

TEHRAN TIMES

Afghanistan's
Ghani due in Iran
on Monday

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Leader: Some Muslim nations betray their nations

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei said on Wednesday that certain Muslim governments have been

betraying their nations by helping the U.S. to actualize its policies in the region.

Receiving participants at an international Qur'an competition in Tehran, the Leader said,

"Those regional countries, which implement the U.S. policies in the region, are in fact betraying their people and the Islamic Ummah, paving the way for the American influence."

Referring to the faith and resistance of the Iranian nation against the overambitious U.S., the Leader saw arrogant powers' fear of the nation as originating from its Islamic-based clout. →2

Tehran, Algiers ink 19 economic MOUs

Iranian cars to hit Algeria's roads

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Iran and Algeria signed 19 memoranda of understanding (MOUs) in various economic fields, most of which were in auto industry sphere, IRNA reported on Tuesday.

The MOUs were signed by Iranian Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade, Mohammadreza Nematzadeh and Algerian Minister of Industry and Mining Abdesslem Bouchouareb at the Tehran Permanent International Fairground, the report said.

Of the 19 MOUs, four of them are in the fields of industry, exhibitions, geology and standards and the other 15 are regarding auto industry and spare parts.

According to the report, based on the signed MOUs, prominent Iranian companies in auto industry and spare parts including Iran Khodro, Saipa, Pars Khodro, Zamyad Co., Saipa Diesel Company, Saipa Azin Co., Megamotor, Indamin, Plasco Kar Saipa, Parsian Lent and Mamut will contribute to the Algerian auto industry.

Saipa will launch a manufacturing line in Algeria by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2017), the Iranian carmaker's managing director Mehdi Jamali told IRNA on Wednesday. →4

Rouhani: Croatia can be Iran's gateway to Europe



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EU polyethylene imports from Iran up 254% yr/yr

LONDON (Platts) — EU imports of polyethylene from Iran in the first quarter rose 254 percent year on year to 42,494 metric tons, Eurostat data showed Tuesday.

Looking forward, these imports may continue to rise - restrictions on dollar transfers in Iran combined with the relative straightforwardness of euro trade with the country may be prompting Iran to start looking at petrochemicals trade with Europe, industry sources have said.

Iranian petrochemical producers are slowly trying to develop a logistics network in Europe and, also, many Middle East traders have become interested in shipping petrochemicals to Europe.

Park voices hope that Iran MOUs yield concrete results

SEOUL, May 18 (Yonhap) — President Park Geun-hye voiced hope Wednesday that a series of memorandums of understanding (MOUs) over bilateral cooperation with Iran would yield "concrete results" to benefit the people of both countries.

Park made the remarks during her meeting with Iran's Vice President Masoumeh Ebtekar at the presidential office of Cheong Wa Dae.

During Park's visit to the Middle Eastern state earlier this month, Seoul and Tehran signed a total of 66 MOUs, paving the way for Seoul to win business deals on infrastructure building and energy exploration from Iran.

"After (my) recent visit to Iran, public interest in Iran has increased. Against this backdrop, an understanding has been forged here as to the importance of the development of bilateral



President Park Geun-hye (R) shakes hands with Iran's Vice President Masoumeh Ebtekar before their talks at Cheong Wa Dae on May 18, 2016. (Yonhap)

ties," she told the Iranian vice president.

"I hope that the two countries can work to-

gether to develop a mutually beneficial partnership."

Ebtekar said in turn that the Iranian government would make "active efforts" to ensure that the MOUs are followed through.

The vice president also pointed out that Park's visit to Tehran marked a milestone for a "new level" of bilateral cooperation.

"We hope that based on the deep historical exchanges and cultural affinities, the two nations can continue to build amicable cooperative ties."

Cheong Wa Dae has said the recently signed MOUs effectively gave local companies an edge in infra-building construction orders worth \$37.1 billion, and the figure could eventually go up to \$45.6 billion given contracts that can be signed down the road.

Actor Parviz Parastui launches campaign against U.S seizure of Iranian assets

ART **TEHRAN** — Actor Parviz Parastui has launched a campaign against the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling on April 20 that families of victims of a 1983 terrorist attack in Beirut are allowed access to \$2 billion of funds belonging to Iran in a New York bank.

He has asked all Iranians and artists in particular to join the campaign to show their love towards their homeland, Tehran's Art Bureau has announced in a press release published on Wednesday.

In his emergency petition addressed to UN Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon, Parastui called upon the United Nations to take serious action and give a firm response to the U.S. illegal action.

Actors and filmmakers Davud Rashidi, Ali Nasirian, Jamshid Mashayekhi, Majid Majidi, Fereydu Jeyrani and Puran Derkshandeh are among the artists who have signed the petition so far.

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled on April 20 that almost \$2 billion in frozen Iranian assets must be



turned over to American families of people killed in the 1983 bombing of a U.S. Marine Corps bar-

racks in Beirut and other attacks allegedly blamed on Iran.

The money, which belongs to the Central Bank of Iran (CBI), had been blocked under U.S. sanctions before the court ruling.

Citizens can sign the petition, which is available on the website www.hhnews.ir.

On Tuesday, the Iranian parliament voted for a bill obliging the government to demand compensation from the United States for 63 years of "hostile actions and crimes" committed against Iranians.

Christian Zionism is integral part of evangelical movements in the West: professor

INTERVIEW
By Javad Heirannia

TEHRAN — Nader Entessar, a professor of political science at South Alabama University, tells the Tehran Times that "Christian Zionism is an integral part of many evangelical movements in the United States and Europe."

Following is the text of the interview:

■ **Does messianism play a role in the U.S. politics?**

A: Messianism, which is an important part of evangelical Christianity, has been gaining increasing influence at the societal level in many state and local governments in the United States. It has also been playing a role in national and presidential election in the United States. Ted Cruz, one of the principal figures in the

2016 U.S. presidential election, is an avowed evangelical Christian, and used his messianic views often in his campaign for presidency.

■ **What about the role of Christian Zionism in the United States?**

A: Christian Zionism is an integral part of many evangelical movements in the United States and Europe. Christian Zionism is a powerful and active part of evangelical communities in the United States. With the politicization of Christian fundamentalism in recent years, the role played by Christian Zionism has expanded in the American political discourse, especially in issues of foreign policy.

■ **What is the view of Christian Zionism toward Mahdaviyat in Shi'a Islam.**

A: The focus of Christian Zionism and Chris-

tian evangelical movements is not on Shi'ism and the concept of Mahdaviyat in Shi'a Islam. In other words, the Shi'a concept of Mahdaviyat does not influence or shape the various Christian evangelical movements in the United States.

■ **Why is Zionism in conflict with Shi'a messianism?**

A: Shi'a messianism is not theologically against Zionism per se because political Zionism did not emerge until the 19th century whereas Shi'ism pre-dates the emergence of modern Zionism by several centuries. It was only after the establishment of the modern state of Israel, which led to the disenfranchisement of the Palestinians and Israel's domestic and foreign policies that Shi'ism became an opponent of Zionism.

Dear Tehran Times readers

The Tehran Times also congratulates Muslims on the auspicious birth anniversary of Imam Mahdi^(AS).



The next issue of the international daily will be published on Monday.

MEDIA MONITOR



Iran's military in some areas comparable to U.S., Russia: ex-IRGC chief

TEHRAN — Mohsen Rafiqdoost, formerly at the helm of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), has said Iran's excellence is not confined to the missile industry alone, noting Tehran's military prowess in certain fields is in a class with the U.S. or Russia.

"We outdo some major world countries not only in the missile field, but also in the sphere of armored weaponry, drones, submarines, and all parts of the military industry," Rafiqdoost told the Tasnim news agency on Wednesday.



Faezeh Hashemi likely to face legal action

TEHRAN — Spokesman for the Judiciary said on Wednesday that Faezeh Hashemi's recent meeting with Bahaists will be legally pursued.

Her deed was a very "ugly", and still "uglier" was the fact that she did not apologize for it, Qolam-hosseini Mohseni Ejei said, the YJC reported.



Afghanistan's Ghani due in Iran on Monday

TEHRAN — Afghan President Ashraf Ghani will visit Iran on Monday to take part in a ceremony to break the ground to develop Chabahar port infrastructure, Fars reported on Wednesday.

A memorandum of understanding will be signed between Iran, India and Afghanistan during his stay.

This will be Ghani's second official visit to Iran.

Chabahar is the closest port to Afghanistan. Over the last year, Iran has allocated some 50 hectares of land in Chabahar free zone to Afghan businessmen. So far 130 Afghan companies have registered in the zone, showing their great interest.



'Iran spy trial' in Saudi Arabia is mockery of justice, HRW says

TEHRAN — Saudi Arabia's trial of 32 men for allegedly spying on behalf of Iran has violated the basic due process rights of the defendants, Human Rights Watch said on Tuesday.

"This trial is shaping up as another stain on Saudi Arabia's grossly unfair criminal justice system," said executive director of Human Rights Watch's Middle East and North Africa Division Sarah Leah Whitson. "Criminal trials should not be merely legal 'window-dressing' where the verdict has been decided beforehand."



Iranian, Russian envoys discuss Syria

TEHRAN — Iranian Ambassador to Moscow Mehdi Sanayee and Russian President's Special Envoy to the Middle East and Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Bogdanov conferred on the latest developments in Syria on Tuesday afternoon.

Bogdanov underlined the necessity for continued political efforts to settle the crisis in Syria as well as talks between the Syrian government and the opposition along with fight against the terrorist groups, Fars reported.

Sanayee, for his part, said Tehran-Moscow deliberation on the crisis should be followed in greater force.



Maldives severs diplomatic relations with Iran

TEHRAN — The Maldivian government on Tuesday announced severing of diplomatic ties with Iran over what it called Iran's "detrimental policies" toward the Middle East, according to Sputnik.

Referring to the OIC summit held in Turkey last month, Maldives' Foreign Ministry stated, "The Maldives calls on Iran to show more commitment and tangible results in implementing the recommendations of the OIC."



Russia not planning to supply tanks, fighter jets to Iran

TEHRAN — Russia is not planning to supply tanks and fighter aircraft to Iran, said Alexander Fomin, head of Russia's Federal Service for Military-Technical Cooperation, TASS reported on Wednesday.

"We are not planning to supply, because these combat platforms fall under the UN sanctions," he said, responding to a question by TASS.



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"Enemies are panicked by the mighty and courageous Islam," he noted.

Powerful Islamic Ummah hushes arrogant powers, keeps Palestine in spotlight

Pointing to haughty powers' attempts and plots to damage Islam and the Islamic Ummah, Ayatollah Khamenei noted, "They (enemies) are aware that Muslims cannot be suppressed if they are powerful, and the Palestine is-

sue will not be consigned to oblivion."

Ayatollah Khamenei also warned the Islamic world against being deceived by arrogant powers' promises and afraid of

their threats.

"Today, the most important duty of the Islamic Ummah, particularly the ulema, the enlightened, and the ed-

Leader says, "Those regional countries which implement the U.S. policies in the region, are in fact betraying their people and the Islamic Ummah, paving the way for the American influence."

Rouhani: Croatia can be Iran's gateway to Europe

Grabar-Kitarovic says Tehran can look at Croatia as a good partner in EU

POLITICAL

TEHRAN — President Hassan Rouhani on Wednesday highlighted the importance of relations with Zagreb, saying Croatia can serve as Iran's gateway to European countries.

"Croatia can be the gate of our relations with the European Union due to historical and cultural commonalities between the two countries and also its geographical status," Rouhani said during a press conference with Croatian President Kolinda Grabar-Kitarovic in Tehran.

Rouhani said that Iran has had a "very good" and "friendly" relationship with Croatia.

The two countries will expand relations in various areas especially energy sector, he added.

He said that Grabar-Kitarovic's trip to Iran indicates the "political will" by Zagreb to expand economic relations with Tehran.

Iran and Croatia are interested in expanding ties in areas of culture, art, science and technology in addition to economic ones, Rouhani added.

Grabar-Kitarovic said that Croatia supports expansion of Iran's ties with the European Union.

Iran and Croatia also signed a document on economic cooperation and a memorandum of understanding for cooperation between the chambers of commerce.

She also said that Croatia supports Iran's actions in alleviating tension in the Middle East region.

She added Croatia will expand cooperation with Iran in fighting terrorism and extremism.

The relations between the two countries are at a "good level", yet there is a room to expand it, she noted.

Elsewhere, Grabar-Kitarovic said that Iran seeks to modernize its industry and economic infrastructure and Croatian corporations can be of great help to Iran.

She also thanked Iran's private sector for welcoming the Croatian corporations.

Iran and Croatia also signed a document on economic cooperation and a memorandum of understanding for cooperation between the chambers of commerce.

-----Croatian president: Nuclear deal showed great problems can be resolved politically

Talking in the joint meeting of the two countries' senior officials, the Croatian president said the nuclear deal between Iran and great powers showed that great problems can be resolved through dialogue.

She also said her country is firm in strengthening ties with Iran. The female president also said it is necessary to reactivate the joint commission between Iran and Croatia.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran can look at Croatia as a friend and good partner in the European Union," Grabar-Kitarovic said, according to the president.ir.

Rouhani also told the joint meeting that Tehran attaches great importance to Croatia and the Balkan region in general and expressed hope that the visit by Grabar-Kitarovic and her entourage would open a new chapter in relations.



"Croatia, the Balkan region, and Southeast Europe are important for the Islamic Republic and we hope that this visit would be a good beginning for establishing a new relationship between Tehran and Zagreb," Rouhani stated.

Rouhani also suggested that Iran is ready to share its experiences in technical and engineering services with Croatia.

President Rouhani added it is a source of honor that while Islamophobia is being propagated in Europe there is a peaceful coexistence between different religions in Croatia.

Rouhani also praised the visit to Tehran by the mufti of Zagreb along with the presidential delegation, saying it shows that Croatia attaches importance to divine religions and this has strengthen unity in the country.

Schmid, Araqchi discuss ways to speed up implementation of JCPOA

POLITICAL

TEHRAN — Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi and Helga Schmid, the EU deputy foreign policy chief, held a meeting on Tuesday discussing ways to expedite fulfillment of Iran and 5+1 group's commitments under the JCPOA.

Under the JCOPA, commonly called the nuclear deal, Iran is obliged to slow down its nuclear activities and instead economic sanctions including financial restrictions on Iran are lifted.

During the meeting, which took place on the sidelines of the International Syria Support Group meeting in Vienna, Schmid said the European countries are determined to expand economic ties with



Iran, especially banking relations.

The July 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and great powers took effect in January 2016.

On the sidelines of the fresh round of talks on the Syrian crisis, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif met with British Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond and Omani Foreign Minister Yusuf bin Alawi bin Abdullah.

Iran, Russia, Turkey and Saudi Arabia and representatives from the European Union and the Arab League were among the countries that participated in the International Syria Support Group meeting on Tuesday.

Zarif arrived in Tehran on Wednesday.

Tehran says helping Iraq, Syria in tackling terrorism benefits global security

POLITICAL

TEHRAN — Supporting Syria and Iraq in tackling terrorism helps global security, the Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman said on Wednesday, reacting to the recent terrorist blasts in Baghdad.

A spate of blasts in Baghdad and the nearby Sadr City on Tuesday left at least 77 people dead and some more 140 wounded. Daesh, aka ISIS and ISIL, claimed responsibility for the attacks.

"Terrorism is a universal and transboundary threat and Iraq, like Syria, is in the frontline of battling terrorists, therefore, backing Iraq and Syria in countering terrorism contributes to global security," Hossein Jaberian-Ansari said.

The official also said more tightened security measures and stabilization of political settlements are key to abort terrorist attacks.

Good news is that the terrorist group is losing terrain in Iraq and Syrian both.

A Pentagon spokesman said last Monday Daesh has continued losing control over territory across Iraq and Syria, including almost half of what it had once held in Iraq.

The Defense Department had previously estimated that ISIS fighters had lost control of about 40 percent of the territory they claimed in Iraq and about 10



percent of the land they held in Syria.

Evidence from the Iraqi battlefield confirms the report. A week ago, Baghdad-based Major General Gary Volesky, a U.S. Army General, said ISIL was struggling to refill its ranks and more and more unable to mount major operations.

The terrorists' "ability to conduct large-scale offensive operations has primarily stopped," the general stated, Press TV reported.

As of 2014, Daesh has committed unspeakable atrocities in Iraq, resulting in thousands of Iraqis displaced, killed, and wounded.

No ceasefire in Syria as long as terrorists are backed, Iran says

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From the outset of the Syrian conflict in 2011, Iran has been insisting that there is no military solution to the conflict.

Saudi Arabia and Qatar have been

the main backers of militants fighting the Syrian government. While the world powers that gathered in Vienna on Tuesday stressed that all parties to the conflict should make peace a priority,

Saudi Arabia's foreign minister warned that time may be coming for "Plan B" in Syria.

"It was made clear that Bashar al-Assad has two choices – either he will be

removed through political process or he will be removed by force," Adel al-Jubeir told reporters after the International Syria Support Group (ISSG) meeting co-chaired by Russia and the U.S.

Turkey party to reveal PM candidate, Erdogan ally favored

Turkey's ruling party will meet on Thursday to announce a candidate to replace outgoing Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu who is stepping down after a power struggle with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, reports said.

According to initial indications, Transport Minister Binali Yildirim, a close ally of Erdogan, has emerged as the clear favorite to replace Davutoglu as chairman of the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) and prime minister.

The AKP central executive committee will meet at 0800 GMT on Thursday to announce a single candidate for party leadership, the state-run Anatolia news agency said.

The candidate will then be approved as new AKP leader by an extraordinary congress of the party on Sunday.

According to AKP convention, the posts of party chief and head of government automatically go to the same figure.

Erdogan will then give the new AKP leader the mandate to serve as prime minister early next week, after which a new cabinet will be announced.

Yildirim, 60, is seen as one of Erdo-



Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan (R) and Binali Yildirim (L)

gan's closest longtime confidants, and has served an almost unbroken stint from 2002-2013 and again from 2015 as transport minister.

According to Turkish media reports, Yildirim's name emerged as the overwhelming favorite in meetings this week of regional AKP officials.

The Hurriyet daily reported that AKP members have sought an appointment from Erdogan to share the party's views about the possible candidate.

But presidential spokesman Ibrahim Kalin denied the reports, saying: "There is no such request for an appointment we have received."

The shock departure of Davutoglu, a former foreign minister who became premier when Erdogan was elected president in 2014, was seen by critics as a sign of the strongman's ambition to tighten his grip on power.

Divisions between Davutoglu and Erdogan had been kept behind closed doors but boiling for months over a series of issues including Turkey's peace process with the Kurdish militants as well as shift from parliamentary to presidential system.

Analysts expect that Yildirim -- who has never stepped out of line with the president on a policy issue -- will prove a far more pliable figure for the president than Davutoglu.

Despite the shock of Davutoglu's announcement earlier this month he was stepping down, the AKP has been keen to show a public front of unity and that business is carrying on as usual.

However financial markets have not appreciated the political uncertainty, with the Turkish lira losing five percent in value against the US dollar over the last month.

(Source: AP)

Campaign to keep Britain in the EU takes 18-percentage point lead

The campaign to keep Britain in the European Union has taken an 18-percentage point lead over the Out campaign ahead of a June 23 referendum, a telephone opinion poll by Ipsos MORI showed on Wednesday.

Ipsos MORI found 55 percent of those surveyed supported staying in the EU, a level the Evening Standard newspaper said was the highest in three months, while 37 percent wanted to leave and 8 percent were still undecided.

Sterling climbed to a two-and-a-half week high against the euro and a day's high against the dollar after the poll was published, while odds on gambling website Betfair priced in a 76 percent chance of a "Remain" vote, up from 73 percent on Monday.

Ipsos MORI's head of political research, Gideon Skinner, said some sup-

porters of Prime Minister David Cameron's ruling Conservative Party who had previously opposed membership had switched to supporting the In campaign.

"Remain has been boosted by a Conservative swing, but they are also more likely to change their mind, so in this volatile election, with voters divided over the short and long-term impacts of their decision, nothing can be taken for granted," Skinner said in a statement.

Ipsos MORI conducted interviews with 1,002 adults between May 14 and May 16.

Earlier on Tuesday The Times newspaper reported an online poll by YouGov showing 44 percent of people wanted to stay in the EU and 40 percent wanted to leave.

(Source: Reuters)

9/11 bill passes U.S. Senate despite Saudi 'warning'

A bill that would allow the families of 9/11 victims to sue the Saudi government has passed a key hurdle in the U.S. Senate.

The Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act (JASTA) now moves to the House of Representatives.

Saudi Arabia's foreign minister warned that the move could cause his government to withdraw US investments.

President Barack Obama said he will veto the bill, but a Democratic senator is "confident" he'd be overruled.

If it became law the legislation would allow victims' families to sue any member of the government of Saudi Arabia thought to have played a role in any element of the attack.

Saudi Arabia denies any involvement in the 2001 attack on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, which killed nearly 3,000 people.

Fifteen out of the nineteen hijackers in 2001 were Saudi citizens.

(Source: BBC)

In 2004 the 9/11 Commission Report found "no evidence that the Saudi government as an institution or senior Saudi officials individually funded the organization".

A White House spokesman said President Obama had serious concerns about the bill, and it was difficult to imagine he would sign it into law.

It was sponsored by Democrat Senator Chuck Schumer of New York and Republican Senator John Cornyn of Texas and is expected to be passed by the House of Representatives as well.

The 9/11 bill puts Congress on a collision course with the Obama administration, which has lobbied intensely against it.

The White House argues the legislation would remove the sovereign immunity that prevents lawsuits against governments, and could expose Americans to a legal backlash overseas.

(Source: BBC)

Sanders takes Oregon as Clinton clings to Kentucky

U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders scored a decisive victory against Hillary Clinton in the Democratic primary in Oregon, boosting his argument for keeping his underdog campaign alive through the conclusion of the primary process.

Several U.S. television networks on Tuesday called the Pacific northwest state for the liberal Sanders, who was leading the former secretary of state 53 percent to 47 percent.

"Oregon, together we are taking on virtually all of the Democratic establishment. Thank you for the strong victory!" Sanders tweeted after winning the northwest state, known for its diverse landscape of farms, forests, mountains and beaches.

But earlier in the night, Clinton claimed victory in an extraordinarily tight race in the state of Kentucky.

Clinton made the claim ahead of official results. Incomplete results showed her with a narrow lead over Sanders.

"We just won Kentucky! Thanks to everyone who turned out. We're always stronger united," Clinton's campaign wrote on Twitter.

The state board of elections showed Clinton with 46.7 per cent of the vote to Sanders' 46.3 per cent with 99.2 per cent of ballots counted, a margin of less than 2,000 votes.

No US broadcasters have declared a winner in the race, but the Kentucky Secretary of State Alison Lundergan Grimes said on CNN that Clinton looked likely to win the state.

■ Clinton leads

Clinton has a commanding lead in the all-important national delegate count and is marching toward vying for the presidency in the November 8 general election, despite a string of recent primary losses.

Sanders had counted on a Kentucky victory to build on his win last week in neighboring West Virginia as he

battled to keep his long-shot nomination bid alive.

West Virginia and Kentucky are linked to coal, as is much of Appalachia - the largely white, long-struggling eastern US region where many feel they have been left behind in the lukewarm recovery from the 2007-2008 financial crisis.

We need your help today to win in Oregon and Kentucky," Sanders implored his 2.2 million Twitter followers ahead of the vote, urging them to man phone banks and call voters.

Kentucky held its Republican caucus in March.

Clinton sees Kentucky as an opportunity to appeal to working-class white men - a demographic where the former secretary of state has lagged behind both the celebrity billionaire and Republican frontrunner Donald Trump and Sanders.

John Spenlau, 28, speaking to the AFP news agency outside a voting station in suburban Louisville, said he voted for Sanders because he represented the best hope for "continued change" and the fight against income inequality, among other problems.

"Hillary would be a more stable candidate but I think that Bernie continues to push the envelope, towards a few more of the social programmes that I believe in," Spenlau said.

■ Battling Trump

Clinton, 68, made three stops in Kentucky on Sunday and four more Monday, shaking hands, taking selfies, offering hugs - even chatting with Trump supporters at a smoke-filled diner in the southwestern city of Paducah.

"I will not vote for you. I will never vote for you," disabled veteran Dianna Dooley, 66, told her.

Clinton kept her composure, saying: "That's OK. You vote for whoever you want."

Sanders, 74, invested time in Kentucky as well, campaigning in Paducah on Sunday and Bowling Green on



Monday.

But with the Democratic nomination in sight, Clinton is looking beyond the showdown with Sanders to position herself for a bruising campaign battle against Trump.

At a rally in Hopkinsville, Clinton pummelled the "risky and dangerous" Trump, suggesting he is unqualified to handle tough foreign-policy decisions.

A main "super PAC" supporting Clinton on Monday unveiled a new television ad that skewers Trump for his treatment of women.

The ad, which will air across the crucial swing states of Ohio, Florida, Virginia and Nevada, shows women mouthing Trump's own words, including "you could see there was blood coming out of her wherever", a comment Trump made last year in reference to a debate moderator who asked him tough questions.

Trump shot back Tuesday with criticism that could foreshadow the tone of the coming election battle.

"Amazing that Crooked Hillary can do a hit ad on me concerning women when her husband was the WORST abuser of woman in U.S. political history," Trump tweeted.

(Source: Al Jazeera)

Saudis threaten military force in Syria if talks fail

Saudi Arabia has threatened to use military force against Syrian President Bashar al-Assad if ongoing political talks fail to bring peace to the conflict-stricken nation.

Saudi Arabian Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir made the announcement following an International Syria Support Group (ISSG) meeting held in Vienna.

"We believe we should have moved to a 'Plan B' a long time ago," he added. "The choice about moving to an alternative plan, the choice about intensifying

the military support (to the opposition) is entirely with the Bashar regime."

The Saudis are among the most aggressive supporters of removing Assad from power and are the staunchest backers of militant groups trying to overthrow the Syrian government.

"If they do not respond to the treaties of the international community... then we will have to see what else can be done," he added.

The latest round of UN-brokered indirect talks, which began in Geneva, Swit-

zerland, on April 13, were brought to a halt after the Saudi-backed main opposition group, the High Negotiation Committee (HNC), walked out of the discussions and declared a "new war" against the Syrian government.

The 17-nation ISSG talks were aimed at discussing the stalled negotiations, challenges in maintaining a shaky February ceasefire, and the delivery of UN humanitarian aid to various areas across the war-ravaged country.

Following the Tuesday talks, the ISSG released a statement calling on the international community to prevent any material or financial support from reaching Daesh and Nusra Front and dissuade any party to the truce from cooperating with the terrorists.

UN special envoy for Syria Staffan de Mistura estimates that over 400,000 people have been killed in the conflict, which has also displaced over half of the Arab country's pre-war population of about 23 million.

(Source: SANA)

NEWS

'Made in USA': 3 key signs that point to Washington's hand in Brazil's 'coup'

As Brazil's left-wing president, Dilma Rousseff, has been suspended from office to face trial for disregarding budget laws, details have emerged on key figures involved in what Rousseff supporters are calling a coup, hinting at a covert plot involving Washington.

Following last week's vote in the Brazilian Senate that led to the suspension of the country's first female president, the left-wing politician herself noted that she "never imagined that it would be necessary to fight a coup in this country."

While Latin America's modern history is riddled with well-documented examples of U.S. operations aimed at overthrowing regimes, some would argue the situation in Brazil is tied to a popular protest movement that has sprang up due to the corruption scandal and slumping economy. However, profiles of those at the center of current events offer clues as to why Washington's hand might be at play.

■ 1. From U.S. informant to Brazil's acting president

After it emerged that Rousseff's old ally and former vice-president, Michel Temer, would succeed her as an interim head of the country, the murky details from his past have emerged on Wikileaks. The whistleblowing website said it has published proof Temer served as an embassy informant for Washington.

Two cables dated January 11, 2006, and June 21, 2006, obtained by WikiLeaks reveal that Temer, a member of the centrist Brazilian Democratic Movement Party (PMDB), briefed U.S. diplomats on the political process in Brazil and his party's aspirations to gain power at the time of 2006 elections, which were won by Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva from the Workers' Party.

Interestingly enough, U.S. consul general in Sao Paulo McMullen, one of the two addressees of the documents marked "sensitive and unclassified," labeled Temer's party as an "opportunistic" group with "no ideology or policy framework." It eventually entered into coalition with the Workers' Party.

In addition to Temer's lack of popularity, with his approval rating estimated at around 2 percent, the now-acting president was under investigation for violating election spending rules and faced an 8-year ban to run for any office, according to the Brazil-based U.S. journalist and lawyer Glenn Greenwald.

While it might seem that makes Temer an unlikely candidate for Brazil's highest office, Greenwald alleges that his appointment can serve perhaps not the nation's, but perhaps some other party's interests.

"He's planning to appoint Goldman Sachs and IMF [International Monetary Fund] officials to run the economy and otherwise install a totally unrepresentative, neoliberal team," Greenwald wrote in The Intercept.

■ 2. Senate impeachment leader with suspiciously close ties to U.S.

Senator Aloysio Nunes, of Temer's Brazilian Democratic Movement, who led Rousseff's impeachment in the Senate, came to Washington for a three-day visit just a day afterward to meet with U.S. officials. Some of the people Nunes met with included members of the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee, lobbying firm Albright Stonebridge Group, chaired by former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and a former U.S. ambassador to Brazil, Thomas Shannon, among others, The Intercept reported.

Speaking to RT, co-director of the Center for Economic and Policy Research Mark Weisbrot said that Shannon "has been involved in helping other coups in the region," including in Honduras in 2009 and in Paraguay in 2012.

Nunes himself repeatedly spoke in favor of closer relations with the U.S. in an attempt to remedy the espionage scandal between Brazil and the U.S.

■ 3. 'Coup-experienced' U.S. ambassador

Not only the former, but also the current U.S. ambassador to Brazil, Lilianna Ayalde, might also boast an experience of taking part in overthrowing foreign governments.

Before she was sent to Brazil, Ayalde had served as an ambassador to Paraguay ahead of the 2012 coup, which saw the country's president Fernando Armino Lugo Méndez ousted from office through impeachment in a procedure similar to that of Rousseff's.

"That ambassador acted with great force during the coup that happened in Paraguay and she is in Brazil, using the same discourse, arguing that there is a situation that will be resolved by Brazilian institutions," said Carlos Eduardo Martins, a sociology professor at the University of Sao Paulo, as cited by telesUR.

Meanwhile, Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro says the question of who is pulling the strings behind Brazil's impeachment is not rocket science.

"I have no doubt that behind this coup is the label 'made in USA,'" he said.

The aim of "powerful oligarchic, media and imperial forces" in the Brazilian political crisis was to get rid of "progressive forces, the popular revolutionary leaderships of the continent," Maduro said.

He described the events in Brazil as "a grave threat for the future stability and peace of all the continent," expressing concern that the next victim may be Venezuela.

Relations between the U.S. and Rousseff's cabinet were marred by the scandal that broke out due to the U.S. National Security Agency whistleblower Edward Snowden's revelations in 2013 that showed that U.S. intelligence was spying on Rousseff by intercepting her communications. The scandal resulted in a cooling of ties, with the Brazilian president cancelling her visit to the U.S. in the wake of the revelations. In 2015, WikiLeaks revealed that the NSA was tapping the cell phones of 29 Brazilian top officials, including Rousseff herself.

(Source: RT)

JUMP

Tehran, Algiers ink 19 economic MOUs

1→

■ 'No limitations for Tehran-Algiers cooperation'

In the event to sign the MOUs, Nematzadeh noted that Iran does not see any limitation regarding cooperation with Algerian companies and the country is willing to transfer its experience and knowledge to Algeria.

"The two countries have abundant oil and gas resources; we should use these resources for industrial and economic development" he said.

Abdessaïem, for his part said, "According to my visits to Iran's industrial and automotive complexes, Iran's position among the leading countries in this field is very significant and the country has gained a strong position in the region."

"We have active and strong economic and industrial cooperation which could help us in the development of the two countries." He added.

According to IRNA, the worth of trade between Iran and Algeria in the first quarter of the last Iranian calendar year was around \$769,000. Iran's exports to Algeria accounted for the total figure.

NEWS

Executives are confused by Iran sanctions

More than half of global companies interested in doing business with Iran are holding back for fear of running afoul of sanctions that remain in place even after its nuclear deal with world powers, a new survey shows.

Fifty-eight of 100 executives of U.K.-based international firms said they aren't confident they know what precautions need to be taken to protect their investments and avoid regulatory penalties, according to a report by global law firm Clyde & Co provided to Bloomberg.

Businesses are also hesitant to expose themselves to the risk of nuclear-related sanctions being reinstated if Iran violates the deal, which "very likely" would lead to a loss of money, the report said.

The findings show the challenges Iran needs to overcome as it seeks to reap the benefit of last year's landmark nuclear accord. The agreement was a milestone for President Hassan Rouhani, whose administration now faces criticism from opponents over investors' qualms about doing business with the Islamic Republic.

Nuclear-related sanctions, including a ban on the country's use of the SWIFT system for international financial transactions, were lifted in January following the nuclear deal. Other sanctions related to ballistic-missile development remain in place, as does a U.S. ban on American commerce with Iran and restrictions on dollar-denominated trades related to Iran.

Some 30 percent of executives questioned said they were not comfortable discussing plans to enter Iran with their banks, according to the survey conducted by Clyde & Co at a seminar on Iran-related sanctions relief held in London in conjunction with the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

"If a third of the businesses looking to enter Iran are so worried about sanctions that they are fearful of discussing their plans with their own banks, then there is a problem," said John Whittaker, a partner at Clyde & Co. "The high level of regulation involved is proving too arduous for most banks, coupled with concerns over handling Iran-related business."

While European companies have been at the forefront of a race to enter a market of 80 million consumers, major EU banks are reluctant to provide the financing, after they or peers were slapped with fines incurred over commerce with the Islamic Republic. BNP Paribas SA agreed to pay a record \$9 billion to the U.S. two years ago, in part for dealings with Iran. Commerzbank AG agreed to pay \$1.45 billion in 2015 in connection with allegations it breached U.S. sanctions against countries including Iran. Credit Suisse settled an Iran probe for \$536 million in 2009.

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry has acknowledged banks "reluctance" to take risks and has urged them to seek guidance when in doubt. In a May 4 interview with Bloomberg, the State Department's deputy lead coordinator of the nuclear agreement, Jarrett Blanc, said the U.S. has provided a "huge amount of information" to reassure banks and companies and is "in regular contact" with Iranian officials to ease concerns.

(Source: Bloomberg)

Swiss technology eager to play major role in textile industry of Iran

Switzerland's textile machinery producers as long term partners of Iranian textile companies are eager to play a major role in their renewed growth as the textile industry of Iran is ready for a new beginning and determined to achieve future progress in technology and global market penetration, following the recent ending of international sanctions which hampered its continued development.

At the two day seminar held in Tehran on April 25-26, 2016, organized by Swissmem, the Swiss national textile machinery representative body, the seminar featured a strong presence from the leading technology providers, including 40 percent of the association's membership. The seminar attracted a total of 350 delegates —companies were from the capital city itself, as well as from other textile manufacturing centers, including Isfahan, Yazd and Mashhad.

Swissmem president Ernesto Maurer reported that the seminar exceeded all prior expectations, in terms of both the number and importance of the Iranian companies taking part: Before the imposition of sanctions they enjoyed a very strong business level and a good relationship with customers in Iran. This continued during the period of sanctions, but understandably at a lower level. In the new situation today, they are keen to intensify their relationship and business dealings to pre-sanction levels and beyond.

(Source: yarnsandfibers.com)

Iran, Croatia determined to boost economic co-op

TEHRAN — Iranian and Croatian top officials namely Iranian Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade Mohammadreza Nematzadeh, Croatian Economy Minister Tomislav Panenic, and Entrepreneurship and Crafts Minister Darko Horvat discussed improving mutual industrial and agricultural cooperation in a Tuesday meeting in Tehran.

As IRIB news reported on Wednesday, in this meeting, Panenic referred to the current \$3.3-million worth of trade between the two countries and called for enhancement of the figure. "Iran can fulfill our need for various products and we can have an active present in the Iranian market," he said.

The Croatian entrepreneurship minister, for his part, expressed content about his trip to Iran, which, in his idea, is an opportunity to make Croatians familiar with Iranians' capabilities.

"Now, after the removal of the stringent sanctions against Iran, we can hold meetings of Iran-Croatia Joint Economy Com-



Iranian Industry, Mining and Trade Minister Mohammadreza Nematzadeh (2nd R) and Croatian Economy Minister Tomislav Panenic (2nd L) met in Tehran on Tuesday.

mittee twice a year," he said. "Croatia is ready to boost cooperation with the Islamic

Republic in various fields such as small, medium-sized, and large industries as well

Iran, Indonesia call for expansion of banking ties

TEHRAN — Iran's Finance and Economic Affairs Minister Ali Tayyebnia and his Indonesian counterpart Bambang Brodjonegoro in a Tuesday meeting in Jakarta conferred on enhancement of bilateral banking ties, Tasnim news agency reported on Wednesday.

The two sides underscored the development of bilateral economic relations specifically in Iran's post-sanctions era and called for soothing future banking transactions between Iranian and Indonesian economic activists.

Criticizing the low volume of economic ties between the two countries during the recent years due to unfair anti-Iranian sanctions, Tayyebnia, said that the bilateral trade volume used to stand at \$2 billion but the figure has unfortunately slipped to one tenth.

The Iranian finance minister, who arrived in Jakarta on Monday to attend the meeting of the board of governors of Islamic Development Bank, noted that the Iranian administration is aimed at boosting economic cooperation with the world, especially Muslim countries including Indonesia and plans to

experience a 10-fold rise in trade with the south-eastern Asian country in future.

The Indonesian minister, for his part, agreed with Tayyebnia's remarks about the low volume of mutual ties during western-led sanctions and said both countries' officials are exploring the avenues to remove the impediments on the way to increase mutual transactions.

Brodjonegoro, for his part, stated that the only way to facilitate development of ties is establishing direct banking relations between Iran and Indonesia, adding that his govern-

ment supports expansion of banking ties and will provide the state-run and private banks with proper information on safe banking ties.

Meanwhile, he said that Indonesia plans to purchase crude oil from Iran and make investments for construction of a refinery in the country with Iranian crude oil as the feedstock.

He suggested that Iranian and Indonesia industry owners and traders can have a meeting to get acquainted with each other's capacities and potentials to improve economic cooperation.

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Iran's May oil exports set to surge nearly 60% from a year ago: source

TOKYO (Reuters) — Iran's oil exports are set to surge in May, climbing nearly 60 percent from a year ago, with European shipments recovering to about half of pre-sanction levels, according to a source with knowledge of the country's crude lifting plans.

This shows Tehran is regaining market share at a faster pace than analysts had projected as it battles with Saudi Arabia for customers by cutting its prices. April loadings at 2.3 million barrels per day (bpd) were around 15 percent higher than the International Energy Agency estimated earlier this month.

May shipments are set to jump to 2.1 million bpd from 1.3 million bpd during the same month in 2015, when Iranian exports were constrained by Western sanctions imposed because of the country's nuclear program. The April loadings were the highest since January 2012.

The increase in loadings suggests that Iran has over-



come a tanker shortage that threatened to derail attempts to regain market share after the sanctions were lifted in January.

Saudi Arabia will feel the surge in Iranian exports most keenly as it struggles for regional supremacy with Iran, with the oil market becoming a key battleground.

Saudi Arabia plans to boost production in the coming

months to squeeze the Iranians, said Ian Bremmer, the president of political risk consultancy Eurasia Group, who spoke recently with executives and a member of the ruling family.

In the meantime, Iranian exports are rapidly returning to near pre-sanctions levels. Loadings to Asia were 1.7 million bpd in April, about a third higher than a year ago and the most since 2011, according to the source.

Loadings will stay near that level for May, with 1.6 million bpd scheduled.

Loadings for China, Iran's biggest customer, were nearly 840,000 bpd in April and more than 620,000 bpd are planned for May.

Iran's sales to Europe, including Turkey, are also rising fast, according to the source. April loadings to Europe totaled 487,000 bpd and are set for 400,000 bpd this month. European countries were buying as much as 800,000 bpd before 2012.

Iran, 5th largest oil supplier to India in Jan-Apr.

Over the first four months of 2016, Iranian oil accounted for about 7.4 percent of Indian imports from about 4 percent a year ago, becoming fifth-largest oil supplier to India compared with the eighth position a year ago.

Iran is zeroing in on Indian oil market share, with a fair amount of success and could challenge both Iraq and Saudi Arabia in this market. The country accounted for about 9 percent of overall purchases in April compared to about 7.2 percent a year ago.

Iraq has now overtaken Saudi Arabia in crude oil exports to India, shipping some 960,700 barrels per day (bpd) to India in April, against Saudi Arabia's 787,700 bpd in exports to the Asian nation, turning the tables on the Saudis and placing Iraq at the top of the chain of OPEC members grappling for market

share in this growing economy.

Iraq's oil exports to India rose by 41 percent in April and by 79 percent compared to a year ago. At the same time, Saudi Arabia's exports to India were down 14 percent in April over the same time last year.

Overall, Iraq accounted for 22 percent of India's crude oil imports in April, while last year it accounted for 15 percent. Saudi Arabia's India crude oil market share dropped to 18 percent, down from 25 percent last year.

India has seen a new surge in crude oil imports overall. Since March, Indian crude imports are up 6% on the month, and up 9.9 percent in the first four months of this year. For the first four months of 2015, imports fell 0.6 percent from a year ago largely due to outages at refineries.

(Source: Business Insider)

Japan's economy posts growth for first quarter

Japan's economy, the world's third largest, expanded at the fastest pace in a year during the first quarter on stronger private consumption and exports, complicating Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's decision on whether or not to delay a planned sales tax increase next year.

The economy expanded by an annualized 1.7 percent in the first three months of the year, rebounding from a 1.7 percent contraction in the previous quarter, according to data from the Cabinet Office released on Wednesday.

Many analysts had expected the data to show that the economy had contracted for a second straight quarter — technically a recession — when excluding the increase to consumption from the extra day for the leap year. But private consumption rose 0.5 percent as households spent more on televisions,

food and beverage, and recreation, the data showed.

Still, analysts say the rebound is not strong enough to dispel concerns.

"Growth is not as strong as the headline number shows," said Hidenobu Tokuda, senior economist at Mizuho Research Institute.

He said he expected that the data would lead the prime minister "to delay a planned sales tax hike next year and to roll out additional fiscal stimulus worth at least 5 trillion yen."

Japan's economy minister, Nobuteru Ishihara, told reporters after the data was released that while the economy continues to recover moderately, the government was ready to take a "flexible policy response" to risks such as volatile markets and weak demand in emerging economies.

(Source: New York Times)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Alibaba's Ma cancels speech after row with anti-counterfeiting group

Alibaba Group Holding Ltd's chief Jack Ma has canceled a speech at an anti-counterfeiting conference in the United States after the trade group behind it suspended the e-commerce giant's recently gained membership.

Alibaba has been dogged for years by accusations that its online shopping platforms were conduits for counterfeiters and critics say it has not done nearly enough to stop the problem.

At least three members of the Washington-based International Anti Counterfeiting Coalition, including board member Tiffany & Co quit the group in protest and others threatened to leave after Alibaba was admitted as a member in April.

Suzuki Motor says used improper fuel economy tests, shares slide

Suzuki Motor Corp said it had used improper fuel economy testing methods, sending its shares tumbling as a mileage cheating scandal in Japan that has engulfed Mitsubishi Motors Corp widened.

The automaker specializes in mini-vehicles, which have engines of up to 660cc and get preferential tax treatment under Japanese law. It commands roughly one-third of the country's mini-vehicle market.

Fuel economy compliance has come under increased scrutiny since Mitsubishi said last month it falsified fuel economy readings for some of its mini-vehicle models. It also said it used non-compliant data to calculate mileage for other models.

Oracle co-CEO says Google caused Oracle revenue to plummet

Longtime customers dramatically reduced the amount of licensing revenue they paid to use Oracle products after Google stole its copyrighted software to enter the smartphone market, Oracle's co-chief executive Safra Catz told jurors on Tuesday.

In a trial at San Francisco federal court, Oracle Corp has claimed Google's Android smartphone operating system violated its copyright on parts of Java, a development platform. Alphabet Inc's Google unit said it should be able to use Java without paying a fee under the fair-use provision of copyright law.

Oracle acquired Sun in 2010 and sued Google after negotiations over its use of Java broke down.

Next Big Travel Destination: Iran?

Global hotel companies are establishing new beachheads in Iran, betting that lifted sanctions against the Middle East nation will spark a jump in tourism and business travel after decades of economic isolation.

Spanish operator Melia Hotels International is planning to open a 319-room hotel next year on the Caspian Sea. French group Accor Hotels, which opened two hotels near the Tehran airport last autumn, is establishing a joint-stock company in Iran through which it will partner with local groups to manage hotels. Abu Dhabi-based Rotana Hotel Management Corp. PJSC has started developing properties in the country as well.

Iran has largely been cut off from global commerce since 1979, when a revolution sparked an exodus of Western firms, including hotel groups like Hyatt Hotels Corp. and Hilton Hotels & Resorts. The U.S., and later the United Nations, imposed rounds of punishing economic sanctions over Tehran's nuclear program, making it difficult for foreign companies to do business there.

A deal struck in January between Iran and global governments cleared the path for cross-border commerce to restart. The parties have until June 30 to agree on details, but all U.N. Security Council resolutions against Iran would be lifted once Iran begins implementing limits to its nuclear program.

"This is essentially the start of a new era," said Faisal Durrani, head of research at real-estate broker Cluttons LLP. "What you have is effectively the largest country in the Middle East open for business."

Iran's case in many ways looks like Cuba, where thawing relations with the U.S. have also sparked interest from Western hotel operators. Both Starwood Hotels and Resorts and Marriott are looking to take advantage of the growing commercial opportunities there.

Major hurdles in Iran remain, from limited bank financing to lingering sanctions, hotel chiefs and lawyers said.

The European Union has, for the most part, lifted sanctions against dealing with



Paris-based Accor Hotels has been operating two of its branded hotels, a Novotel and an Ibis, near the Imam Khomeini airport since last fall

Iranian companies and individuals. But most U.S. sanctions remain in place, said Caroline Hobson, head of competition at law firm CMS Cameron McKenna LLP.

"We just have to wait. That's the frustrating bit," said Peter Norman, senior vice president for acquisitions and development at Hyatt in Europe, the Mideast and Africa. "We're really keen to go in there," he said. Hyatt and Germany-based Kempinski Hotels have been exploring opportunities but said for the moment barriers remain too high.

Still, with the Iranian government projecting foreign visitor numbers to jump to 20 million by 2025 from five million currently, "we believe there is huge potential," said Gabriel Escarrer, chief executive of Melia Hotels, which operates more than 350 hotels in 35 countries.

Iran's economy is still reeling from years of sanctions. But the International Monetary Fund expects economic growth in Iran to pick up to about 4% this year once some sanctions are lifted and foreign investment kicks in.

Hospitality could be one of the first sectors to benefit from the influx of business and leisure travel. At the moment "there is a lack of hotels, both in terms of quality and quantity, whatever the segment," said Christophe Landais, chief operating officer at Accor Hotels Iran, at a conference in Dubai last month.

Paris-based Accor Hotels has been operating two of its branded hotels, a Novotel and an Ibis, near the Imam Khomeini airport since last fall.

"Accor is on a mission to develop an extensive network of property covering all market segments, from economy to business," Landais said.

Melia Hotels is aiming for the "premium segment," Mr. Escarrer said. "That's where we think we can attract the international traveler."

The Gran Melia Ghoo Hotel is scheduled to open in late 2017 on the Caspian Sea, a popular vacation destination for Iranians, Russians and Turks. It will include seven restaurants and bars, two swimming pools and a spa.

Melia will operate the hotel, but it isn't investing its own capital. Ahad Azimzadeh, an Iranian businessman who owns Persian carpet firm Azimzadeh Carpet, is funding the development, which also includes apartments and shopping.

For companies already looking to develop hotels, the biggest issue right now is funding, said Nicholas Gilani, chief investment officer at CommoditEdge LLC.

The Dubai-based firm, an affiliate of a privately held Iranian conglomerate, recently struck a deal with the Iran Touring and Tourism Investment company, which owns 65 hotels across Iran in tourism hot spots such as Shiraz, Mashhad, ski resorts near Tehran and on the Caspian Sea coast. Under the deal, the two partners will identify which properties to develop or renovate with the help of foreign investors.

Mr. Escarrer of Melia said the potential is too great to pass up.

"We're trying to be a pioneer in this market," he said. "We started in Cuba 25 years ago. We're trying to do the same in Iran."

(Source: Wall Street Journal)

A CLOSER LOOK

Eating well and staying active while traveling

Without access to your local supermarket or your favorite Pilates class, on your next trip you may find yourself subsisting on fattening restaurant meals and abandoning your usual exercise routine to sit for long hours on planes or buses.

But believe it or not, it is possible to eat well on a cross-country road trip, to stay active without access to a gym and even to go on a cruise without gaining 5 or 10 pounds. You can eat healthy and stay active no matter what kind of trip you're taking.

Eating well on a plane

There's no more captive audience than a plane full of air travelers, particularly those on long international flights. But just because you're stuck on a plane doesn't mean you're stuck eating the congealed meat and starchy sides the airlines call food. (That's if your airline serves meals at all.)

Your first line of defense against unhealthy airline menus is to bring what food you can from home. Airport security rules prohibit passengers from taking liquids and gels in excess of 3.4 ounces through airport security checkpoints, but solid snacks like bananas, apples, trail mix, nuts, carrots, celery sticks and energy bars will pass muster. Pack a few of these in your carry-on and skip the airline's salty snacks.

Once you've passed through security, anything you buy at the airport may be brought onto your flight, so this is your chance to stock up on bottled water and buy a salad or sandwich to eat on the plane. Many airports have begun adding more healthy dining options to their standard array of fast food; look for dishes with lots of vegetables and fiber, and skip the fried stuff.

Eating well on a road trip

Long hours of sitting in the car and eating fast food at every rest stop can derail a diet faster than you can say "road trip." How can you break the cycle? First, take McDonald's off the menu.

Before you set forth on your journey, fill a cooler with healthy snacks like fruit, raw veggies and sandwiches from home, and then restock your stash along the way with offerings from local grocery stores. Don't forget the bottled water! (Save money and the environment by purchasing gallon jugs of water to use to refill your bottles.)

Bypass rest stops and seek out independent cafes and restaurants -- not only will you eat better, but you'll also meet locals and get a better flavor of the town you're in. For help finding healthy local eateries, try the VegOut app, which offers listings of vegan, vegetarian and vegetarian-friendly restaurants. Food Tripping is another useful app that will point you to farmers' markets, healthy eateries, juice joints and more.

On particularly long car trips, be sure to stop at least once a day for an exercise break. Check your road map or GPS for nearby national, state or local parks where you can go for a hike, or spend some time exploring a new town or city by foot.

(Source: Independent Traveler)

Leader: Clarifying and defusing malicious plots of enemies, main duty of Islamic World

United States is a great "Satan" and "tyrant" in the world and effective steps should be taken by heads of Islamic states in order to thwart malicious objectives waged by some countries against the Islamic world.

Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei announced the above statement in the closing ceremony of 33rd International Competitions of the Holy Quran in the presence of participants and Quranic enthusiasts, held on Tuesday May 17 at Congregational Prayers site (Mosalla of Imam Khomeini (RA), and said: "Enlightening and taking Jihadi movements against malicious behavior of tyrants is the main duty of scholars, thinkers and elites of the Islamic countries."

Muslim nations should not be deceived by wrong poli-



cies taken by global arrogance against Islamic countries, the leader maintained.

Unity and Amity of Muslim Nations Can Overcome Global Arrogance and Issue of Palestine Will Not Be Forgotten

He expressed his special thanks to the functionaries and organizers of this prestigious Quranic event in the country and called the Holy Quran as pivot of unity and amity among Muslim nations.

Elsewhere in his remarks, he urged heads of Muslim nations to take vigilant and logical steps in order to thwart malicious plots of enemies.

In the end, the leader said: "Resorting to the Holy Book is key to overcome plots and malicious behavior of enemies and called on all Muslim nations to adopt logical and wise steps in this respect."



but they should know that if you (aggressors) have one option on the table, we have myriads of options at hand. Of course, options in the country will lead you to prosperity and blessing of human community and nothing else."

In the end, Leader's representative at the organization pointed to the Glorious Quran and said: "Holy Quran is one of our options against global arrogance. The Holy Book is a unique and unparalleled asset for the Islamic Iran. That is to say that if one resorted to the Holy Quran, he or she will remain in peace and security forever, otherwise, all efforts will be nullified. For this purpose, we have proven it during eight years of Sacred Defense (Iraqi imposed war against Iran, 1980-1988)."

Hoj. Mohammadi: "Islamophobia", "Shiaphobia" and "Iranophobia", a sheer lie

"Islamophobia", "Shiaphobia" and "Iranophobia" is a big and sheer lie.

Head of Endowments and Charity Affairs Organization Hojjatoleslam Ali Mohammadi announced the above statement at the closing ceremony of 33rd Intl. Competitions of the Holy Quran, held on Tuesday May 17, 2016 at Congregational Prayers site (Mosalla of Imam Khomeini (RA) in the presence of a group of officials and Quranic activists.

In the beginning, the senior official of Headquarters of 33rd round of International Competitions of the Holy Quran pointed to the three important points with regard to this prestigious Quranic event and said: "Islamic Iran hosted a great number of participants and Quranic activists for one week and during these days, you [participants] witnessed unique and unparalleled peace, security and tranquility spread by the country."

Glorious organizing this significant Quranic congress is one of clear-cut

signs of high security in the Islamic Iran and under the auspices of peace and security in the country, the 33rd International Competitions of the Holy Quran was held in Iran in the best form possible in an amicable environment, he maintained.

International Quranic competitions was welcomed by participants and a great number of Quranic enthusiasts extremely, he said, adding: "During these days, you [dear participants] perceived ultimate peace and security in the Iran and witnessed that "Iranophobia", "Islamophobia" and "Shiaphobia" is a propaganda waged by the global arrogance against the Islamic Iran and is a sheer lie."

Broadly speaking, Islamic Republic of Iran enjoys ultimate level of security in world and is a model for other countries to practice the model, he observed.

The Leader's representative at the Endowments and Charity Affairs Organization emphasized: "I request you dear

participants to introduce peace and security of the Islamic Iran to your fellow countrymen precisely when back to your country."

Addressing Quranic community and cultural activists of the country, he expressed his special thanks to the unsparring efforts of Quranic activists, nonstop activities of preachers and Quranic community in training reciters and memorizers and said: "High welcome of people from this prestigious Quranic event showed that Quranic community and cultural officials of the country should commence a Jihadi and revolutionary move. Once we spread Quranic culture in society, people will show high interest in reading and reciting the Holy Quran."

Elsewhere in his remarks, he pointed to the overstatement and exaggeration of heads of global arrogance especially United States and said: "Sometimes, we hear that they [global arrogance] threatens and jeopardizes Islamic Iran to military attack, invasion and sanctions, etc.

Official: Intl. Quranic Competitions spreads Quranic culture in country

International Quranic competitions disseminated Quranic culture in society.

Hojjatoleslam Seyyed Mostafa Hosseini Head of Quranic Affairs Center of Endowments and Charity Affairs Organization announced the above statement at the closing ceremony of 33rd Intl. Competitions of the Holy Quran and put the number of participants participated in this round of competitions

at 130 reciters and memorizers from more than 75 countries in world.

3rd Intl. Competitions of the Holy Quran was held in the country with the motto of "One Book and One Ummah", he maintained.

Quranic competitions was held special of visually-impaired participants for the first time at the initiative taken by the Endowments and Charity Af-

fairs Organization and State Welfare Organization (SWO), he observed,

He pointed out that this round of competitions was held with the participation of 20 cultural, governmental and revolutionary institutions.

A cultural and Quranic product including characters, Quranic and artistic works was unveiled in each day of competitions, he opined.

7th Intl. Quranic Seminar (special of female) was held on the sidelines of the competitions, based on which, 20 female Quranic activists were awarded with plaque of honor, he said, adding: "Call for 10th Intl. Quranic Research Seminar themed "Quran and Culture of Islamic Revolution" and also 4th Quranic Stories Festival were unveiled."

He pointed to showcasing Quranic products

and services on the sidelines of the competitions and reiterated: "Ambience of country was adorned to the divine verses in the presence of memorizers, reciters and carriers of the Holy Quran."

In the end, he expressed his special thanks to the organizers of the 33rd Intl. Competitions of the Holy Quran for better organization of the competitions.

Iranian reciter and memorizer, on the pinnacle of the best in Islamic World



mpetitions of the Holy Quran and 1st Intl.

Memorization Competitions (special of visually-impaired memorizers) wrapped up its work by introducing winners of the competitions in recitation and memorization categories on May 17, 2016.

Like previous years, Iranian reciters and memorizers stood at top rank in recitation and memorization terms.

The competitions was held on May 11-17, 2016 at Congregational Prayers site (Mosalla of Imam Khomeini (RA) in the presence of 130 participants from 75 countries in world and wrapped up its work on Tuesday May 17.

Hereunder are names of winners of the competitions:

In Recitation Part:

Hamed Valizadeh from Iran,
Mohammad Javid Akbari from Afghanistan,
Bahreddin Saeed from Indonesia,
Seyyed Abbas Ali from Germany,
Mustafa Ali from the Netherlands,

In Memorization Part:

Mojtaba Fardfani from Iran,
Abdul-Aziz Ahmad from Egypt,
Muhammad-Ali Abdullah from Australia,
Khaled Sengari from Ivory Coast,
Taher Mamadood Hassan from Niger
In Memorization Part (Special of Virtually-Impaired Memorizers)
Abdul-Ghafour Joharchi from Iran
Ahmet Sarikaya from Turkey
Saberin Mohammad Zaeibi from Tunisia



Has Brazil begun a moral reckoning?

A corruption scandal has rolled over Brazilian society, claiming a president and putting many in jail. Now one big culprit, a construction firm, appears to be contrite. Will its 'sincere' apology trigger a moral catharsis?

A corruption scandal that has engulfed Brazil for two years seems to know no end. Dozens of politicians and business executives are either in jail or under investigation.

One poll finds 92 percent of Brazilians

agree that "all politicians are crooks." Amid the cloud over the nation's elite, President Dilma Rousseff was forced to step aside while she is tried in the Senate on charges of shady bookkeeping. The economy continues to contract even as Brazil copes with a Zika crisis and doubts over its ability to host the Summer Olympics in August.

An acting president, Michel Temer, has triggered some hope for change. A member of

Brazil's largest party, he promises to be a national unifier and to create jobs. And brave prosecutors remain heroes for defying a culture of impunity as they unravel bribery and bid-rigging schemes tied to the state-run oil giant, Petrobras, and other government projects.

But Brazil may need more. Corruption is a form of moral tyranny and, like nations that emerge from dictatorship, Brazil needs a mo-



Michel Temer

ment of communal reckoning.

Too many politicians are under suspicion. In many countries, such a moment occurs when a prominent leader apologizes for past wrongdoing. Brazilians got a glimpse of such a moral catharsis on May 9 when the country's second-largest construction contractor, Andrade Gutierrez, issued a "sincere apology" for its role in the scandals as part of a plea deal with prosecutors.

→9

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The Economic & Commercial office of the Embassy of Spain, Tehran, is seeking applications for an Administrative Assistant from suitably qualified applicants.

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Valid applications should reach the Economic & Commercial Office of the Spanish Embassy by close of business June 1st 2016. Applications must be in English and should be addressed to The Economic & Commercial office of the Embassy of Spain, Tehran. Late applications will not be considered.

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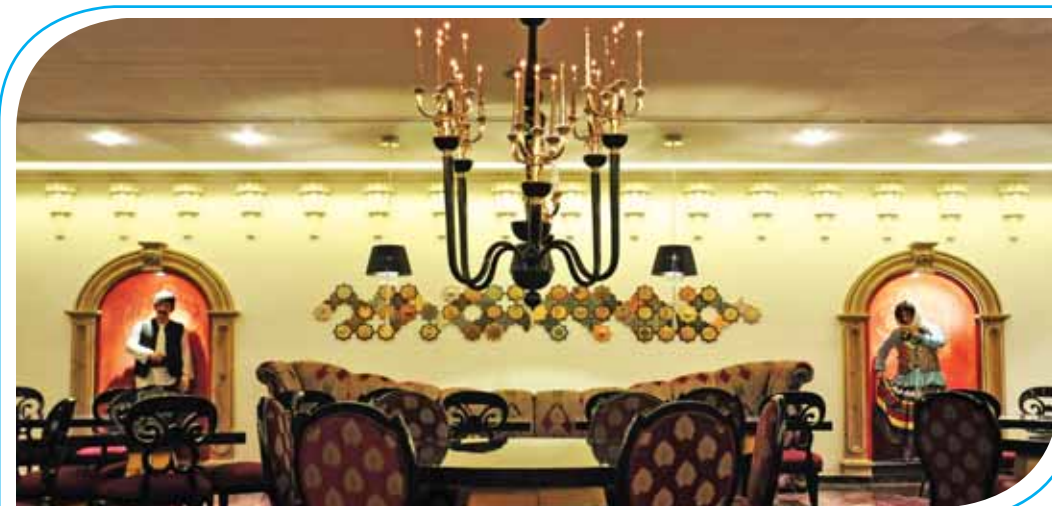
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Evidence of huge asteroid reveals clues to prehistory found in Australia

Scientists estimate that the giant space rock – more of a mountain – was 20 to 30 kilometers (12.4-18.6 miles) wide. It would have gouged out a huge chunk of the Earth, leaving a crater hundreds of kilometers across.

Tiny glass beads called spherules formed by vaporized material from the impact were found in a region of northwest Australia that originally formed part of the ocean floor.



Andrew Glikson, from The Australian National University (ANU), said: The “impact would have triggered earthquakes orders of magnitude greater than terrestrial earthquakes. It would have caused huge tsunamis and would have made cliffs crumble.

“Material from the impact would have spread worldwide.”

Although the spherules were found in Australia, scientists cannot say where on Earth the asteroid struck. Any

craters from this time on Earth's surface have been obliterated by volcanic activity and tectonic movements,” said Glikson.

The glass beads turned up in a drill core from Marble Bar, north-western Australia, in some of the oldest known sediments on Earth.

Rock containing the spherules was preserved between two volcanic layers, allowing very precise dating of its origin. Tests found levels of elements such as platinum, nickel and chromium that matched those in asteroids.

“This is just the tip of the iceberg,” said Glikson. “We’ve only found evidence for 17 impacts older than 2.5 billion years, but there could have been hundreds. Asteroid strikes this big result in tectonic shifts and magma flows. They could have affected the way the Earth evolved.”

(Source: The National)

Futuristic device is helping scientists break solar-efficiency record

Looking a little like the world-saving stones from sci-fi classic The Fifth Element, a new device is expected to have a big impact on renewable energy.

Built by Mark Keevers and Martin Green from the University of New South Wales (UNSW), the unique prism could help make solar panels cheaper and more efficient. In fact, it's already broken a world record for the amount of solar energy it can create from unfocused sunlight.

The prism has a sunlight-to-electricity conversion efficiency rate of 34.5 percent, Keevers told Mashable Australia. That's about a 44 percent improvement in efficiency on the previous record, he said, which sat at 24 percent efficiency but over 800 square centimeters (124 square inches).

The UNSW team's record was achieved over a smaller surface area of 28 square centimeters (4.34 square inches).

Importantly, it does this with normal, un-concentrated light — the type household solar panels already use.

The device works by splitting sunlight into four bands. Inside the prism, solar cells use a particular type of semi-conductor material, such as silicon, to optimally convert a particular band of sunlight into electricity.

The prism also uses high-purity glass and a special filter to help steer the sunlight so it stays mostly trapped inside, eliminating wastage.

Despite the excitement, we're still a long way off seeing one of these prisms on every rooftop. “Right now, this is a proof of concept prototype,” Keevers said. “Of course, it's expensive and we've used expensive materials and techniques.” The mini-module cost roughly \$3,000 to create, which he said was normal for a lab experiment.

(Source: Mashable)

Symptoms and diagnosis of HIV and Aids

Wednesday was HIV Aids Vaccine Awareness Day 2016 (#HVAC), a day that should give everyone a chance to educate about HIV and Aids as well as raising awareness about finally finding a cure.

HIV remains one of the most significant public health challenges with an estimated 103,700 people living with the virus in Britain.



According to the National Health Service (NHS), this is the immune system putting up a fight against the virus and usually lasts between one and two weeks.

After this HIV can infect someone for many years but show no symptoms – known as an asymptomatic HIV infection.

During this time, while you may appear well, this can still lead to damage to your immune system as the virus is still active.

There are three main stages of an HIV infection: 1) Asymptomatic HIV, 2) Symptomatic HIV, and 3) Late-stage HIV infection and Aids syndrome.

Once your immune system is damaged, you may have more symptoms including:

Weight loss, chronic diarrhea, night sweats, skin problems, recurrent infections, serious life-threatening illnesses.

(Source: Metro)

How this itty-bitty ocean-dwelling bacteria regulates our climate

Earth's climate could be shaped by some of the smallest known free-living bacteria, new research suggests.

While studying the bacterial group Pelagibacterales, the most abundant organism at the ocean's surface and one of the most abundant across the entire globe, scientists found that they are involved in an integral process that helps regulate our climate – the production of dimethylsulfide (DMS).

This revelation will likely be instrumental in developing more accurate climate models, but it may also stimulate a fresh bout of scientific interest in the simple bacteria, which have so far seen only low levels of study, yet could turn out to hold crucial roles in various systems.

"Science often involves discovering the unexpected," says coauthor Stephen Giovannoni, of Oregon State University, in a telephone interview with The Christian Science Monitor. "We didn't expect to observe the formation of this gas, DMS. There's no gene for that."

In the course of their work, the researchers observed two gases being produced by the bacteria: DMS and methanethiol.

Methanethiol is a colorless gas with a



The generally recognized role of the bacterial group Pelagibacterales is to oxidize organic matter back into carbon dioxide.

distinctive scent. It is added to otherwise odorless natural gas to warn us in case of leaks.

■ Critical link
DMS is involved in cloud formation, forming a critical link in a negative feedback loop

Helium microscope helps to study samples without damaging them

The first scanning helium microscope has been built by Australian researchers who feel it could “open doors” for many new discoveries by allowing scientists to scrutinize materials without disturbing them.

Paul Dastoor of University of Newcastle, who has been working on the scanning helium microscope (SHeM) for two decades, said the new device would enable scientists to study human, animal and plant samples, as well as computer chips and pharmaceutical drugs, without damaging or changing them.

Dastoor said the development means samples would be analyzed in their true state for the first time ever and every time a new microscope was developed, there had been enormous scientific advances.

“We wouldn't know anything about bacteria without the development of the optical microscope, we wouldn't know anything about nanotechnology without the development of the electron microscope. What exactly will the



new helium microscope tell us? We don't know yet. What will it open the doors to? We don't know yet, but it will open doors,” he said.

■ Information tech

The scientist said SHeM could be useful in major industries such as solar energy, defense, explosives and information technology. The “new device is expected to pave the

How did the giraffe get its long neck?

For the first time, the genomes of the giraffe and its closest living relative, the reclusive okapi of the African rainforest, have been sequenced -- revealing the first clues about the genetic changes that led to the evolution of the giraffe's exceptionally long neck and its record-holding ranking as the world's tallest land species.

The “giraffe's stature, dominated by its long neck and legs and an overall height that can reach 19 feet (~ 6 m), is an extraordinary feat of evolution that has inspired awe and wonder for at least 8,000 years -- as far back as the famous rock carvings at Dabous in the Republic of Niger,” said Douglas Cavener of Penn State University, who led the research team with Morris Agaba of the Nelson Mandela African Institute for Science and Technology in Tanzania.

■ The evolutionary changes

The “evolutionary changes required to build the giraffe's imposing structure and to equip it with the necessary modifications for its high-speed sprinting and powerful cardiovascular functions have remained a source of scientific mystery since the 1800s, when Charles Darwin first puzzled over the giraffe's evolutionary origins,” said Cavener, a professor of biology and the Verne M. Willaman Dean of the Eberly College of Science at Penn State.

The giraffe's heart, for example, must



pump blood two meters straight up in order to provide an ample blood supply to its brain. This feat is possible because the giraffe's heart has evolved to have an unusually large left ventricle, and the species also has blood pressure that is twice as high as other mammals.

To identify genetic changes likely to be responsible for the giraffe's unique characteristics, including sprints that can reach 37 miles per hour (60 km/h), Cavener and Agaba compared the gene-coding sequences of the giraffe and the okapi to more than forty other mammals including the cow, sheep, goat, camel, and human.

“Okapi's gene sequences are very similar to the giraffe's because the okapi and giraffe diverged from a common ancestor only 11-to-12 million years ago - relatively recently on an evolution timescale,” Cavener said.

(Source: phys.org)

Engineers design a home urine test that could scan for diseases

There's a good reason your doctor asks for a urine sample at your annual check-up. A simple, color-changing paper test, dipped into the specimen, can measure levels of glucose, blood, protein and other chemicals, which in turn can indicate evidence of kidney disease, diabetes, urinary tract infections and even signs of bladder cancer.

The simple test is powerful, but it isn't perfect: It takes time, costs money and creates backlogs for clinics and primary care physicians. Results are often inconclusive, requiring both patient and doctor to book another appointment.

Patients with long-term conditions like chronic urinary tract infections must wait for results to confirm what both patient and doctor already know before getting antibiotics. Tracking patients' progress with multiple urine tests a day is out of the question.

Some innovators have tried to democratize urine testing by creating a low-cost way to analyze one of medicine's trusty staples – the urinary dipstick – in any setting, even at home.

■ Do-it-yourself systems

Although the test seems simple, do-it-yourself systems can be error prone, said Audrey (Ellerbee) Bowden, assistant professor of electrical engineering at Stanford.

“You think it's easy – you just dip

known as the CLAW hypothesis: Sunlight stimulates the production of phytoplankton, which in turn produce dimethylsulfoniopropionate (DMSP). Other microbes break this down to form DMS, which boosts the formation of clouds, reducing the amount of sunlight that reaches the ocean.

“Here's what I think is important,” Dr. Giovannoni tells the Monitor. “We're studying the most abundant organism in the ocean surface and we've discovered an unusual mechanism that produces DMS ... ultimately the question is how are compounds made by this organism affecting the climate?”

The generally recognized role of this bacteria is to oxidize organic matter back into carbon dioxide. As much as 5 to 20 percent of all carbon dioxide fixed on Earth in a given day may be produced by Pelagibacterales.

But the production of this DMS creates something other than a greenhouse gas. Scientists already knew there were bacteria that cleaved DMSP into DMS, but the significance lies in just how abundant this particular organism is.

(Source: The CSM)

way for many new discoveries because it gives new insights into structures at a microscopic level,” he said.

Dastoor led the team of researchers from the University of Newcastle, and collaborated with scientists from England's University of Cambridge.

“We're opening a window onto a new scientific world,” Dastoor said, adding that scientists would be able to see much smaller objects with a much higher resolution.

He said the ground-breaking technology may help find ways of removing carbon monoxide from exhaust gases.

The SHeM could also help with the clean-up of toxic or even radioactive spills, without harming the surrounding flora or fauna, he pointed out.

“Defense experts will be interested because it could lead to the development of stealth technology and new explosives,” Dastoor said, adding that the possibilities were endless in the areas of biological sciences, pharmaceuticals, and delicate materials.

(Source: thehindu.com)



the stick in urine and look for the color change, but there are things that can go wrong,” she said.

Writing in Lab on a Chip, a journal of the Royal Society of Chemistry, Bowden and Gennifer Smith, a Ph.D. student in electrical engineering, detail their new low-cost, portable device that would allow patients to get consistently accurate urine test results at home, easing the workload on primary care physicians.

Other do-it-yourself systems are emerging, but the Stanford engineers think their approach is inexpensive and reliable, in part because they base their system on the same tried and trusted dipstick used in medical offices.

Invented to test blood sugar in 1956, the standard dipstick test is now a paper strip with 10 square pads.

(Source: stanford.edu)

Differences in individuals' immune responses linked to flu vaccine effectiveness

For the first time, scientists have identified how differences in individuals' immune responses might be linked to the effectiveness of the seasonal influenza vaccination program.

There is good evidence that flu vaccination differs in effectiveness between individuals; this is due to a number of factors, one of which is age - people's immune system generally become less effective as they get older. However, to date, we don't have a method that allows us to predict this variation amongst individuals and who will and won't respond optimally to the vaccine. This matters because people who produce an appropriate response to the flu vaccine are more likely to benefit from its protection and less likely to contract flu.

In this study, researchers, led by Dr. Gregory Poland

and Dr. Richard Kennedy from the Mayo Clinic, set out to examine how differences in specific types of immune cells correlate with an individual's immune response to the seasonal flu vaccine. They gave the seasonal influenza vaccine to 159 people aged from 50-74 years. They took blood samples from these people prior to vaccination and again at day 3 and day 28 post-vaccination. These samples were analyzed using flow cytometry to work out the relative levels of different types of immune cell at each time point.

■ Increased immune response

The researchers also investigated how much immunity to the flu virus each person showed at day 28 by assessing the number of antibodies and B cells (which make antibodies) present against the flu strains they had been vac-

cinated against - higher levels meant an increased immune response and better immunity against the flu virus.

They found that individuals differed significantly in their responses to the flu vaccine and in how effective it proved to be; these differences were correlated with a number of immune cell parameters.

Prior to vaccination, these people also had more B cells in their blood, with more CD86 (a cell surface protein that allows the immune system to be activated quickly in response to a threat).

These results show that individuals do exhibit meaningful differences in how their immune systems respond to vaccination against seasonal flu, which correlate to the level of immunity they show against flu after vaccination.

(Source: EurekaAlert)

U.S. Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump said he is willing to talk to North Korean leader Kim Jong Un to try to stop Pyongyang's nuclear program, proposing a major shift in U.S. policy toward the isolated nation.

In a wide-ranging interview with Reuters, Trump also called for a renegotiation of the Paris climate accord, said he disapproved of Russian President Vladimir Putin's actions in eastern Ukraine, and said he would seek to dismantle most of the U.S. Dodd-Frank financial regulations if he is elected president.

The presumptive Republican nominee declined to share details of his plans to deal with North Korea, but said he was open to talking to its leader.

"I would speak to him, I would have no problem speaking to him," he said.

Asked whether he would try to talk some sense into the North Korean leader, Trump replied, "Absolutely."

North Korea's mission to the United Nations did not immediately respond to a request for comment on Trump's remarks.

Trump, 69, also said he would press China, Pyongyang's only major diplomatic and economic supporter, to help find a solution.

"I would put a lot of pressure on China because economically we have tremendous power over China," he said in the interview in his office on the 26th floor of Trump Tower in Manhattan. "China can solve that problem with one meeting or one phone call."

A Chinese official said dialogue was needed to resolve issues on the Korean peninsula.

"China supports direct talks and communication between the United States and North Korea. We believe this is beneficial," Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei told reporters.

Trump's preparedness to talk directly with Kim contrasts with President Barack Obama's policy of relying on senior U.S. officials to talk to senior North Korean officials.

Obama has not engaged personally with Kim, but he has pushed for new diplomatic overtures to Iran and Cuba that produced a nuclear deal with Tehran and improved ties with Havana.

Sitting at his desk with an expansive view of Central Park, Trump spoke at length about his economic and foreign policy ideas in the half-hour interview. Facing him on his desk is a framed photograph of his

Trump would talk to North Korea's Kim, wants to renegotiate climate accord



father, the late Fred Trump. A wall displays framed photos of Trump with various celebrities, as well as numerous magazine covers on which he has appeared.

On Russia, Trump tempered past praise of Putin, saying the nice comments the Russian leader has made about him in the past would only go so far.

"The fact that he said good things about me doesn't mean that it's going to help him in a negotiation. It won't help him at all," he said.

An adviser to Hillary Clinton, the leading Democratic presidential candidate, criticized Trump's foreign policy comments, noting they came soon after Trump said he was unlikely to have a good relationship with British Prime Minister David Cameron.

"Let me get this straight: Donald Trump insults the leader of our closest ally, then turns around and says he'd love to talk to Kim Jong Un?" Clinton's senior foreign policy adviser, Jake Sullivan, said in a statement. Trump "seems to have a bizarre fascination with foreign strongmen like Putin and Kim. But his approach to foreign policy makes no sense for the rest of us," he said.

In the Reuters interview, Trump said he thought Cameron's criticism of him was in-

appropriate but "I'm sure I'll have a good relationship with him."

■ Climate accord

Trump said he is "not a big fan" of the Paris climate accord, which prescribes reductions in carbon emissions by more than 170 countries. He said he would want to renegotiate the deal because it treats the United States unfairly and gives favorable treatment to countries like China.

"I will be looking at that very, very seriously, and at a minimum I will be renegotiating those agreements, at a minimum. And at a maximum I may do something else," he said.

A renegotiation of the pact would be a major setback for what was hailed as the first truly global climate accord, committing both rich and poor nations to reining in the rise in greenhouse gas emissions blamed for warming the planet.

Trump has been criticized for offering far fewer specific policy proposals than Clinton, his likely rival for the Nov. 8 presidential election.

The New York billionaire said he planned to release a detailed policy platform in two weeks that would propose dismantling nearly all of Dodd-Frank, a package of financial reforms put in place

after the 2007-2009 financial crisis.

"Dodd-Frank is a very negative force, which has developed a very bad name," he said.

Trump took a dim view of Clinton's stated desire to put her husband, former President Bill Clinton, in charge of building up the U.S. economy.

"The wife wants to make him in charge of the economy," he said.

Clinton described Trump's idea of dismantling Dodd-Frank as reckless. "Latest reckless idea from Trump: gut rules on Wall Street, and leave middle-class families out to dry," she said on Twitter.

■ Financial bubble?

Trump said he perceived a dangerous financial bubble in the tech start-up industry, with some companies selling shares at high valuations without ever turning a profit.

"I'm talking about companies that have never made any money, that have a bad concept and that are valued at billions of dollars," he said.

Silicon Valley investors responded on Twitter by poking fun at Trump's campaign slogan "Make America Great Again!" by repeating the phrase, "Make Bubbles Great Again."

On the U.S. Federal Reserve, Trump said that while he eventually wants a Republican to head it, he is "not an enemy" of current chair Janet Yellen, who was appointed by Obama.

"I'm not a person that thinks Janet Yellen is doing a bad job. I happen to be a low-interest rate person unless inflation rears its ugly head, which can happen at some point," he said, adding that inflation "doesn't seem like it's happening any time soon."

The real estate mogul said he would maintain the current level of benefits for Social Security recipients, a position championed by former Republican presidential candidate Mike Huckabee. Trump said he would not raise the retirement age or impose a sliding scale of benefits depending on income levels.

Some Republican lawmakers have pushed for structural reforms to Social Security to extend its solvency.

The depleted Social Security Trust Fund, Trump said, would be replenished by the increased tax revenue that would flow into the government from the higher job growth spurred by his economic policies.

(Source: Reuters)

JUMP

Has Brazil begun a moral reckoning?

6 →

■ Deeper cultural changes

In a published "manifesto," the company stated that it not only admits "its errors to the Brazilian public" but that it will "remedy the harm it has caused the country." It listed many reforms for itself, its industry, and the government. But, it added, the scandals must also bring about "deeper cultural changes in the way we do business in Brazil."

Plea bargains are new legal tools in Brazil, and the company may have been arm-twisted into the apology and its promises of reform. But its lengthy "manifesto" required more than a passing thought of self-interest. At the least, it could serve as a model for other companies as well as elected leaders to come clean and show contrition for misdeeds.

Enough countries have learned the value of public apologies that an international activist group, the International Center for Transitional Justice, wrote about it in a report last year.

"Whatever the catalyst, apologies (and the process for developing them) can help a country to replace, at least partially, partisan re-criminations with constructive dialogue and unite the public behind the common goals it needs to achieve to move forward," the report stated.

The "process of developing consensus around the need for an apology can help societies to face their past, reaffirm values, and meet their obligations to victims as human beings and citizens in the present and in the future."

What kind of apologies work best? The report says they must be unequivocal, not diluted by qualifying language, or attempt to redirect blame.

In admitting its errors and seeking to make amends, Andrade Gutierrez may have started a process of healing.

Brazilians will at least watch to see if its actions match its words. Has a reckoning begun by one company's apparent remorse?

(Source: The CSM)

Venezuela protests against Maduro to test state of emergency

Public outrage over sweeping new emergency powers decreed this week by President Nicolas Maduro was expected to spill over onto the streets of Venezuela Wednesday, with nationwide protests planned.

The demonstrations mark the strongest challenge yet to Maduro's controversial declaration of a state of emergency.

Opposition-led marches in the capital Caracas and other major cities were to demand that authorities accept a recall referendum to determine Maduro's fate.

The 53-year-old president on Tuesday dismissed the push against him as "not viable" and said a petition it was based on was riddled with "fraud," despite 1.8 million signatures seeking his ouster.

The 60-day state of emergency was imposed beginning Monday to tackle what Maduro said were threats to security, as well as food and energy shortages.

Many of the measures rely on Venezuela's army and police being deployed to carry them out.

It notably suspends many constitutional protections by opening the way to expropriations and almost any action deemed necessary to maintain public order.

Individuals, companies and non-governmental organizations in Venezuela with links to foreign groups are also to be put under scrutiny and risk having their finances frozen, according to the decree.

The opposition-controlled congress late Tuesday rejected the decree in a vote, saying it undermined democracy. But the Supreme Court may overrule that, as it has with other congressional decisions.

■ Claim of U.S. plot -

Maduro has accused Washington of having "imperial" designs on Venezuela, and said that a US AWACS surveillance plane had twice violated his country's airspace last week.

Maduro has separately ordered military exercises for Saturday.

Despite his decree, there have so far been no signs of increased military presence in the streets.

But Wednesday's demonstrations could face a robust police deployment. A Caracas march last week, before the emergency decree, was halted in its tracks by riot police firing tear gas.

Venezuela's opposition has urged the public to defy the state of emergency and called on the army to decide whether it sides "with the constitution or with Maduro."

The opposition, which controls congress but has little real power because of Maduro's sway over the government, Supreme Court and security forces, says the emergency decree is an attempt by the president to put himself above the constitution.

"If Maduro wants to apply this decree he will have to bring out the warplanes and the tanks into the street, because he will have to apply it through force," opposition leader Henrique Capriles told a news conference on Tuesday.

If the recall referendum does go ahead, it must be held before January 10, 2017 in order to trigger new elections, otherwise a successful recall vote would simply transfer power to vice president Aristobulo Isturiz.

(Source: AFP)

Europe's business leaders meet to discuss Iran entry strategy

THE ECONOMY d e s k Attracting and retaining employees with the right skills is a key challenge facing foreign companies in Iran.

As the race to enter the newly opened Iran market gains momentum, European multi-nationals are starting to grapple with the practical realities of setting up and operating profitably in the country, according to speakers attending a major

Iran business conference held in Zurich. The 3rd Europe-Iran Forum, attended by over 400 senior executives, heard from the leadership of major European firms as well as Iranian state-owned and private sector firms.

The speakers alluded to the practical challenges faced as Iran re-enters the global economy, notably in the area of human capital. "When we started

our business 13 years ago, 80 percent of our clients were multinational companies, but now most left Iran due to sanctions," said Aseyeh Hatami, founder and CEO of IranTalent.com, the largest online recruitment firm in Iran. Hatami suggested that to succeed in Iran, international firms have no choice but to invest heavily in training, skills transfers and capacity building.

(Source: Reuters)

AYANDEH Bank Public Relations Dept. manager appointed exemplary director

THE ECONOMY d e s k The 3rd Iran Top Public Relations Managers' Festival was held on Monday May 16, 2016 at National Library Conferences Center concurrent with "Communications and Public Relations Day" in order to commemorate Public Relations Day themed "Role of Public Relations in Post-Sanctions Period" and with the special emphasis on "Outstanding Role of 8th Art" in the political and economic fields.

In this prestigious Festival, exemplary directors of

Iran's Public Relations Departments in national, provincial, management and senior management sectors were honored.

In an evaluation measure made in this regard, exemplary manager of Public Relations Department in metropolitan Tehran and government's top communications director in the last Iranian calendar year in 1394 (ended March 19, 2016) were appreciated.

Given the above issue, Dr. Mahmoud Torabian Manager of Public Relations and Information Dissemination

Department of AYANDEH Bank was elected as exemplary and top Public Relations Department manager and was awarded with Plaque of Honor.

It should be noted that unveiling "Iranian Public Relations Encyclopedia", organizing two training workshops "Public Relations and Economic Development" and "Public Relations and Political Development" were considered as other programs of the Festival held in the presence of outstanding scientific, cultural and political figures.

Isfahan Public Relations Dept. wins 1st rank in nationwide urban water and wastewater companies

THE ECONOMY d e s k Isfahan Water and Wastewater Company's Public Relations Department won first rank (Level 1) in 6th Top Public Relations Department Festival in the last Iranian calendar year in 1394 (ended March 19, 2016) among urban water and wastewater companies in the country.

Director of Public Relations Department of Isfahan Water and Wastewater Co. Bani Taba announced the above statement and pointed to the social studies i.e. "research" and "surveying" as one of the highlights of activity of public relations and

said: "Interactive public relations signifies only with the concept of establishing effective relationship with the audiences."

A number of 10 criteria were considered for winning the title as follows: communications, social studies (research and surveying), publications, management and planning, electronic public relations, innovation and creativity, documentation, public education and publicities, and collaborative programs and launching public relations system's call center 122, he added.

Syria to Produce IKCO's Latest Vehicles

THE ECONOMY d e s k Iran Khodro is intended to resume production of its latest vehicles including Dena, Runa and Soren in Syria, said IKCO's Deputy CEO for Export and International Affairs, Saeed Tafazzoli. He noted that the decision to send the second shipment of IKCO vehicles' parts to Syria for producing nearly 90 cars there was made shortly after the restoration of IKCO's site (SIAMCO) in the country. He went further saying that shipment would be made in the current week.

The first shipment was made recently for producing 100 Samand vehicles. "IKCO plans to produce and sell about 1,000 sets of its latest products in Syria

during the current year," Tafazzoli said.

In his words, bringing variety to IKCO's product portfolio is the main strategy of the car manufacture giant. He added the company plans to produce 2,000 vehicles in Syria next year.

IKCO has exported about 100 vehicles to Syria just recently. The car company has announced its plan to stop Samand production in Syria and replace it with new products including Soren, Runa and Dena. SIAMCO is IKCO's largest site abroad. It was established in 2011 before the current crisis begins in the war-torn country. SIAMCO assembles Samand under the brand name "Sham".

Cyprus eyes broadening co-op with Iran's SUNIR Co.

THE ECONOMY d e s k Chief Executive of Iran Power & Water Equipment & Service Export Company (SUNIR) Bahman Salehi hold talks with Cypriot Minister of Labor, Transportation and Communications Marius Demetrius for broadening bilateral cooperation in new energies' projects and construction of "Limassol Pier" Port.

This giant project will be put into operation in two phases and SUNIR Company enjoys high potentials and capabilities to carry out the project in the best form possible, the minister maintained.

He went on to say that Cyprus has established fair and sound relationship with Egypt and as a prestig-

ious international company, SUNIR Company can have strong presence for construction of energy projects in Cyprus.

For his part, chief executive of SUNIR Company has expressed readiness of his company to establish bilateral and multilateral cooperation with Cyprus in related field.

To date, SUNIR Company has constructed more than 200 projects in regional countries, Middle East and Central America, CEO of the company said, adding: "His Company welcomes to cooperate with Cypriot companies as joint venture."

Due to the significance of the issue and membership

in European Union (EU), Cyprus can establish fair cooperation with SUNIR Company as joint venture for development and construction of energy projects in regional states, Salehi stressed.

Currently, SUNIR Company owns 18 projects in 13 countries in world, construction operations of which are underway.

Last week, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was inked between SUNIR Company and Europe Invest Group in Kazakhstan for the construction of a 50-MW wind power plant at the eastern margin of the Caspian Sea, worth \$110 million, he ended.



A smile is a curve that sets everything straight.
Phyllis Diller

LEARN ENGLISH

Avoiding Giving an Opinion

Ariel: I know you'll give me the **inside scoop**. What's going on between Sam and Matt?
Paolo: **You're asking the wrong person**.
Ariel: Don't be like that. You know both of them really well, and I know that Sam **confides** in you. Don't you think Matt is being **unreasonable**?
Paolo: I really couldn't say.
Ariel: Why are you being so **close-mouthed**? I'm sure you have an opinion.
Paolo: I've never **given it much thought**, to be honest, and I don't think it's **any of my business**.
Ariel: But they're both friends of yours. You must have at least **speculated on** what's happening. **It's only human**. Do you think Sam is going to leave Matt?
Paolo: **Your guess is as good as mine**. I really don't know anything and don't have an opinion **either way**!
Ariel: That's just not possible. Okay, okay, what do you think is going on between Michaela and Carlos?
Paolo: Ugh!

(Source: eslpod.com)

■ **Words & phrases**
inside scoop: special information that other people do not have
you're asking the wrong person: when someone says that they are telling you that they don't have any information about that situation or they don't know anything
confide: to tell someone you trust about personal things that you do not want other people to know
unreasonable: not fair or sensible
close-mouthed: not willing to say much because you are trying to keep a secret
give something thought: think carefully about something
any of my business: if something is not your business or none of your business, you should not be involved in it or ask about it
speculate on: to guess about the possible causes or effects of something, without knowing all the facts or details
it's only human: used to say that a particular feeling or way of behaving is normal and natural
your guess is as good as mine: used to tell someone that you do not know any more than they do about something
either way: used to say that something will be the same whichever of two things happens or is true

QUIZ OF THE DAY

156) What does the idiom mean?
Use some elbow grease.
a) hit something with your elbow
b) to use grease
c) try harder
(Quiz No. 155 answer: c)

PHRASAL VERB

Stick around

- **Meaning**: stay somewhere for some time
- **For example**: I'll stick around until the end of the parade.

ENGLISH PROVERB

Easier said than done

- **Explanation**: what is suggested sounds easy, but it is more difficult to actually do it



New dialysis machine gives diabetics in Iran hope for more life

SOCIETY TEHRAN — People suffering from diabetes would get a chance to live longer once the newly imported 5008 dialysis machine becomes operational, an official with Iran's Red Crescent Society (IRCS) said.
"The new machine would increase the patients' life span by 40 percent," Javad Fallah said during the unveiling ceremony of the 5008 dialysis machine in the 19th International Iran Health Exhibition which was held on May 15 to 18 in Tehran.
Emphasizing the minimal cost difference between the newly imported machine and the previous models Fallah noted that the new technology utilized in this machine is a great improvement for the diabetic pa-



tients who are in a critical condition, YJC reported on Wednesday.
The 5008 dialysis machine also reduces the possibility of heart diseases which results in less occupied beds in hospitals with patients who have developed heart diseases because of diabetes, he highlighted.
Owing to the financial supports of the medical equipment organization of IRCS the 5008 dialysis machine is bought, he said, adding, currently 50 percent of the backup services for the dialysis machines in Iran are being provided with IRCS.
Medical equipment organization of IRCS is also quite determined to manufacture hemodialysis products domestically for the next year.

Iranian, Iraqi border provinces sign environmental MOU



SOCIETY TEHRAN — Governor generals of Ilam Province, western Iran, and Wasit Governorate, eastern Iraq, inked a memorandum of understanding to provide environment protection for the two regions.
Ilam's Governor General Mohammadreza Morvarid and his Iraqi counterpart Malik Khalaf Wadi signed the MOU on Monday on the sidelines of a border press festival between Iran and Iraq, IRNA news agency reported.
By signing the agreement the two sides commit to boosting and ensuring valuable habitats in the region, securing

the biodiversity and genetic resources, taking anti-poaching measures, doing joint researches, and making arrangements for sustainable exploitation of the resources in the area.
Identifying the sites with tourist capacity, forming working groups to discuss ways of monitoring dust particles and controlling diseases shared between livestock and the wild and human and the wild, and following up the attempts made to register Kolag habitat, located in Ilam, as a transboundary protected area are among other articles of the MOU.

S. Korean firms sign 7 MOUs to build hospitals in Iran



SEOUL (Yonhap) — South Korean builders have signed a series of memorandums of understanding to build hospitals in Iran amid widening bilateral cooperation in the health care sector, the health ministry here said Wednesday.
Samsung C&T Corp., Hyundai Engineering & Construction Co. and four other companies signed seven MOUs with Iranian medical schools to build seven medical centers with a combined 6,000 beds in Tehran during a business fair held in the Iranian capital on Saturday and Sunday, according to the Ministry of Health and Welfare.

The ministry said the deals are expected to be worth US\$2 billion in total.
Although an MOU does not guarantee a final contract, the companies will be given priority in further negotiations, it added.
The MOUs came after a series of business deals signed earlier in the month during South Korean President Park Geun-hye's visit to the Islamic Republic.
In a summit with Park, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani also expressed his hope to more than quadruple the countries' bilateral trade from \$6.1 billion in 2015 to over \$30 billion in five years.

Health insurance coverage for suburban dwellers in progress

SOCIETY TEHRAN — Owing to the Health Ministry's efforts those living on the outskirts of the cities are being provided with health-care coverage, chairman for the Majlis social committee said.
Not long ago suburban residents were not insured, but now out of the population of 11 million inhabitants 8 million are covered with health care services so far, Abdolreza Azizi told YJC.

Azizi went on to say that by building clinics in these neighborhoods the residents can benefit the health care services provided with health insurances.
The chairman also pointed that currently addressing the problems of these suburban dwellers is a priority for all three branches.
"In case the budget allocated to solve these suburb areas dwellers is not sufficient we would increase the budgeted for sure," he noted.



How hosting a World Cup would cost nearly half of harmful drinking damages

(Special to Tehran Times)— In the 12 years (2010 to 2022) Qatar is reportedly spending \$200-billion to build its infrastructure and essentially a whole new country as they are going to host the biggest international football tournament in the world, harmful drinking inflicts \$375-billion of damage to the British Society (official UK government Statistics).
The availability of cheap alcohol has led to a rise in crime and anti-social behavior across the UK. It is possible to buy a can of lager for as little as 20 pence or a 2-litre bottle of cider for £1.69.
The British government conducted a comprehensive study in March 2010 and then drafted a 5-year plan called The Govern-



ment's Alcohol Strategy which contained the introduction of Minimum Unit Price (MUP) at 40 pence to tackle the cheap alcohol issue.
The office for National Statistics calculated that during 2013, drink killed 8,416 people in the UK – or one person every hour of every day.

The British Government Alcohol Strategy claims alcohol-related harm is now estimated to cost society (England) over £21 billion annually.
This is broken down as:
■ NHS costs, at about £3.5 billion per year (at 2009–10 costs)
■ Alcohol-related crime, at £11 billion per year (at 2010–11 costs)
■ Lost productivity due to alcohol, at about £7.3 billion per year (at 2009–10 costs, UK estimate)
■ Total Estimated Costs to British Society: £21.8 billion per year = \$ 31.2 billion
Total cost of building an entire infrastructure in Qatar; i.e. roads, rail, city of Lusail and World Cup venues:
■ Estimated at: \$200.00 billion

What Qatar spends in 12 years to build a whole new country and host a World Cup equates to 6 years and 5 months of alcohol-related harm to the society in the UK.
Alcohol related statistics for every 100,000 British citizen is as follows:
■ 2000 are admitted in hospital due to alcohol related issues
■ 1000 are victim of violence
■ 13,000 binge drink
■ 21,500 drink above the low-risk level
There was a 25% increase in liver-related disease, cost of dealing with which was just above £1.0 billion per year.
24% of the British public thinks drunk and rowdy behavior is a problem in their area (2001-2009 survey).

Applicants can sign up for the fourth international public health summer school

Applicants who are willing to take part in the fourth international public health summer school can sign up for the course.
Doctor Amirhossein Takian, associate dean for international affairs at the school of public health, Tehran University of Medical Sciences (TUMS), while emphasizing the importance of public health education, said "the foremost mission of this faculty is to provide the highest quality of educational services, to increase new and applied research in accordance with international and national needs, and collaborate in the development and analysis of policies in the healthcare system."
The head of the Iran international public health summer school (IPHS) steering committee added that "educational courses related to public health are held with the objective of introducing and attracting students to healthcare issues and to reach a practical solution."
He also mentioned that following the signing of an agreement with the school of public health (TUMS) the

event will be held in the history museum of Medical Faculty in order to inspire students and boost their interest in public health.
According to Ali Ganjizade, the executive director of IPHS, after three successful experiences of running Iran international public health summer school and one successful experience of the Iran public health winter camp (IPHSWintercamp16) with the aim of introducing participants to public health, this time the school has embarked on carrying out the 4th international public health summer school with a focus on social determinants of health, advocacy, epidemiology, environmental health and health policy.
While explaining the details of this educational course, Ganjizade noted that "in order to motivate students and increase their interest in public health issues, new and innovative educational methods such as story based learning, simulation, gamification, and game based learning have been utilized."
The environment has been designed in such a way

that participants will be able to do what a public health professional can do on a smaller scale and become familiar with the principles of making decisions in the healthcare system.
This year, choosing the history museum as the course venue, reflects the contents of this course, being a traditional and historical place, with a scientific background.
The summer school has two educational courses. The Distance learning course (DLC) lasting 5 weeks and with the intention of transferring a basic knowledge of public health will be held from July 2 to August 5 and the on Campus learning course (CLC) lasting one week and with the intention of applying the distance learning materials in a simulated environment will be held from August 12 to August 19.
Innovative methods have also been used in CLC such as video whiteboards, video lectures and forums.
Ganjizade added that medical students and all public health enthusiasts can visit the website www.iphs.ir to find more details about this event, and register at will.

Queiroz: It is now easier to qualify for the World Cup

SPORTS **d e s k** Iran national football team head coach Carlos Queiroz, who has previously announced his resignation, has made a U-Turn to continue his job ahead of the third round of the World Cup qualification in Asia.

It seems that the Portuguese coach has a good relation with Iran Football Federation newly-appointed president Mehdi Taj as he stated that it's now easier to qualify for the World Cup.

"As you know, I had handed my resignation to Iran Football Federation but after Mr. Taj was appointed as IFF president, we had multiple meetings and at the end we came to an agreement to continue our cooperation. Mr. Taj didn't accept my resignation at all and tried to solve the problems," Queiroz told reporters in a press conference.

"The 2018 World Cup will start for Iran from now (May 2016). We have to play in our first World Cup qualifier match in September against Qatar. In the next five months we will play five games which has potentially 15 points and in the next eight month this would be 21 points which could decide our qualify for the World Cup," Queiroz added.

"A couple of South Korean companies are 2018 World Cup sponsors while China has considered a \$50m budget for the World Cup preparation. I think there is no need to talk about Qatar as it's the 2022 World Cup host and has the required resources. We need everyone's support to face these Asian giants, as I told you before South Korea and Qatar are the favorites in this group and then it is Uzbekistan and China who are competing for the second place," The Portuguese coach added.

"Let me clearly describe the situation; our opponents have decent football pitches and great resources so they are 2-0 ahead, Qatar and China have been hired big players to play in their leagues so that would be



3-0, it has provided a fantastic condition for its coaches which will help the team improve and that will make it 4-0, they have no concern about the hotels, flights and the facilities which make it 5-0 but I will make every effort to have the best possible preparation to win this

battle 6-5 while the fans' support and the player's hard work can make this win even greater for us," Queiroz added.

Iran has been drawn in Group A alongside South Korea, Uzbekistan, Qatar, China and Syria.

Kordestani to carry Iran's flag at Rio Paralympics



SPORTS **d e s k** Eshrat Kordestani, member of women's sitting volleyball team, will carry Iran's flag at the Opening Ceremony of Rio 2016.

The Iranian women's sitting volleyball team qualified for the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games for the very first time, after reaching the final at the Incheon 2014

Asian Para Games.

Iran has been pitted against powerhouse China, USA and Rwanda in Pool B. Javelin thrower Abdolreza Jokar was Iran's flagbearer at the London 2012 Paralympics.

Rio 2016 Paralympics will be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil from September 7 to 18.

Nusratkhone Valiev appointed Iran judo coach



SPORTS **d e s k** Nusratkhone Valiev has been appointed as new head coach of Iran national team on Wednesday.

The Uzbekistani coach will be assisted by an Iranian coach Hamed Malek-Mohammadi in the national team.

Nusratkhone Valiev, who has coached Uzbekistan national team from 1992 to

1998, was a member of the Soviet Union coaching staff in the Barcelona 1992 Olympic Games.

The 58-year-old coach has worked with Iraq, Syria and India national teams as well.

Nusratkhone will coach three Iranian judokas Javad Mahjoub, Saeid Mollaei and Alireza Khojasteh in the 2016 Rio Olympics.

Sardar Azmoun rules out Persepolis move

SPORTS **d e s k** Iranian international striker Sardar Azmoun stated that he is not interested to join Persepolis and wants to continue his career in Europe.

"With respect to Persepolis football club and its fans I'm not going to play in Iran. My release clause is something around €6m to €8m and the Reds couldn't afford it. It's while I'm going to continue my career in Europe and hopefully move to a big club," Azmoun said.

Sardar, who is currently on loan from Rubin Ka-



zan, has been in top form this season as he scored six goals in the last five appearances for FC Rostov.

Rostov, who has dubbed as Russian Leicester City, has still the chance of winning the title as it's in second place two points behind CSKA Moscow with one game remaining.

According to reports in Russian media, Zenit St Petersburg is considering FC Rostov coach Kurban Berdyev as a successor for Portuguese Andre Villas Boas. If this happens Azmoun will definitely be one of Zenit's summer signings.

Iran's Ghoochannejhad on Heerenveen's Radar

Heerenveen is ready to enter the race for Iranian international striker Reza Ghoochannejhad in the summer.

The 28-year-old striker didn't renew his contract with Championship side Charlton Athletic.

Ghoochannejhad spent twelve years in the Eredivisie side Heerenveen's academy.

He has also played at Go Ahead Eagles, Cambuur, Sint-Truiden, Standard Liege and Al-Kuwait.

According to FeanOnline, NEC, FC Twente and FC Utrecht are also interested in signing Ghoochannejhad.

Media reports suggested that Ghoochannejhad would join a MLS club.

(Source: Tasnim)



Sharapova to face anti-doping hearing in London

Maria Sharapova will attend an International Tennis Federation anti-doping hearing in London on Wednesday, British media reported, with the Russian facing a possible ban of up to four years for failing a drugs test at the Australian Open.

The five-times grand slam champion stunned the world in March when she said she had returned a positive test for meldonium, a Latvian-made heart medication which was added to the World Anti-Doping Agency's (WADA's) banned list from Jan. 1.

Sharapova, the world's highest-paid sportswoman, claimed to have been taking meldonium on doctor's orders for 10 years and had failed to note that it had become a banned substance until hearing of her failed test at the



first grand slam of the year.

She was provisionally suspended on March 12 pending

the hearing.

Hundreds of athletes have tested positive for meldonium this year but WADA admitted last month that their bans might be overturned due to a lack of clear scientific information on how long the drug takes to be excreted from the body.

The drug's manufacturer said traces could remain in the body for several months depending on dosage, duration of treatment and sensitivity of testing methods.

The ITF's anti-doping program calls for a four-year suspension for a failed test but it can be reduced in various circumstances, such as for first-time offences or if the player shows no significant fault or negligence.

(Source: Reuters)

FOOTBALL

Dutch FA chief seen as possible candidate to replace Platini

Dutch football association chief man Michael van Praag emerged as a first possible candidate to replace disgraced Michel Platini as head of UEFA on Wednesday after European football's governing body announced a September presidential election.

UEFA's acting secretary general Theodore Theodoridis told a Dutch journalist that "somebody from your country expressed his intention" of standing during an executive committee meeting of European football's governing body.

Theodoridis appeared to be nodding in the direction of the 68-year-old van Praag who is chairman of the Dutch FA. Van Praag announced he was standing for the presidency of FIFA, the sport's international governing body, last year but withdrew one week before the election.

Theodoridis said the UEFA election would take place at an extraordinary congress in Athens on September 14 - meaning that UEFA will not have a president during its showpiece European championship in France in June and July.

Theodoridis said senior vice-president Angel Maria Villar would be responsible for presenting trophies in the meantime, starting with Wednesday's Europa League final between Liverpool and Sevilla.

Platini, a former French international regarded as one of the finest players of his generation, was one of the sport's most powerful figures until he was engulfed by the football scandal which has plagued FIFA.

The 60-year-old was banned, along with former FIFA president Sepp Blatter, over payment of two million Swiss francs (\$2.08 million) made to the Frenchman by FIFA with Blatter's approval in 2011 for work done a decade earlier.

FIFA's ethics committee said the payment, made at a time when Blatter was seeking re-election, lacked transparency and presented conflicts of interest. Both men denied wrongdoing.

Platini was initially suspended for eight years by the ethics committee, reduced to six by FIFA's own appeal committee and then four years by the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS).

UEFA said they were still waiting for a reply from FIFA on exactly what Platini could and could not do following his ban, especially with regards to Euro 2016 in the Frenchman's homeland.

"There is a grey zone and that grey zone needs to be clarified with FIFA, and we have to clarify what he can do and cannot do," UEFA's legal director Alasdair Bell said.

"It's only fair and reasonable for him to be told what the sanction means," Theodoridis, who ruled himself out of running for the presidency, praised Platini's eight years in charge of UEFA, although he did not want to comment on the case which led to his ban.

"Mr Platini was a president of UEFA for 8 years and according to the members was a very successful president for UEFA.

"I am not making any comment on what has happened since then." Asked if UEFA considered Platini to be a friend, Theodoridis replied: "How can you consider him an enemy?"

(Source: Reuters)

John Terry signs new one-year contract with Chelsea

Chelsea have announced that captain John Terry has signed a new one-year contract with the club, ending speculation over his future.

The 35-year-old had revealed in January that the club had not offered him a new contract - although Chelsea's position changed when they made contact with Terry and his agent prior to the final game of the Premier League season.

The defender, who had been offered a huge contract to move to China, was unsure of his future even after the 1-1 draw with Leicester on the final day, telling Chelsea's fans during an on-pitch address that he had told the club he wanted to stay although nothing had been resolved.

A vastly reduced first-team role and a salary of just £60,000 per week, when he had been offered five times that in China, were thought to be major sticking points. But now Terry will enter his 22nd year with Chelsea after the new deal was confirmed.

Terry said: "I am delighted to sign a new contract with the club. Everyone knows I'm Chelsea through and through.

"I am looking forward to next season under the new manager and hopefully we can make it a successful one. Also, a special mention to the fans for their continued support. You're the best in the world."

Antonio Conte was central to the decision, according to Chelsea, after discussions between the incoming coach, Terry, Roman Abramovich and the club's board.

The Italian will now continue a process started first by Rafa Benitez and then continued by Jose Mourinho in his second spell by carefully managing Terry's physical decline and restricting his playing time, even as he draws upon the huge leadership qualities which have made him one of Chelsea's best-loved players.

Terry has captained Chelsea to four Premier League titles, four FA Cups, winning another as a player in 2000, three League Cups, the Champions League in 2012 and the Europa League in 2013.

(Source: Eurosport)





Poem of the day

Except thy road through affliction pass,
None may reach the halting-station of mirth.
Hafez

Prayer Times

Noon:13:01 Evening: 20:26 Dawn: 4:16 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 5:56 (tomorrow)

■ **Managing Director:** Ali Asgari
■ **Editor-in-Chief:** Hassan Lasjerdi
■ **Editorial Dept.:** Fax: (+98(21) 88808214 editor@tehrantimes.com
■ **Switchboard Operator:** Tel: (+98 21) 43051000
■ **Advertisements Dept.:** Telefax: (+98 21) 43051450 ads@tehrantimes.com
■ **Public Relations Office:** Tel: (+98 21) 88805807
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NEWS IN BRIEF



Arthur Miller's "Price" comes to Iranian bookstores

CULTURE TEHRAN — The Persian version of U.S. playwright Arthur Miller's "The Price" has recently been released by Afraz Publications in Tehran.

Jafar Mirzai and Maryam Hosseini are the translators of the play, which is about family dynamics, the price of furniture and the price of one's decision.

Many others of Miller's plays, including "Death of a Salesman", "The Crucible" and "All My Sons", have previously been translated into Persian.



Theater troupes to pay tribute to Imam Khomeini

CULTURE TEHRAN — Several street theater troupes plan to perform plays on Imam Khomeini, the founder of the Islamic Republic, in a number of public places in Tehran from June 2 to 5.

The performances have been organized by the Art Bureau to commemorate the death anniversary of Imam Khomeini.

The program will take place in the vicinity of the mausoleum of Imam Khomeini and the courtyard of the City Theater Complex, and Imam Hussein Square.



Children's encyclopedia on history of Islam appears in Spanish

ART TEHRAN — "The Encyclopedia of the History of Islam" by Iranian children's book writer Ehsan Katebi has recently been published in Spanish.

Iran's El Faro Children and Young Adults Group has released the book in collaboration with Mehrab-e Qalam Publications in Tehran.

Embellished with vivid illustrations by Laleh Ziai, the book ("Enciclopedia de la Historia del Islam") chronicles a brief history of early Islam starting from the birth of Prophet Muhammad (S) in 570 CE.

El Faro, which specializes in children's literature, has published over 50 books by Iranian authors in Spanish and Portuguese. It is affiliated with the Oriental Cultural Foundation (Fundación Cultural Oriente), which is located in the Iranian city of Qom.

Over 100 million children and teens are estimated to live in Latin America, which is home to people who speak Spanish or Portuguese.



Iran to hold game design competition on liberation of Khorramshahr

ART TEHRAN — Iran's National Foundation for Computer Games (NFCG) plans to hold a video game design competition on the liberation of Khorramshahr.

In a call published on Wednesday, the foundation asked designers to participate in the competition, which will be held at the Iran Game Development Institute on May 21 and 22.

Winners will be announced on May 23, which also marks the 34th anniversary of recapturing Khorramshahr in the southwestern Iranian province of Khuzestan in 1982.

The city was captured by Iraqis on October 26, 1980 during the early months of the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war.



Parisians to see "Princess of Rome" at Club de l'Etoile

ART TEHRAN — Iranian director Hadi Mohammadian's animated movie "Princess of Rome", about the life of the Roman emperor's granddaughter, Malika, who gave birth to the 12th Imam of Shia Imam Mahdi (AS), will go on screen at Club de l'Etoile in Paris on May 22.

The Iranian cultural attaché's office and the Islamic Student Society in Paris have organized the screening for the birthday of Imam Mahdi (AS).

"Princess of Rome" produced by Hamed Jafari also shows how Malika arrived in Samarra, where she married Imam Hassan al-Askari (AS), the 11th Imam of the Shia.

Sabzevari poetry manifesto of Islamic Revolution: poet

ART TEHRAN — The 37-year-old poet Fazel Nazari has said that Hamid Sabzevari's poetry acted as the manifesto of the revolutionaries during the outbreak of the Islamic Revolution in 1979.

Nazari made the remarks during a ceremony organized by Tehran's Imam Ali (AS) Religious Arts Museum on Tuesday evening to honor 91-year-old Sabzevari who is suffering from Alzheimer's disease.

"Even if we hold a thousand other ceremonies to honor Mr. Sabzevari, we, as well as the current state of revolutionary art, will still remain indebted to him," he added.

"The revolutionaries had no manifesto or statement at the outbreak of the revolution. The best statement of the revolution was deeply embedded in our literature and the poems of literati such as Mr. Sabzevari," stated Nazari whose works have been praised at many of Iran's official cultural events.

Sabzevari attended the ceremony in a wheelchair pushed by his son. He was not able to speak to the audience, among which were a large number of literati and cultural figures, including poets Mostafa Rahmandust and Esmail Amini, and musician Hamid Shahangian.

"This is a great occasion for an artist who presents the happiness and grievances of his people in his own poems," Amini said.

Shahangian who has put some of Sabzevari's poems to music said, "He is undoubtedly the father of the Islamic Revolution poetry and no one can be deemed equal to him in the poetry of the revolution."

The ceremony came to an end with presenting some gifts to Sabzevari who is mostly known for works such



Hamid Sabzevari (C) attends a ceremony organized by Tehran's Imam Ali (AS) Religious Arts Museum on May 17, 2016 to honor 91-year-old poet. Art and Cultural Organization of Tehran Municipality Director Mahmud Salahi (L) and an unidentified person are also seen in the photo. (Mehri/Maryam Kamyam)

as "Khomeini, Oh Imami!" and "USA, USA, Shame on Your Deceits!".

"USA, USA, Shame on Your Deceits!" was performed by a chorus and solo tenor Esfandiar Qarabaghi after the occupation of the U.S. embassy in Tehran in 1979.

His poem "This Is the Call of Freedom from the Ori-

ent" was performed by singer Mohammad Golriz after the victory of the revolution.

Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei has called Sabzevari "a talented poet who always supports the achievements of the Islamic Revolution in his works."

Tehran exhibit to highlight sculptor Parviz Tanavoli's pop artworks

ART TEHRAN — Art expert and prominent sculptor Parviz Tanavoli, who pioneered his own version of pop art more than 50 years ago in Tehran, will display a few of his rarely-seen paintings and sculptures in an exhibition opening in Tehran's Shahrivar Gallery on Friday.

"This exhibit has been arranged to celebrate fifty years of pop art in Tanavoli's artworks. It also intends to highlight

the influence of pop art outside the western world," gallery director Amir-Hossein Zandi said in a press release published on Wednesday.

"Tanavoli held an exhibition of pop art in Tehran's Borges Gallery 50 years ago, and now the recent pop works by the artist will go on display in this exhibit", Zandi added.

The gallery will also showcase a number of Tanavoli's silk screen printings in

its other hall.

Best known as a sculptor, Tanavoli's expansive body of works includes painting, printmaking, ceramics, rugs and jewelry. The artist is also a highly-regarded collector, scholar and poet.

The exhibit named "Tanavoli and Fifty Years of Pop Art" will be running until June 17 at the gallery located at 7 Hormoz Dead End, North Khazar St., in the Elahieh neighborhood.



PICTURE OF THE DAY Tasnim/Mohammad Hassanzadeh



Vocalist Vadud Moazzenzadeh (L) performs with the Rah-Sama ensemble at Tehran's Vahdat Hall on May 17, 2016.

Tehran Municipality plans to introduce metropolis via art: official

CULTURE TEHRAN — The Tehran Municipality plans to introduce the metropolis to the world through the window of culture, Art and Cultural Organization of Tehran Municipality Director Mahmud Salahi said on Wednesday.

He made the remarks during the opening ceremony of the 1st Tehran Art and Culture Exhibition introduced to the world through the language of art at the the Mellat Cinema Complex.

"We will do our best to institutionalize all aspects of art in families in order to introduce Tehran to the world through the window of culture," he stated.

"The Statue of David's Voice", a sculpture by Mohammad Sarikhani, and the sarina, a stringed instrument crafted by Amir Nemat, were unveiled at the exhibition.

In addition, over 1000 artworks and cultural productions created by the organization over the past few years are on display at the exhibition, which will run until May 23.

Brazilian film team stage Cannes protest in support of Rousseff

CANNES, FRANCE (Reuters) — Members of the cast and crew of Brazilian film "Aquarius", which premiered in the main competition at the Cannes Film Festival on Tuesday, staged a protest in support of President Dilma Rousseff on the red carpet.

Brazil's Senate voted last Thursday to put leftist Rousseff on trial for breaking budget laws, automatically suspending her from office for up to 180 days as the trial takes place. Rousseff denies wrongdoing and says she is the victim of a coup.

As they reached the top of the steps of the red carpet at the Palais des Festivals main building, director Kleber Mendonca Filho and his team unveiled protest signs.

Mendonca Filho's read: "Un coup d'Etat a eu lieu au Bresil" (A coup has been staged in Brazil). Other members of the cast and crew also held signs, with one saying: "54,501,118 votes set on fire".

They were escorted into the building by festival director Thierry Fremaux without further incident.

De Niro takes boxing drama "Hands of Stone" to Cannes

CANNES (Reuters) — Oscar winner Robert De Niro premiered his latest movie, boxing drama "Hands of Stone", at the Cannes Film Festival on Monday, walking the glamorous red carpet on the French Riviera.

The movie looks at the life of famed Panamanian fighter Roberto Duran, portrayed by Edgar Ramirez, and his trainer Ray Arcel, played by De Niro.

"Hands of Stone", which also stars singer Usher, is featuring out of competition at the 69th Cannes Film Festival.

