran Oil Show 2016), which is being held at Tehran Permanent International Fairground from May 5 to 8.

Oil up on Canada wildfire, dollar; big weekly loss for Brent

Oil prices edged up on Friday, supported by an early dip in the dollar and a wildfire that has shrunk Canadian oil sands crude output by a third, but Brent still ended with its sharpest weekly drop in four months as investors cashed out of April's big rally.

Reports of a militant attack on a Chevron platform in Nigeria's oil-rich Niger Delta region and a drop in the number of U.S. oil drilling rigs also helped lift prices on the day.

The dollar, which has a huge impact on greenback-denominated commodities such as oil, was down most of the day before recovering in late trade. The dollar dipped after the U.S. government reported that the economy added the fewest number of jobs in seven months in April, raising doubts about whether the Federal Reserve will raise

interest rates before the end of the year.

Brent crude futures settled up 36 cents, or 0.8 percent, at \$45.37 a barrel.

West Texas Intermediate (WTI) futures finished up 53 cents, or about 0.8 percent too, at \$44.66.

For the week, Brent slid 6 percent for its biggest weekly decline since January. WTI fell 3 percent. The drops came after profit-taking by investors early in the week on April's gain of 20 percent or more in the two crude benchmarks.

"The global surplus still exists and there is still a possibility that oil prices could retrace further," said Dominick Chirichella, senior partner at the Energy Management Institute.

"However, the market is trading more and more in sync with the forward-looking

or perception view, with the current bearish fundamentals mostly priced into the market."

At least 720,000 barrels per day (bpd) of Canada's crude production capacity remained offline as the wildfires ravaged the oil town of Fort McMurray in Alberta and forced evacuation of workers and precautionary production cuts or shutdowns at about a dozen major facilities.

While most of the oil sands are to the north of the city, CNOOC Nexen's Long Lake facility and Athabasca Oil's Hangingstone project are south of Fort McMurray and were in danger, according to emergency officials. Both facilities have been evacuated.

The U.S. oil rig count, compiled by oilfield services provider Baker Hughes fell by four this week, extending a decline to a seventh



week and the lowest level since October 2009.

Some analysts said oil output in the Americas is declining so fast that it looks like the region alone could resolve the global oversupply.

(Source: Reuters)

Abe faces test on economic policy coordination after European trip

The Group of Seven advanced countries need to bolster their policy coordination to lead the global economy. Japan will face a test of its coordination ability as the chair of the upcoming G-7 summit meeting.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has wrapped up his visit to five European countries. The trip was intended for him to exchange views with his counterparts ahead of the Ise-Shima

summit meeting to be held on May 26-27.

During bilateral meetings with leaders of countries he recently visited, Abe stressed that agile fiscal spending is needed in tandem with accelerated structural reforms. He also stated a need to send out "a strong message" that will call for aggressive fiscal measures and other action.

Abe's view was largely shared by French President Francois

Hollande and Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel was cautious about her country taking fiscal action but agreed with Abe to continue talks on the matter. British Prime Minister David Cameron insisted that one should take into consideration different circumstances facing each of the G-7 members.

(Source: the-japan-news.com)

NEWS IN BRIEF



Fiat Chrysler chief sees self-driving technology in five years

Self-driving cars could hit roads within five years, the head of Fiat Chrysler Automobiles said Friday (May 6), days after the company announced an alliance with Google parent Alphabet.

Chief executive Sergio Marchionne declined to disclose financial details of the partnership or a timetable for building minivans that will expand the Internet Company's test fleet of autonomous vehicles.

"It's not sort of 'pie-in-the-sky,' the thing is real and it's coming," Mr Marchionne said.

"People are talking about 20 years, I think we'll have it here in the next five years."

Alphabet this week announced an alliance with Fiat Chrysler Automobiles (FCA) in a major expansion of its fleet of self-driving vehicles.



Wanted: Manufacturing whizzes to work on Tesla's Model 3

Technology entrepreneur Elon Musk gave a public shout-out to the sharpest minds in manufacturing this week, calling on them to come help Tesla Motors Inc build a million all-electric cars a year by 2020.

Musk says he is "hell-bent" on making the Silicon Valley automotive upstart a manufacturing powerhouse, but his vision relies on finding veteran auto engineers to ramp up volume ten-fold in four years - a challenge even for established carmakers.

Tesla on Wednesday said it would build 500,000 cars in 2018, two years ahead of schedule, and close to 1 million by 2020. The same day Tesla said its vice presidents in charge of production and manufacturing were leaving.



Wells Fargo told staff to keep quiet about missing papers: lawsuit

A former employee accused Wells Fargo & Co of instructing workers at a call center to refrain from telling customers about lost deeds or other missing documents, and of firing the worker who called the policy unethical, according to a lawsuit made public this week.

Duke Tran, who was a customer service specialist at the bank, says that his supervisor berated him for telling a husband and wife that their loan contract was missing from an internal system.

Tran and others later received an email instructing them not to tell customers about situations "where we have a lost contract, deed, any type of document, really, but especially when it relates to securing a property," according to a copy of the email filed with the lawsuit.

Things to expect on your trip to Iran

Iran's that one country on your list that you've been giving it a lot of thought. Your feet have been itching to tick it off but warnings and daily news headlines make you to think otherwise. While things are not all roses in this part of the world (where is?), take it from an Iranian: You're missing out on a LOT!!

Expect to be treated like a celebrity

Since old times, when travelers or merchants would make stops in Iran's part of the Silk Road, Iranians were accustomed to having guests and knew how to treat them well. But then "things" happened and that number of visitors and tourists decreased to the minimum. This left the few coming to stand out like the shiny new toy, and so they were treated like royalty.

Iranians will come up to you and say hello, they will want pictures with you, they'll invite you to their home or even offer you a free guided tour of their hometown. Where else are you going to find that?

Expect to be fed until you can't take it anymore!

It's not because you're a foreign guest, but Iranians, specifically the oldies see their guests as if they've come from a land that's been hit by famine for years and now's the time to stock up! They'll feed you and insist that you try out everything. They'll grab your plate and pour in the rice until you've declared ENOUGH for the third time! If you're on a diet or thinking of losing weight, you might as well do everyone a favour and forget it in Iran. Not happening! No, No!

Despite the force-feeding, you're in



A very usual table when you're invited by an Iranian for lunch. Yum!

for a treat. If Iranian food had been advertised better, it would have easily been the new Chinese. All foods in Iran are categorized as either 'hot' or 'cold' and every dish is balanced according to that philosophy. Sometimes a particular side dish like pickles or yogurts helps to balance the meal. Your body is also categorized as either one. So for example if your body is 'hot' it's best to eat cooling foods to keep yourself healthy. It's a bit confusing at first but leave it to the Persians and they'll bring you the perfect meal.

Expect to be safe.

In a region where blowing up bombs make the headlines way too often, Iran has been able to keep it safe. Very safe indeed. Crimes against tourist are extremely low in Iran. But this doesn't mean you should throw cautions to the wind. Take care of your belongings, don't over trust people and you'll be just fine. And I mean solo-female-travel kind of fine!

Expect exquisite architecture and sublime gardens

Where shall I start? From the majestic

structures of Persepolis that date back to over 2500 years ago or the dazzling tiles and stucco adorning mosques, palaces and wealthy homes. It's all here. And they've come up with a genius idea for every type of geology and weather conditions. Oh, and don't even get me started on the gardens. That famous Persian garden that you've seen in Alhambra in Spain or Taj Mahal. You'll see a lot of that here.

Expect breathtaking natural landscapes

While Iran's reputation is mostly for it's long lived history and cultural tourism, the country's natural beauty is excessively underestimated. Most people think of Iran as a desert, while almost 50% of the country is covered with mountains!! Iran's geological variety leads to luscious green forests in the north, golden sand beaches in the Gulf, canyons, yardangs, mangrove forests and a huge diversity in wildlife.

Expect to meet the most photo friendly nation

Iranians love to be the subject of your photos. It doesn't matter if you've befriended them just an hour before or you're a total stranger. Position your camera and they'll be happy to pose. Do give them a sign before you shoot and expect a heads up in return.

Time to pack now. Book that flight you've been checking for ages, take a leap of faith and leave for that adventure your family and friends have been warning you about. You'll have tons of pictures, loads of goodies and a whole new vision to take back home. Ones you'll cherish until that very last breath.

(Source: travestyle.com)

Farsi language: History and evolution

Farsi, also known as Persian Language, is the most widely spoken member of the Iranian branch of the Indo-Iranian languages, a subfamily of the Indo-European languages. Farsi is spoken today primarily in Iran and Afghanistan, but was historically a more widely understood language in an area ranging from the Middle East to India. Significant populations of speakers can be found in other Persian Gulf countries (Bahrain, Iraq, Oman, Yemen, and the United Arab Emirates), as well as large communities in the U.S.

Total numbers of speakers is high: over 30 million Farsi speakers (about 50% of Iran's population); over 7 million Dari Persian speakers in Afghanistan (25% of the population); and about 2 million Dari Persian speakers in Pakistan.

Farsi is a subgroup of West Iranian languages that include Dari and Tajik; the less closely related languages of Luri, Bakhtiari, and Kumzari; and the non-Persian dialects of Fars Province.

West and East Iranian comprise the Iranian group of the Indo-Iranian branch of the Indo-European family of languages. Indo-Iranian languages are spoken in a wide area stretching from portions of eastern Turkey and eastern Iraq to western India. The other main division of Indo-Iranian, in addition to Iranian, is the Indo-Aryan languages; a group comprised of many languages of the Indian subcontinent, for example, Sanskrit, Hindi/Urdu, Bengali, Gujarati, Punjabi, and Sindhi.

Evolution of the Farsi language

Old Persian is attested from the cuneiform inscriptions left by the Achaemenid dynasty (559 to 331 BC.) that ruled the lands known as the Realm of the Aryans (from which comes the name of the modern country Iran) up until the conquest of Alexander the Great.

Middle Persian, also known as Pahlavi, after the



Parthians who ruled Persia following the collapse of Alexander's Empire, is known chiefly through its use in Persian's pre-Islamic Zoroastrian religious writings.

The origin of Farsi (or Modern Persian) is not clear. Although greatly influenced and closely affiliated to Middle and Old Persian, there is no conclusive evidence that it is directly descended from these languages. It may instead derive from a Pahlavi dialect once spoken in northeast Iran.

Old Persian, by contrast, and its immediate descendant Middle Persian, originated in a province in southwest Iran that was once the center of the Persian Empire – Parsa or Fars, hence the contemporary Persian name of the language: Farsi.

The Early Modern period of the language (ninth to thirteenth centuries), preserved in the literature of the

Empire, is known as Classical Persian, due to the eminence and distinction of poets such as Rudaki, Firdowsi, and Khayyam. During this period, Persian was adopted as the lingua franca of the eastern Islamic nations.

Classical Persian remained essentially unchanged until the nineteenth century, when the dialect of Teheran rose in prominence, having been chosen as the capital of Persia by the Qajar dynasty in 1787.

(Source: farsinet.com)

A CLOSER LOOK

The road to ruin: Ways to wreck your holiday!

What's worse than a soggy vacation? Raining on your own parade. It can happen through hazy planning, a stormy disposition, or cloudy logic. But here's a brighter forecast: Overcome these self-inflicted vacation tempests and your next getaway will be sunny days and smooth sailing.

Bad Habit: Wearing a grumpy face

A gloomy disposition is internal; a sour expression is out there for everyone to see. Your dyspeptic look tells the world that you're anxious, skeptical, mistrustful, out of place, and aware of your own foreignness. In short, you don't look like yourself. So turn the beat around: Imagine that you're on the vacation you've dreamed about. Imagine that the locals are friendly and engaging. Imagine that you could have a successful and enlightening conversation. Present a face that says, "I'm happy to be here now." And about your fears that a smile will make you an easy target for pickpockets and Parisians: Relax—the pickpockets already have your number and the Parisians will ask for your number when they see the real you.

Quick fix: Turn that frown upside down. Practice smiling in the mirror and challenge yourself to adopt a cheerful expression. No one thinks you're a local anyway—but they won't be able to deny your kindly comportment.

Bad Habit: Being cheap

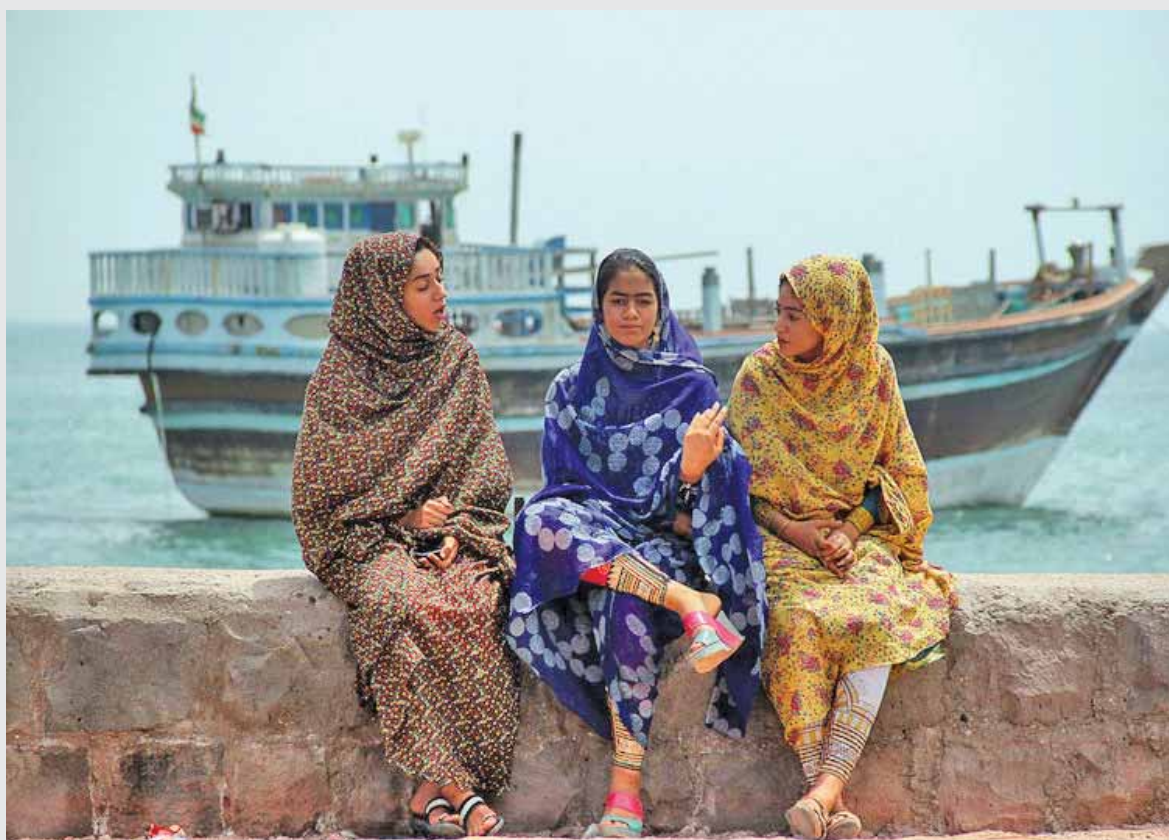
What's the most expensive element of travel? It's not airfare, hotels, or luxury shopping. It's time. Time is your most valuable commodity and your chief investment in a holiday. Don't limit the promise of your getaway by becoming a tightwad on the road. You won't make up for a \$2,000 air ticket by nickel and diming the rest of your vacation. In fact, miserliness can damage your trip by injecting bad attitudes, wasted time, and arguments into the equation. None of this means you should spend wantonly. Instead, you should plan better by lingering longer in fewer places, dining out at local favorites (not Michelin stars), and avoiding shopping splurges.

Quick fix: Don't be penny-wise and pound-foolish. Will a cab save you two hours? Take it. Will a flight save you a day? Book it. Think you can decode Angkor Wat on your own? You can't—hire a guide. And don't bargain to death. What you'll remember will be travel enlightenment in the absence of pecuniary piddling.

(Source: National Geography)



PICTURE OF THE DAY ISNA/Seyyed Ali Hashemi



Women in traditional dress of southern Hormozgan Province pose for a photo on the coasts of Persian Gulf

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۲۹

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Republic of Turkey
Ereğli (Konya) Court of First Instance
(Acting As Family Court)

No: 2013/75

Date: 2016/4/29

To: Iranian Pertinent Law Officials

This verdict on the following grounds, and with acceptance of claims made by the plaintiff;

- In observance of Article 166/1 of Turkish Civil Law, a divorce verdict is given for the case of plaintiff **Saleh Farajzadeh Moqaddam**, born 1975/5/6 to Tuncer and Songül, with ID No. 58351126382, issued in Konya, Ereğli District, Dalmaz Neighborhood, reg. No: 10 and Individual Serial No: 1; and defendant **Behrouz Farajzadeh Moqaddam** born 1968/4/2 to Abbas and Sedigheh, of Iranian nationality, for family disputes over incompatibility of characters.
- The defendant is given a verdict of payment of a fine worth of TL 29.20 (should be paid in National Treasury account). The payment will be made in cash by the defendant.
- The defendant is given a verdict of payment of the hearing fee worth of TL 849.6 (costs incurring to judges, dispatching costs, costs of communicating verdict to abroad) remittable to the plaintiff.
- The remaining (after subtracting the incurring costs) part of prepaid amount by the plaintiff will be remitted to plaintiff in observance of Article 333 of Trial Act.

The verdict was read by the court to plaintiff in absence of the defendant. The notice of appeal may be filed by any party within 15 days after entry of the judgment in a court of appeal or filing in this court or by an agent representing any party in any other court of the first instance.

Date: 2016/4/15

Judge- 165553 Signed

Court Clerk- 95932 Signed



Yasaman Salehi
Counselor

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Panama Papers source breaks silence, denies being a spy: Sueddeutsche Zeitung

Sueddeutsche Zeitung said on Friday that the source of millions of documents leaked to the German newspaper from Panamanian law firm Mossack Fonseca had sent them a manifesto, saying his motivation was the "scale of injustices" the papers revealed.

The source had never before publicly stated why he leaked the documents, now known as the Panama Papers, said Sueddeutsche Zeitung (SZ), one of Germany's most reputable newspapers.

In a 1,800 word manifesto published on the SZ website on Friday, the source, calling himself "John Doe", praised others who have leaked secret and sensitive documents, such as Edward Snowden, who revealed details of the U.S. government's mass surveillance program.

"For his revelations about the National Security Agency (NSA), he deserves a hero's welcome and a substantial prize, not banishment," the source wrote.

He also said he would be willing to co-operate with law enforcement agencies.

He called on the European Commission, Britain, the United States and other nations to take steps to protect people who reveal private information about such sensitive issues rather than punishing them.

"Legitimate whistleblowers who expose unquestionable wrongdoing, whether insiders or outsiders, deserve immunity from government retribution, full stop," he said.

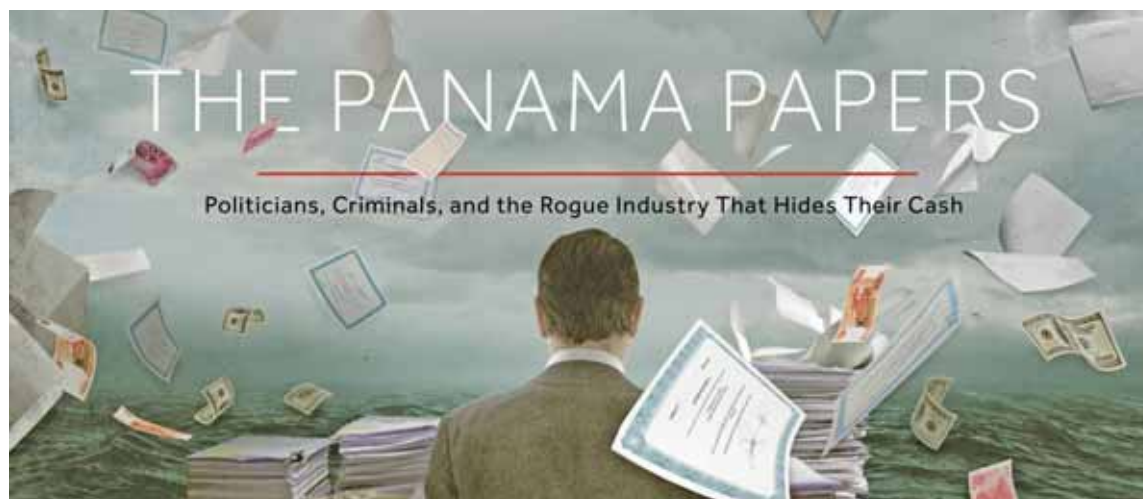
The source, who contacted the paper a year ago with an offer of encrypted internal documents from Mossack Fonseca, denied being a spy but said he had recognized the "scale of injustices" described in their contents.

The documents cover a period over almost 40 years, from 1977 until last December, and purport to show that some companies domiciled in tax havens were being used for suspected money laundering, arms and drug deals and tax evasion.

Reuters could not independently verify whether the source was the same person who leaked the original documents. The source's identity and gender is not known.

Sueddeutsche Zeitung spent more than a year, along with other media outlets and the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists, analyzing the huge cache of documents.

On Friday, Sueddeutsche Zeitung introduced the manifesto by saying: "Now 'John Doe', the anonymous source, has sent the SZ a manifesto, which can be read as an explanation of his actions – and as a call to action."



The source welcomed the fact that the leak had triggered a debate on "wrongdoing by the elite" but said not enough action had been taken.

"For the record, I do not work for any government or intelligence agency, directly or as a contractor, and I never have," he said.

The source was critical of banks, financial regulators, tax authorities, the courts, and the legal profession, as well as the media, saying he had offered the documents to several major media outlets that had chosen not to cover them.

"The collective impact of these failures has been a complete erosion of ethical standards, ultimately leading to a novel system we still call Capitalism, but

The source called on the European Commission, Britain, the United States and other nations to take steps to protect people who reveal private information about such sensitive issues rather than punishing them.

which is tantamount to economic slavery."

The source ended the manifesto by saying "inexpensive, limitless digital storage and fast internet connections" should help digitize the revolution against income inequality.

It is worth mentioning that German Justice Minister Heiko Maas previously appealed in a newspaper interview to media to hand over the Panama Papers that show how offshore firms are used to stash the wealth of the world's elite.

He said Germany had long been working on a proposal to make firms and banks more liable and added that higher and more effective sanctions were needed. Big firms need to feel the effect of such sanctions too, he said, adding that he would make a concrete proposal on that this year.

Governments around the globe started investigating possible financial wrongdoing by the world's rich and powerful since details of hundreds of thousands of clients were leaked from Panama-based law firm Mossack Fonseca, which has set up around 250,000 companies in the last four decades.

The scandal broke when an investigation was published, with German newspaper Sueddeutsche Zeitung saying it had received a cache of 11.5 million leaked documents from Mossack Fonseca and then shared them with more than 100 other international news outlets and the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ). (Source: Reuters)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Turmoil sends Turkey markets to worst week of Erdogan presidency

Turkey's stocks and bonds headed for the worst week since 2013 and currency volatility surged as a renewed political upheaval accelerated a selloff sparked by hawkish signals from Federal Reserve officials.

The Borsa Istanbul 100 Index dropped 9 percent this week and the yield on 10-year government bonds jumped 54 basis points as Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu lost a power struggle and said he would step down. The latest twist in what's seen as President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's quest for greater powers prompted Nomura Plc to say the risk of a credit downgrade may have doubled and Commerzbank AG to lower growth forecasts for this year and the next.

"The uncertainty which this transition will induce may squash investment intentions in the business sector," said Tatha Ghose, a senior economist at Commerzbank in London. "We had been relatively bullish about investment prospects when the AKP won clear majority in November, but this outlook has now been reversed."

The selloff in Istanbul accelerated on news of the premier's plans late Wednesday and continued on Thursday after his announcement. (Source: Bloomberg)

Laggard says IMF won't join Greece bailout until budget gap shut

The International Monetary Fund won't join a European bailout of Greece until differences on the nation's budget plan are resolved between the fund and European creditors, IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde said.

"Program discussions between Greece and the institutions have made progress in recent weeks, but significant gaps remain to be bridged before an agreement can be reached that would include the IMF under one of our program facilities," Lagarde said in a letter to euro-area finance ministers. An IMF spokesman confirmed the authenticity of the letter, which was first reported by the Financial Times.

Euro-area governments are reviewing whether to release the second installment of an 86-billion-euro (\$98 billion) bailout for Greece. The IMF has said it would be open to offering Greece a new loan, which would be separate from the European bailout. However, it has questioned Greece's ability to meet the target of posting a fiscal surplus before interest payments of 3.5 percent of gross domestic product within two years, as stipulated under the European program. (Source: Bloomberg)



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NEWS IN BRIEF

**Not lost in translation:
Researchers 'teach' computers
to translate accurately**

Algorithms provide a human touch to computers when translating words

Online translators are getting better, but there's still room for improvement. Researchers are now contributing new artificial intelligence techniques that could help accurately build full sentences.

Algorithms developed by researchers at the University of Liverpool give computers a human-like touch while translating words and languages. They believe their methods are key to improving accuracy.

Using the algorithms, a computer will be able to translate a word from an unknown language, and then provide context to it. As a result, the computer will be able to build a proper sentence by adding words around it.

Much like humans referencing a dictionary, the algorithms will look up the meaning of words through services like WordNet. Based on a scoring mechanism, the algorithms will weigh the correlation of words when building a sentence.

The algorithms' capability of helping computers understand words is like "teaching languages to computers," said Danushka Bollegala, a Liverpool computer scientist.

It's already possible to translate words with high accuracy rates through Google Translate. But sentence structures can still be poor, and often, meanings are misconstrued.

The new technology is a small step forward in building an accurate universal translator. It could remove language barriers that exist right now and translate entire books or make Web searches easier.

Work is underway to build a universal translator. Voice-activated assistants from Microsoft, Amazon, and Apple can respond to basic questions, and Microsoft's Skype Translator uses machine learning to translate in real time during voice chats.

The U-STAR (Universal Speech Translator Advanced Research) research program involves 33 universities and organizations worldwide is looking forward to build translators based on machine-learning.

(Source: pcworld.com)

**Eye scan may detect
early signs of Alzheimer's
disease**

The eyes, long described as the windows to the soul, appear to be windows to the brain, as well: Scientists have developed an eye-scan technique that may detect Alzheimer's disease at its earliest stage, before major symptoms appear.

With early detection, a person could seek treatment for Alzheimer's at a time when therapies would be most effective at slowing the progression of the memory-robbing disease, the researchers said.

The research was presented on May 5 at the annual meeting of the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) in Seattle. Alzheimer's disease, the most common form of dementia, is an epidemic that shows no signs of abating, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Death rates for Alzheimer's disease are increasing: More than 5 million Americans live with the disease, and by 2050, this number is projected to rise to 14 million, according to CDC statistics.

The cause of Alzheimer's is unknown. The disease appears to be associated with the accumulation of misfolded proteins in the brain called beta-amyloid and tau. The misfolded proteins can form tangles in the neural network of the brain, disrupting normal communication between neurons.

(Source: Live Science)



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Scientists develop new heart bypass surgery device

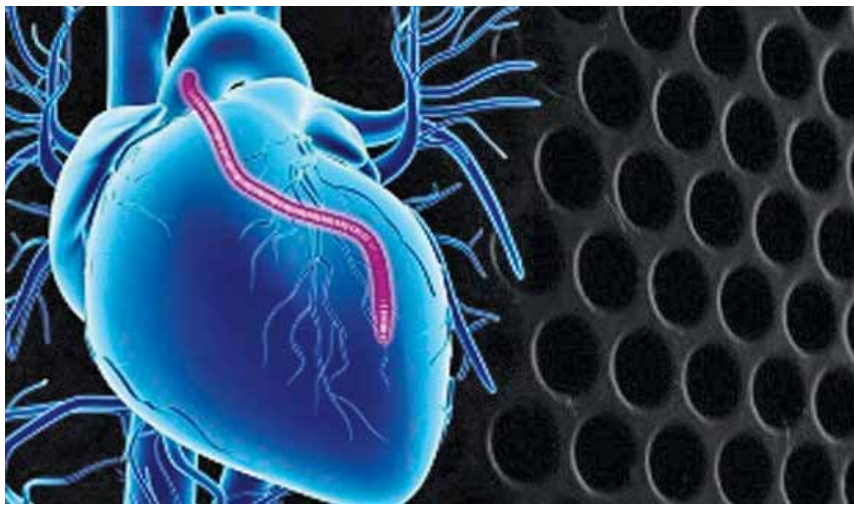
A team of international scientists has developed a device that will help doctors to perform heart bypass surgery without stopping the heart.

Scientists from MISiS National University of Science and Technology, Moscow and their colleagues from Australia's Endogene-Globetek medical company have developed a unique device to enhance cardiovascular surgery.

The stapler like device for mending blood vessels using strong staples makes it possible to quickly and safely restore blood vessels and to considerably reduce the post-operative period.

The "world has no other device like it. The main advantage is that it reliably patches up the blood vessels in no time," said Sergei Prokoshkin, a professor at pressure metal treatment department of MISiS National University of Science and Technology.

"In addition, it is very easy to quickly learn to use the stapler. It can be used during abdominal surgery to patch up blood vessels and other hollow body organs, in-



A standard heart bypass surgery lasts four to five hours, with doctors having to stop the heart, and entails lengthy post-operative rehabilitation.

cluding aortic aneurysms or during intestinal surgery," Prokoshkin added.

A standard heart bypass surgery lasts four to five hours, with doctors having to

stop the heart, and entails lengthy post-operative rehabilitation.

■ New stitching instrument

This new stitching instrument allows doctors to operate on the heart while it beats. Instead of sawing the breast-bone apart, surgeons can now simply bore two holes through it and put the bypass in place.

The entire operation lasts about 60 minutes, and the patient can be discharged on the following day.

This innovative stapler uses special resilient nickel titanium (nitinol) reversible shape memory staples. These staples are inserted inside a cartridge which is then placed inside the polymer-body stapler's distal end.

Pre-clinical tests have already been completed and this technology has also been patented in Russia and Australia.

This Russian-Australian invention received an award at the 44th International Exhibition of Inventions of Geneva held last month.

(Source: indianewengland.com)

New fossils might solve 'paradox' of primate evolution

An international team of researchers unearthed fossils of six new primate species that lived in Asia during that period, filling in a gap in the evolutionary story of primates. And this could help scientists resolve the "paradox" of why our own evolution happened in Africa, even though our primate lineage is thought to have originated in Asia.

The fossils, described in a paper published Thursday in the journal Science, illustrate how primate diversity in Asia changed with the climate at the end of the Eocene epoch.

During the Eocene, which ran from about 56 to 34 million years ago, the world's climate was in a greenhouse state. "This was a wonderful time to be a primate, because primates like things to be hot and muggy," says K. Christopher Beard, senior curator at the University of Kansas Biodiversity Institute and a coauthor on the new paper.

Primates thrived across many regions, including Eu-



rope, North America, Asia, and Africa during the Eocene, Dr. Beard tells The Christian Science Monitor.

Primates in many regions went extinct. Those that survived clustered around the equator or in the tropics, in Africa and Asia.

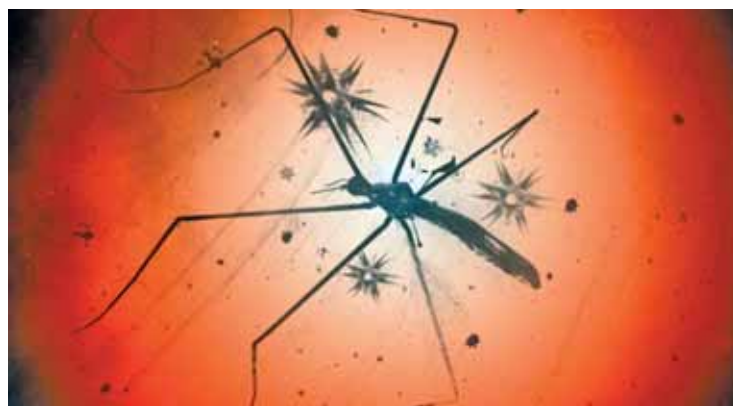
■ Evolution of primates

Scientists already had fossils representing the evolution of primates in Africa across the Eocene-Oligocene boundary, but little was known about the diversity of primates present in Asia during the early Oligocene, says John Fleagle, a primatologist at Stony Brook University and author of several books on primate evolution, who was not part of the new study.

These fossils, unearthed in southern China, "fill a gap," Dr. Fleagle tells the Monitor. They illuminate a "whole aspect of primate evolution that wasn't clearly documented before," he says.

During the Eocene, many species of primates lived across Asia and Africa. Many members of both branches of primates, the strepsirrhines and the haplorhines, populated both regions.

(Source: The CSM)

**Infect mosquitoes so that they can't
spread Zika**

The pesky *Aedes aegypti* mosquito has been buzzing around infecting millions of people in the Western Hemisphere with the Zika virus. Now some scientists think we should retaliate — and infect the mosquito with a strange little bug of our own.

It sounds zany, but it might actually work. Scientists have long known that if they infect just a few *A. aegypti* mosquitoes with a type of bacterium known as Wolbachia, the microbe will rapidly spread and infect much of the population. Once that happens, the infected mosquitoes lose their ability to transmit dengue fever among humans.

Now it appears this technique can help block Zika, too. A new paper published by Brazilian researchers in Cell Host & Microbe finds that when *A. aegypti* mosquitoes are infected with a specific strain of Wolbachia, they become far, far less effective at carrying the Zika virus currently wreaking havoc in Brazil and beyond.

Other scientists were impressed by the new finding. "Overall, I think this is a sound and very important approach," says Marcelo Jacobs-Lorena, a professor at the Malaria Research Institute at Johns Hopkins who wasn't involved in this newest study. Scientists have already been

releasing Wolbachia-infected mosquitoes in parts of Australia and Vietnam to see how well they reduced dengue fever. This new study suggests countries fighting Zika should give Wolbachia a try, too.

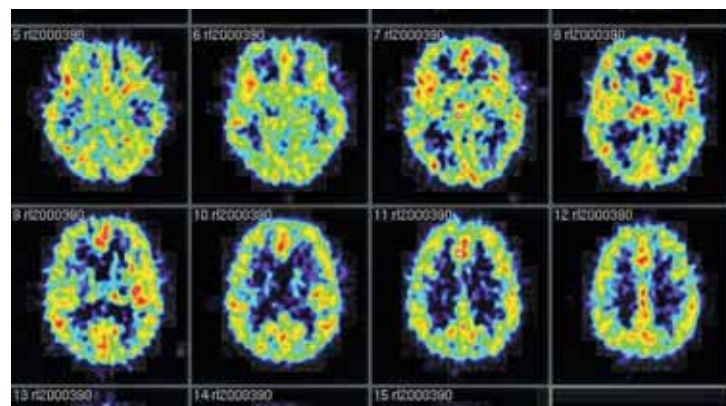
■ Common type of bacterium

Wolbachia is a very bizarre and very common type of bacterium that already infects millions of insects and spiders in the wild. The bacterium often hijacks its hosts' reproductive abilities, allowing it to spread quickly within a population. (For example, some strains of Wolbachia prevent infected males from mating with uninfected females — thereby ensuring that infected females have a competitive advantage.)

This bacterium doesn't, however, naturally infect the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito — the species that is currently spreading diseases like dengue fever, yellow fever, chikungunya, and Zika.

So what scientists can do is capture a few wild *A. aegypti* mosquitoes, inject their eggs with Wolbachia, and then release the mosquitoes back into the wild. Once that happens, the infection quickly spreads throughout the broader population.

(Source: vox.com)

**Study shows how memories can be
intentionally forgotten**

Context plays a big role in our memories, both good and bad. Bruce Springsteen's "Born to Run" on the car radio, for example, may remind you of your first love -- or your first speeding ticket. But a Dartmouth- and Princeton-led brain scanning study shows that people can intentionally forget past experiences by changing how they think about the context of those memories.

The findings have a range of potential applications centered on enhancing desired memories, such as developing new educational tools, or diminishing harmful memories, including treatments for post-traumatic stress disorder.

Since Ancient Greece, memory theorists have known that we use context -- or the situation we're in, including sights, sounds, smells, where we are, who we are with -- to organize and retrieve our memories. But the Dartmouth- and Princeton-led team wanted to know whether and how people can intentionally forget past experiences. They designed a functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) experiment to specifically track thoughts related to memories' contexts, and put a new twist on a centuries-old psychological research technique of having subjects memorize and recall a

list of unrelated words.

■ Outdoor scenes

In the new study, researchers showed participants images of outdoor scenes, such as forests, mountains and beaches, as they studied two lists of random words, manipulating whether they were told to forget or remember the first list prior to studying the second list.

"Our hope was the scene images would bias the background, or contextual, thoughts that people had as they studied the words to include scene-related thoughts," says lead author Jeremy Manning, an assistant professor of psychological and brain sciences at Dartmouth. "We used fMRI to track how much people were thinking of scene-related things at each moment during our experiment. That allowed us to track, on a moment-by-moment basis, how those scene or context representations faded in and out of people's thoughts over time."

The study's participants were told to either forget or remember the random words presented to them interspersed between scene images. Right after they were told to forget, the fMRI showed that they "flushed out" the scene-related activity from their brains.

(Source: EurekAlert)

How IBM's new five-qubit universal quantum computer works

IBM gave an unwary world its first publicly accessible quantum computer. You might be worried that you can tear up your passwords and throw away your encryption, for all is now lost. However, it's probably a bit early to call time on the world as we know it. You see, the whole computer is just five bits.

This might sound like some kind of publicity stunt; maybe it's IBM's way of clawing some attention back from D-Wave's quantum computing efforts. But a careful look shows that serious science undergirds the announcement.

The IBM system is, on a very superficial level, similar to D-Wave's. Both systems use superconducting quantum interference devices as qubits (quantum bits). But the similarity ends there. As IBM emphasizes, its quantum computer is a universal quantum computer — which D-Wave's is not.

IBM can address and measure the state of each qubit individually. The company can measure (and has) all the critical features of its device. If you want to know how long a qubit retains its state, IBM can tell you. IBM even shows that

addressing multiple qubits in a random way doesn't affect the state of the others too badly. Big Blue is really building its quantum computer from the foundation up, while still ensuring that the engineering fits real-world requirements.

To come close to having the same 10-24J difference between a one and zero, any chip would have to operate with a gate voltage of ten microvolts. So, at minimum, classical and quantum computers operate at energy scales that are different from one another by about a factor of 10,000.

(Source: Ars Technica)

Syrian military and allied volunteer fighters have liberated six major villages in the north and the west of the country as a massive anti-Takfiri mop-up operation picks up speed.

Syrian military officials said allied forces on Wednesday retook control of the village of Harbanafseh in the southern countryside of Hama Province in western Syria.

There were also reports of pro-government forces taking control of the village of Ayn al-Baydha and its surrounding farms in the eastern countryside of Aleppo, a major province in northern Syria.

The advances came as Syria's military continued clearing areas surrounding the strategic town of Salma, in the northwestern province of Latakia, which was liberated on Tuesday. Syrian media said the villages of al-Sheikh Khalil, Marj Khukhah, al-Maruniyat and Bait Miro were recaptured on Wednesday.

Syria liberates villages in Aleppo, Hama and Latakia



Erdogan: Turkey not to change terror laws for EU

Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has rejected easing anti-terror legislation in exchange for visa-free travel for Turkish citizens in the European Union.

Erdogan told EU states, "We'll go our way, you go yours," in a statement released on Friday, just a day after the resignation of his Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu.

Davutoglu - who negotiated the deal with EU states - is believed to have stepped down after a rift with the Turkish president.

European leaders wanted Turkey to reverse recent anti-terror measures in exchange for allowing Turks to visit the EU without visa for stays of up to 90 days.

The laws were brought in after a number of attacks carried out by the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Daesh) terrorist group and Kurdish separatists, respectively.

The government says that the laws will allow it to take on the groups more effectively but critics say the country's leadership is unfairly targeting opponents.

Recent actions taken under the an-

ti-terror laws include proposals to strip Turkish citizenship from people accused of backing the separatist Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK/Partiya Karkerên Kurdistanê) and the closing of newspapers such as Zaman.

The government seizure of the daily, owned by United States-based Fethullah Gulen, came at the request of a state prosecutor investigating the Islamic leader on terrorism charges.

Critics of Erdogan say the former prime minister is trying to increase his power by expanding the role of the president, which was previously largely ceremonial.

On Friday the Turkish leader said that a rapid switch to a presidential system over the current parliamentary system would make the country stronger and more stable.

The ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP/Adalet ve Kalkınma Partisi), to which both Erdogan and Davutoglu belong, is expected to select a new prime minister.

(Source: Agencies)

NATO aims to 'destabilize' Caucasus with Georgia drills: Moscow

Russian foreign ministry accused NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) of seeking to destabilize the Caucasus region with upcoming joint exercises in Georgia, where United States soldiers will train together with Georgian forces this month.

"We view this consistent 'development' of Georgian territory by NATO soldiers as a provocative move, aiming to deliberately destabilize the military-political situation in the Caucasus region," it said in a statement.

Moscow and Tbilisi fought a brief war in 2008 due to a dispute regarding South Ossetia, a separatist region of Georgia which is funded and backed by Russia.

After the war, Russia recognized South Ossetia and Abkhazia, another breakaway Georgian territory, as independent states and stationed permanent military bases there.

Georgia regards these regions as under occupation and accuses Russia of continuing to take over more area by moving South Ossetia fence-posts

Syria's official SANA agency said the retaking of villages came in the wake of fierce clashes with Takfiri militants, which began late on Tuesday. It added that "many" terrorists had been killed.

Fierce clashes were also under way in Aleppo's north, where Syrian forces are trying to recapture the Baghdadayn village. At least 10 militants were reportedly killed in the confrontation.

Syrian air force also said it has killed dozens of militants in airstrikes it carried out around the city of Homs, in western Syria.

Syrian forces have been battling terrorist militants on different fronts throughout Syria since March 2011, when the foreign-sponsored militancy began. Over 250,000 people have been killed during the past few years of turmoil while millions of others have been displaced.

(Source: Press TV)

deeper into its territory.

The Russian foreign ministry accused Washington of "indulging Tbilisi's revanchist drive."

Moscow has accused NATO of seeking to counter it militarily in Eastern Europe with increased forces and drills, but the alliance argues it is responding to Russia's annexation of Crimea from Ukraine.

The exercise in Georgia, called Noble Partner, will involve about 1,300 participants from U.S., Britain and Georgia and take place at the Vaziani base outside Tbilisi for two weeks this month, starting on May 11.

It involved the U.S. shipping its M1A2 main battle tanks across the Black Sea to Georgia for the first time this week.

Georgia, an ex-Soviet mountainous country, has bid to join the alliance, infuriating its former imperial master Russia, which bitterly opposes NATO's expansion into former Soviet republics.

The country is not however on a formal path to eventual membership.

(Source: AFP)

Sanders: I'll do everything I can to stop Trump's 'absurd, hateful' Muslim ban

Democratic presidential candidate and Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders said that he would do everything he can to prevent a President Trump from banning Muslims from entering the country.

"As a United States senator, I will do everything in my power to make sure that absurd, hateful proposal never occurs," he said on MSNBC's "The Rachel Maddow Show" on Friday.

Sanders laughed when Maddow pointed out that the newly elected mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, would not

be allowed in the country under Trump's temporary ban on Muslims entering the United States. But he said on a serious note that "of course" Trump's rise to becoming the GOP's (Grand Old Party) presumptive nominee has hurt the country.

Sanders said Trump is alienating Hispanics and Muslims all over the world.

"He is managing to antagonize large sections of this planet against the United States. That is unacceptable, that is incredibly destructive, and that is why this guy will

not become president," Sanders said.

Sanders said that he would do everything he can to keep Trump from the Oval Office.

"Donald Trump represents a whole lot that I passionately hate. And I will do - if I'm not the candidate, I will do everything I can to make sure that Donald Trump does not become president of the United States," he said. "I think he would be a disaster for this country in so many ways."

(Source: The Hill)

KSA backstabs Muslims

➡ But for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia which calls itself Islamic, these things do not matter. Their fellow Muslims being killed in Palestine on a daily basis does not bother them even a bit. Saudi Arabia has openly declared its friendship with a nation that considers the Palestinians (and Muslims) worse than animal and has no remorse in killing them. A government that encourages its soldiers to kill pregnant Palestinian women and thus achieve two targets with one stone is a good friend of Saudi Arabia now. For Saudi Prince Talal bin Abdul Aziz "it is a matter of pride to be the first honorary Saudi ambassador to Israel" and has promised to take Riyadh-Tel Aviv relations to great heights. The kingdom's relations with Israel is nothing new but

has just become public now. Since many years, Riyadh has shared a cozy relationship with Israel but managed to keep it under wraps to bluff the Muslims whose wealth it feeds on.

■ Riyadh's role in Syria

The kingdom's support and sponsorship of takfiri terrorism in Syria is no secret anymore. Even Riyadh acknowledges that it supports the so called "rebels" in Syria to topple Bashar Al-Assad. Despite a failure to achieve its goals over the last 5 years it is continuing with its acts. Even Israel has openly declared its support for terrorists fighting in Syria, by arming them and treating the injured. The kingdom and its allies' role against Syria has caused one of the worst refugee crises in decades. And the unrest has claimed

more than 400,000 lives so far, destroying a peaceful nation under their orders of their puppet masters.

■ Riyadh's role in Yemen

KSA's bloody aggression in Yemen is no different from Israel's previous aggressions against Palestine. Riyadh's ruthless campaign against Sana'a is a war without justification which includes brutal killing of civilians with weapons banned by international conventions and in complete violation of Security Council resolutions. This year long bombing campaign has claimed more than 18,000 lives and destroyed infrastructure beyond limits. Not just Syria and Yemen, the Al-Saud clan has its hands dipped in innocent blood of its own innocent countrymen demanding democracy and freedom of speech. The

Saudi generosity in the form of weapons has so far helped neighboring Bahrain quell popular uprising by killing and torturing Bahrainis who have been fighting against a brutal monarchy and demanding equality before law and equal rights.

The Al-Saud clan has been exploiting the wealth of Muslims and destroying them from within, for years now. It has successfully destroyed Islamic countries and waged wars against Muslims while still claiming to be custodians of the Holy mosques and the only true followers of the Quran and Islam. The Muslims need to understand the reality of the Al-Saud clan before it is too late. It is high time they open their eyes to the reality and not fall prey to this wolf in sheep's clothing.

Iran's oil reaches 3.5 million barrels per day

TEHRAN — Roknedin Javadi, managing director of the national Iranian oil company (NIOC) announced that Iran will reach the production rate of 3.5 million barrels per day in the next few days. Mentioning the oil export to the international markets, He added that According to the oil ministry's plan, reaching the pre-sanctions' export volume (2.2 million barrels per day) is on the agenda.

He pointed to Iran's lack of communication with European countries during the sanctions and said, "Now the windows of trade is open to the east and west in-

dustrialists, so that in the export sector, we have signed several contracts with European countries".

Director of NIOC evaluated the new Iranian calendar year to be an important year in terms of economy and politics. He expressed the hope that by the complete lifting of sanctions and the implementation of JCPOA in this year, the country will witness prosperity in the industry and acceleration in construction projects. Mentioning the Salman joint gas field, he said: we expect to reach 300 million cubic feet of gas production from this field in the next two months. About launching the first phase of North

senior directors, Bank Maskan office of public relations reported.

Based on this report, the minister noted that the Bank's Charter revision is in the final stages and soon it will be passed to the government to confirm the transition to development bank.

He also announced that the bank is attempting to get the necessary licenses

to finance the construction of residential settlements (construction on a large scale) from the Money and Credit Council which by doing so the bank will be permitted to launch saving funds and a project and regional housing finance system.

Further in the event, Akhoundi pointed to the bank's activities in the past and said, "while recession in the housing market,

Maskan development bank could systematically intervene with this cycle of recession and lead it to the path of prosperity".

Minister of roads and urban development also stressed that bank branches should move in a direction to give financial advice to households, especially families applying for affordable housing facilities.

NEWS

Canada wildfire likely to double in size: official

A Canadian official has said that a massive wildfire going on in the state of Alberta is likely to double in size, as evacuation efforts continue in the fire-ravaged oil city of Fort McMurray.

Canadian police led convoys of cars through the burning



ghost town of Fort McMurray on Friday in a risky operation to get thousands of people to safety.

A day after 8,000 people left the oil city; authorities said 5,500 more were expected to be evacuated by the end of Friday and another 4,000 on Saturday.

More than 80,000 people have left the city in the heart of Canada's oil sands, where the fire has torched 1,600 homes and other buildings, according to the Associated Press news agency quoting officials.

Chad Morrison, Alberta's manager of wildfire prevention, said there was a "high potential that the fire could double in size" by the end of Saturday.

He expected the fire to expand into a more remote forested area northeast and away from Fort McMurray, according to the AP.

Extremely dry conditions and a hot temperature of 27 Celsius was foreseen on Saturday along with strong winds, he said.

Morrison said no amount of resources would put this fire out, and what was needed was rain.

"We have not seen rain in this area for the last two months of significance," Morrison said. "This fire will continue to burn for a very long time until we see some significant rain."

Environment Canada forecast a 40 percent chance of showers in the area on Sunday and Morrison said cooler conditions were expected Sunday and Monday.

■ State of emergency

The mass evacuation forced as much as a quarter of Canada's oil output offline and is expected to impact a country already hurt by a dramatic fall in the price of oil.

The Alberta provincial government, which declared a state of emergency, said on Friday that the size of the blaze had grown to about 1,000 square kilometers.

Authorities said there had been no known casualties from the blaze itself, but deaths were reported in at least one car crash when people were evacuating.

Danielle Larivee, Alberta's minister of municipal affairs, said on Friday that the fire was actively burning in residential areas, with more than 250 firefighters battling the blaze.

Fort McMurray is surrounded by wilderness in the heart of Canada's oil sands - the third largest reserves of oil in the world behind Saudi Arabia and Venezuela.

It was the second major blaze in the oil sands region in a year. Last May, wildfires led to the evacuation of hundreds of workers from the region.

(Source: agencies)

JUMP

Analyst says U.S. weighing costs and benefits of alliance with S. Arabia

➡ ■ In the summit between GCC leaders and President Obama in Riyadh on April 21 the two sides agreed on establishing joint patrol forces against Iran. Doesn't the move mean that Arab states bordering the Persian Gulf are seeking to impose a military agreement, such as NATO, on the United States?

"Some Saudi actions especially the spread of extremist Wahhabi ideology which have encouraged groups such as the Taliban, ISIS, Boko Haram, etc., and some of its regional actions have created policy challenges for America."

want to exclude Iran from regional arrangements. It depends on Iran by improving its relations with the U.S. and other Western countries to make sure that it will be included in any regional arrangements should they develop in the future.

A: Statements regarding establishing common naval patrols in the Persian Gulf are largely meant to reassure the GCC countries that the U.S. and the West, in general, will not leave them undefended. But it is highly unlikely that any NATO type arrangement will be made with the GCC countries. The Western powers or for that matter China or Russia would not want a regional country such as Iran dominate the Persian Gulf. However, the U.S. president also said that the Arabs and Iran should resolve their differences, meaning that at least President Obama does not



Once you replace negative thoughts with positive ones, you'll start having positive results.

Willie Nelson

LEARN ENGLISH

Going to Business

Karla: I just heard that you're taking a **leave of absence** to go to business school. Is that right?
Joaquin: Yeah, I've been thinking about it for a long time, and have finally **taken the plunge**. I need an MBA to get ahead in my career.
Karla: That's great, but why don't you go part- time?
Joaquin: I had considered taking classes on nights and weekends while I continue to work, but I've been admitted into an **Ivy League** school, and I want to take full advantage of the opportunities there.
Karla: Isn't **graduate school** expensive, especially an Ivy League school?
Joaquin: Yeah, but I think it's worth it, and I've been **saving up**. I have an **undergraduate degree** in **accounting** and **finance**, but that's not enough if I want to work in the upper echelons of this or any other company.
Karla: I graduated with a degree **marketing** and **information systems**. Maybe I should be thinking about getting an MBA.
Joaquin: I'd recommend it, if you want to go further in your career. I'll lend you all of my **test prep** materials for the **GMAT**.
Karla: The GMAT? I'd forgotten about the GMAT. That may be a **deal breaker** for me.
Joaquin: Why? You don't like taking tests?
Karla: I like taking tests as much as I like getting a kick upside the head – maybe even less!

(Source: eslpod.com)

■ **Words & phrases**
leave of absence: a period of time that you are allowed to spend away from work for a particular purpose
take the plunge: to decide to do something important or risky, especially after thinking about it for a long time
MBA: Master of Business Administration; a university degree in the skills needed to be in charge of a business that you can get after your first degree
Ivy League: a group of eight old and respected universities in the northeastern US
graduate school: a college or university where you can study for a master's degree or a doctorate after receiving your first degree
save up: to keep money in a bank so that you can use it later, especially when you gradually add more money over a period of time
undergraduate degree: also called first degree, bachelor's degree or simply degree; it is a colloquial term for an academic degree taken by a person who has completed undergraduate courses
accounting: the profession or work of keeping or checking financial accounts, calculating taxes etc.
finance: the management of money by governments, large organizations etc.
upper echelon: the most important members
marketing: the activity of deciding how to advertise a product, what price to charge for it etc., or the type of job in which you do this
information systems: a software that helps you organize and analyze data
test prep: test preparation
GMAT: Graduate Management Admissions Test; a test that you take when you apply to study at a business school after you have finished your first degree
deal breaker: the catch that a particular individual cannot overlook and ultimately outweighs any redeeming quality the individual may possess

QUIZ OF THE DAY

150) What does the idiom mean?
That made my blood boil.
a) it made me very angry
b) I had a bad injury
c) it was very hot
(Quiz 149 answer: c)

PHRASAL VERB

Single out

- **Meaning:** select for special attention
- **For example:** Two boys were singled out for extra coaching.

ENGLISH PROVERB

Diamonds cut diamonds

■ **Explanation:** it refers to two people equally matched in wit or cunning

Water crisis in Iran: A desperate call for action



The current management structure must be revised in order to remove the unnecessary hierarchies, reduce the opportunities for corruption, minimize the number of stakeholders and conflicts, and empower the Department of Environment (DOE), which is politically weaker than the other government

→1 While the public, experts and media continuously warn about the major water crisis symptoms, less is being said about the main drivers of the crisis and effective exist strategies. But, what are the main drivers?

Population growth and spatial distribution, inefficient agriculture, and mismanagement and thirst for development are the three main crisis drivers.

■ **What to do?**

The water problems in Iran are far too many and significant to leave any doubt about the fact that Iran is experiencing a looming water crisis. Immediate mitigation actions are required to address the existing water problems throughout the country. There are good signs that the new government of Iran recognizes water security as a national priority at the moment and is trying to address some of the more evident water problems immediately. Nevertheless, fundamental changes in the current Iranian water management paradigm are essential to prevent the development of similar problems in the future and to secure sustainable water resources for Iran.

Taking advantage of the West's experience, Iran can adopt 10 major strategies to exit the current crisis.

■ Revisiting the new population growth policy in Iran: While the current age distribution of Iran's population is undesirable and can have long-term negative socio-economic impacts, the negative consequences of uncontrolled population growth and rapid urbanization can be much more significant and alarming. Optimizing the spatial distribution of the current population should be prioritized over improving the age distribution of the population. Major urban areas in Iran are already challenged with satisfying the needs of the existing population. Without major socio-economic and political reforms to address the current imbalance of power and services throughout the country, migration to major metropolitans will continue.

■ Empowerment of the farmers and rural communities: This must be done by significant investment in the agricultural sector in order to modernize this sector and make it more economically efficient and attractive. Wealthier farmers will be more innovative and will have a tendency to maximize the economic efficiency of farming activities and water use.

■ Revising the crop pattern across the country: The current inappropriate pattern requires revision with respect to the national food security priorities as well as regional resource availability and economic efficiency conditions. Through different economic incentives (e.g. guaranteed purchase of specific crops in specific regions at certain prices) the government can promote crop pattern modifications.

■ Increasing water and energy prices: Prices should be raised meaningfully to be reflective of the true cost of water and energy in each region. This, of course, can have serious negative impacts on the socio-economic conditions of farmers in the short-run and can have a high political cost for the government. To prevent such impacts, the government must provide financial assistance and loans to the farmers who need to cut their water and electricity use through technological improvements.

■ Creation of regional cooperative agricultural management institutions: The government needs to provide incentives for the formation of irrigation districts, regional farming authorities, regional farmer co-ops, etc. These entities can boost the economic efficiency of farming by increasing the collective capacity in managing farming activities as well as crop sale prices at the farm level (which are currently far below the market prices).

■ Implementation of water market: The government must implement an efficient water market. Iranians are recognized for their success in regulation, allocation and trading water in the ancient times. Modern Iran also requires a reliable water market to increase the economic efficiency of water use. The implementation of a water market requires serious regulation and monitoring of water uses as well as creating a financial mechanism to support water trades.

■ Setting up environmental water accounts: To overcome the current crisis, the government should pursue setting up "environmental water accounts" and try to purchase water from farms with low economic efficiency and to recharge aquifers and recover damaged ecosystems. These accounts can also be recharged during wet years for ecosystem protection in dry periods.

■ Shifting from reactive to proactive management: Water management in Iran requires a shift from the crisis (reactive) management to the preventive (proac-

tive) management that does not allow the development of serious water problems and ecosystem damages. Such a management paradigm recognizes the interrelated dynamics of the water sector with other sectors, cures the problem causes rather than its symptoms, manages water rather than controlling it, and benefits from effective non-structural (soft) solutions (e.g. regulations, institutions, taxation, monitoring, population control) as much as it benefits from structural (hard or engineering) solutions (e.g. dam construction, water diversion, using irrigation sensors).

■ Optimal distribution of water management efforts: The government should balance its efforts in restoring versus preventing ecosystem damages. While the efforts in solving the evident water problems (such as the Lake Urmia tragedy) must continue, Iranians should not forget that upcoming problems (e.g. ground-water tragedy) can be much more catastrophic in scale if timely actions are not taken. So, the government needs to put serious efforts into detecting the emerging water problems before they become too costly to resolve.

■ Revising the current water governance



The negative consequences of uncontrolled population growth and rapid urbanization can be much more significant and alarming. Optimizing the spatial distribution of the current population should be prioritized over improving the age distribution of the population.

structure and empowerment of the DOE: The current management structure must be revised in order to remove the unnecessary hierarchies, reduce the opportunities for corruption, minimize the number of stakeholders and conflicts, and empower the Department of Environment (DOE), which is politically weaker than the other government sectors such as the Ministry of Energy (responsible for managing agriculture). If development is to be sustainable, DOE must have the required authority to enforce environmental regulations, environmental impact assessments, and environmental taxation.

■ Making the society more environmentally-educated: While the decision makers must take the main responsibility for the current water status in Iran, the Iranian public should also be blamed for not valuing ecosystem services and demanding healthy environmental systems from their government. Citizens, environmental activists, NGOs and media can play a major role in addressing the current water crisis by educating the public about the value of ecosystem services and sustainable development. Eventually an environmentally-educated society will not evaluate and reward the elected officials solely based on their impacts on the economy. Through bottom-up approaches, the society can force the Iranian decision makers to change behavior, respond to the needs of the society, adopt more pro-environmental development actions, and give more power to regional water management authorities.

Dr. Kaveh Madani is a Senior Lecturer of Environmental Management in the Centre for Environmental Policy at the Imperial College London, and an expert in water resources planning management in arid areas including Middle East and California. He has more than 150 publications on various water, environmental and energy management subjects, is the Associate Editor of the Journal of Water Resources Planning and Management, and has been recently selected as one of the four recipients of the Arne Richter Award for Outstanding Young Scientists in 2016 by the European Geosciences Union (EGU) and one of the ten New Faces of Civil Engineering in 2012 by the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE).

This article is an excerpt from his recent publication, "Water management in Iran: what is causing the looming crisis?"

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

A ↔ ع

2,800 dental care centers to kick off by March 2017, says health minister

2,800 dental care centers will get off the ground by March 2017, Health Minister Hassan Qazizadeh-Hashemi said on Wednesday.

"By setting this plan in motion the dental care coverage will be expanded up to 25 percent," he was quoted by IRNA news agency as saying.

"Besides, 8 million elementary schoolers will be provided with cavity preventive measures which will last up to high school," the minister added.

Mentioning high costs of dental care services, he regretted the fact that merely 7 percent of the services in this sector are covered with insurances while 80 percent of surgical and other health care services are being done in public hospitals.

وزیر بهداشت خبر داد: ایجاد ۲ هزار و ۸۰۰ پایگاه خدمات دندانپزشکی در کشور تا پایان سال

حسن قاضی زاده هاشمی وزیر بهداشت درمان و آموزش پزشکی روز چهارشنبه گفت: تا پایان سال ۲ هزار و ۸۰۰ پایگاه خدمات دندانپزشکی در کشور ایجاد می کنیم.

به گزارش ایرنا وی گفت: با اجرای این طرح و راه اندازی این پایگاهها، خدمات دولتی در این بخش به بیش از ۲۵ درصد خواهد رسید.

وزیر بهداشت افزود: در ضمن برای حدود هشت میلیون کودک دبستانی اقدامات جلوگیری از پوسیدگی دندان نیز انجام شده که تا دوره دبیرستان ادامه خواهد داشت.

وی هزینه های بالای دندانپزشکی را مورد توجه قرار داد و گفت: متأسفانه تا کنون خدمات دولتی در بخش دندانپزشکی حدود هفت درصد است، در حالی که بیش از ۸۰ درصد خدمات جراحی و درمانی در دیگر بخش ها در بیمارستان های دولتی انجام می شود.

Iran draws with Bosnia at Rio 2016 sitting volleyball competition

SPORTS Iran has been pooled with Bosnia and Herzegovina at the Rio 2016 sitting volleyball competition.

The Pools for the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games sitting volleyball competition were announced pitting the finalists from both the men's and women's competitions at London 2012 together in the opening stages.

In the men's competition Paralympic, five-time Paralympic gold medalist Iran is in Pool B alongside world and European champion Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The two rivals have contested the last four Paralympic finals dating back to Sydney 2000 and it was the European side that came out on top last time round at London 2012. The two powerhouses of the sport are joined in Pool B by Russia and China.

World silver medalist and host Brazil is currently second in the world rankings and it headlines Pool A. In the opening matches, the Parapan American Games gold medalist will face Egypt, Germany and the USA, Paralympic.org wrote.

The highlight of the opening round in the women's competition will be the Pool B contest between two huge rivals – China and the USA. The two sides have played out the gold medal match at the last two Paralympic Games with world champion China coming out on top on both occasions. In Pool B they will also face Iran and Rwanda, who made history last year by becoming the first African women's side to qualify for a Paralympic Games.

Host and world No.4 side Brazil is in Pool A together with Ukraine who is one place above it in the current world rankings. Parapan American Games bronze medalist Canada and Russia make-up the rest of the Pool.

Sitting volleyball matches at the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games will be held in the Riocentro Pavilion 6 between 9 and 18 September.



Iran to participate at ICF World Championships with three paracanoeist



SPORTS Shahla Behrouzrad, Eslam Jahedi and Akbar Tahmasbi will participate at the ICF Paracanoe World Championships.

The competition, which serves as Paralympics qualification, will be held in Duisburg, Germany from May 17 to 19.

Behrouzrad, who has already won a place at the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games, will take part at LTA (limb/trunk/arms) event.

She will participate in the event to get ready for the Rio 2016 Paralympics.

Akbar Tahmasbi will also partake at LTA.

Eslam Jahedi will represent Iran at TA (trunk/arms). He is going to secure a place at Rio 2016.

"I will most likely earn a ticket to the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games because I am well-prepared for the tournament," Jahedi told Paralympic.ir.

Mehdi Taj elected as new IFF President



SPORTS Mehdi Taj has been elected as the new president of Iran Football Federation for a period of four years to succeed Ali Kafashian on Saturday.

Taj managed to get 50 of the total 73 votes while Mostafa Ajorlou finished in second with 15 votes and Aziz Mohammadi third with six votes.

Taj was previously First Vice President of Iranian Football Federation (2008–2012),

President of the Iran Football League Organization (2013–2016), Secretary of the Board of Sepahan (1992–1994, 2002–2006) and president of the club (1994–1999). He was also editor-in-chief of Jahan Varzesh from 1991 until 2001.

"My priority is to facilitate Iran football progress. We are currently the best in Asia according to FIFA ranking but we need to work hard in order to achieve our ultimate goals," newly appointed Mehdi Taj told reporters.

Naft Tehran Beiranvand allowed to join Persepolis

SPORTS Naft Tehran goalkeeper Alireza Beiranvand will have permission to join any club he wants at the end of the season.

The 23-year-old is long-time Persepolis target.

Beiranvand's contract expires at the end of next season and the Tehrani club has allowed him to negotiate with any club he wants.

Beiranvand has played with Naft Tehran

since 2011. He made his debut in Hazfi cup against Damash on 25 October 2011.

He also represented the Iran national football team at the 2015 AFC Asian Cup. Persepolis football team is reportedly

interested in signing Naft Tehran winger Vahid Amiri.

Amiri scored a late goal against Persepolis last week which can prevent the Reds winning the Iran Professional League title.

Bayern Munich wins record fourth straight Bundesliga title

Bayern Munich set a Bundesliga record Saturday, winning a fourth straight league title after a 2-1 win at FC Ingolstadt.

The title is Bayern's 26th of all time, by far the most in German top-flight history. FC Nurnberg is next with nine.

Bayern wrapped up the 2015-16 title with a game to spare, as it holds an eight-point lead over second-place Borussia Dortmund, the last non-Bayern club to win the Bundesliga. Dortmund's 1-0 loss to Eintracht Frankfurt Saturday also would've wrapped up the title for Bayern regardless of its result, but Pep Guardiola's side took care of its own business. Against Ingolstadt, Robert Lewandowski scored twice in the



first half, one on a penalty kick and one off a beautiful assist from Xabi Alonso, and Bayern held on for the trophy-clinching 2-1 victory.

Bayern can still win one other trophy this season as well, as it will meet Dortmund in the DFB Pokal (German Cup) final on May 21 in Berlin. The match will also serve as Guardiola's last managing the club before he departs for Manchester City. Guardiola was denied a shot at a treble—which would've matched his predecessor, Jupp Heynckes—when Atletico Madrid eliminated Bayern from the Champions League in the semifinals.

(Source: Sportsillustrated)

Iran comes 3rd at Asian Kabaddi Championship

Iran clinched the third place in the Asian Kabaddi Championship (circle style) on Friday.

Iran earned three wins in the competition which was held in Karachi, Pakistan and overpowered Afghanistan 57-14 in its last match.

Pakistan defended the title in the style defeating India 50-31 in its final league game of the third edition of Asian Kabaddi Championship.

Pakistan remained undefeated in the six-nation event

played under single league system.

In the 2011 first edition of the Asian Championship held in Iran, India defeated Pakistan in the final.

In the second edition in 2012 held at Punjab Stadium, Lahore, Pakistan defeated India in the final match and won the title.

The tournament brought six teams Pakistan, Iran, India, Afghanistan, Nepal and Sri Lanka, together.

(Source: Tasnim)



PAPER ROUND

Manchester City abandon Ilkay Gundogan move, Arsene Wenger wants N'Golo Kante

Ilkay Gundogan's latest injury may have cost him a move to Manchester City, while Arsene Wenger could be eyeing up Leicester City's N'Golo Kante.

■ **Manchester City may pass on Ilkay Gundogan after knee injury**

The Sun claims that Ilkay Gundogan may miss out on what seemed a certain transfer to Manchester City, due to a recent injury. Gundogan dislocated his knee cap during Borussia Dortmund training, and will now miss Euro 2016. This is not Gundogan's first serious injury - he was out for many months with a back problem - and City may now think the proposed £30 million fee is too high.

Paper Round's view: Manchester City are likely to overhaul most of their first team in the summer, with none of the players this season making a compelling case to be retained. Given that, Pep Guardiola could approach Gundogan's signing in two ways. One, he's buying so many new players that he can afford to wait for Gundogan to work on his fitness as a City player, or two, that with so much work to be done he can't take the risk of bringing in a half-fit central midfielder.

■ **Arsene Wenger keen on N'Golo Kante**

In the Mirror, there's a traditional story. Arsenal go to a title-winning side and buy one of their players at a rate of one a year. The only surprise this season is that Leicester City are the title-winning side. He was notably non-committal when he was asked if he'd already made contact with Leicester and Kante over a transfer, saying: "I cannot tell you anything now. He is under contract with Leicester. I am sure if Leicester want to sell him, they will find some buyers."

Paper Round's view: Kante has been one of the best players in the league this season, but there are a couple of things to consider. The first is whether he can continue his incredible lung-busting activities away from Leicester City, in a team that suffers as many injuries as Arsenal. From Arsenal's point of view, they must consider whether a pedigree of lower-league French football plus a top tier league medal makes for sustainable excellence - just look at how that worked with Olivier Giroud.

Yesterday Euro Paper had a story that Thibaut Courtois could leave Chelsea after falling out with his goalkeeping coach, and now the Daily Mail claim that Real Madrid are interested, with Chelsea willing to accept an offer of £65 million for the Belgian. Although £65 million is the sum asked for at the moment, the story suggests that Chelsea will eventually accept a lower figure.

Paper Round's view: After such a miserable season, it is little wonder that Courtois would like to leave, to a far superior city to London in Madrid, and it is little surprise that Chelsea would countenance earning good money for a player who is unhappy. Courtois is clearly a rare talent, but for £65 million it could help fund new manager Antonio Conte's summer transfer plans. Any move would rule out Real Madrid's interest in David de Gea though, something that still seems unlikely to have gone away.

■ **One in, one out for Arsenal as Sanchez loses patience**

The Daily Telegraph go with an exclusive that after being substituted at Norwich, Alexis Sanchez stormed out of the stadium, leaving the relationship between he and Wenger strained. Sanchez has riled some teammates by questioning their attitude, and the Telegraph have said both Bayern Munich and Manchester City could make a move, even if it would be a difficult transfer to pull off.

Paper Round's view: The chances of Sanchez leaving are slim. He would have to agitate for a move away, and it doesn't seem that he's so frustrated that he could consider making a transfer request. However, that resolve could be tested if Guardiola decided he wanted to work with him at City, or if he was offered the chance of guaranteed league trophies at Bayern Munich.

(Source: eurosport)

Cameroon's Patrick Ekeng dies after collapsing in Dinamo Bucharest game

BUCHAREST, Romania — Cameroon international Patrick Ekeng died after he collapsed during a match with Dinamo Bucharest in the Romanian capital on Friday, doctors said. He was 26.

Cristian Pandrea, a spokesman for the Floreasca Emergency Hospital, said doctors tried for an hour to resuscitate the midfielder but failed. He said the cause of death was not known. Local media said he had a heart attack.

The home match between Dinamo and Viitorul Constanta was at 3-3 and being broadcast live when midfielder Ekeng fell to the ground in the 69th minute, seven minutes after he went on as a substitute.

Ekeng was immediately taken to the hospital, where dozens of fans gathered outside.

Players and staff could be seen crying as events unfolded. Some went with him to the hospital.

A statement on Dinamo's official Facebook page said: "Dinamo tonight lost footballer Claude Patrick Ekeng Ekeng forever. On behalf of all of Dinamo, sincere condolences to the bereaved family. God rest his soul."

He has played for Spanish club Cordoba, Swiss club Lausanne, and French club Le Mans. He made two appearances in friendlies for Cameroon in January 2015.

Ekeng is survived by a wife and daughter, who are in Paris. Prosport.ro reported he was due to fly to Paris after the Romanian Cup final on Tuesday between Dinamo and CFR Cluj. Local media reported his wife will arrive in Romania on Saturday.

In October 2000, Dinamo captain Catalin Hildan collapsed and died during a friendly.

Marc-Vivien Foe died after collapsing while playing for Cameroon at the 2003 Confederations Cup.

(Source: ESPN)

