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Zarif urges more actions by U.S. in implementing JCPOA

POLITICAL TEHRAN — Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said on Saturday that the U.S. should take more actions in removing impediments in banking transactions with Iran.

"We have not reached what we should have reached and more actions should be taken by the U.S.," Zarif said during a joint press conference in Tehran with Murray McCully, the foreign minister of New Zealand.

Most international economic, financial and energy sanctions on Iran were lifted in mid-January 2016, when the last year's nuclear agreement took effect.

However, foreign firms — especially European banks — have been reluctant to start or resume business in Iran because of the risk that they will run afoul of continued U.S. sanctions on Iran.

According to the Wall Street Journal, those sanctions include a ban on dollar-denominated transactions.

Iran has been insisting that the U.S. hasn't done enough to encourage banks to do business with Iran. Several European banks paid huge fines in recent years for breaching U.S. sanctions.

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Limits in transferring money in euro lifted: Iran

POLITICAL TEHRAN — A top Iranian Foreign Ministry official said on Sunday that restrictions on Iran for transferring money in euro have been removed.

Hamid Baedinejad, director of the Political and International Affairs Department, said Iran is seeking removal of all the "banking and financial restrictions" against the Iranian institutions and natural and legal persons.

Writing on his Telegram channel, Baedinejad cited conversion of \$750 million to euro as the first installment of Indian corporations' debts to Iran as an example of removing restrictions.

Iran and the 5+1 group - the United States, Britain, France, China and Russia plus Germany - finalized the text of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) in Vienna in July 2015.

Health minister to attend World Health Assembly

SOCIETY TEHRAN — Iranian Health Minister Hassan Qazizadeh-Hashemi flew to Geneva on Sunday to attend the 69th World Health Assembly which starts working today, IRNA reported.

One of the main goals pursued by the World Health Assembly is "sustainable development". Besides other health issues, the assembly will also work on HIV/AIDS, viral hepatitis and sexually transmitted infections. Qazizadeh-Hashemi is scheduled to meet with the ministers of Switzerland, Germany, Finland, Sweden, Austria, India, South Korea and Algeria. The World Health Assembly is the decision-making body of the World Health Organization. The main functions of the World Health Assembly are to determine the policies of the Organization, appoint the director-general, supervise financial policies, and review and approve the proposed program budget. The assembly is held annually in Geneva.

Correction

The headline of the news story in the Thursday issue has been refilled to replace the first "nations" with states.

Modi on landmark visit to Tehran, contracts on target

POLITICAL TEHRAN — Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in Tehran at the head of a high-ranking economic and political team on Sunday for an

official two-day visit, IRNA reported.

According to Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Asia-Pacific Affairs Ebrahim Rahimpour, the visit is the first one by the

highest Indian official in 14 years.

"Neighborhood is key to opening ties with regional countries and India is no exception."

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Iranian Army stages military drills

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Iran still locked out of global financial system: central bank chief

EU and U.S. failing to fully comply with commitments made under landmark nuclear deal, says Valiollah Seif

The governor of Iran's central bank has said obstacles stopping Iranian banks from rejoining the global financial system show that the U.S. and the EU are failing to fully comply with their commitments under the landmark nuclear deal.

Four months after the lifting of sanctions against Iran, big

European banks remain reluctant to handle Iranian payments despite recent efforts by the U.S. secretary of state, John Kerry, to reassure them that dealing with Tehran is now permissible.



Valiollah Seif told the Guardian that western governments need to translate their words into action, playing a more active role in making sure that banks are confident they will not be punished for reestablishing ties with his country. "Some movement

and western officials have made some positive pronouncements, but banks need tangible reassurances that they would be immune from baseless allegations [of sanctions breaches]," he said on Thursday on the sidelines of the Euromoney Iran Conference in London.

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India pays part of Iran oil dues ahead of Modi visit

Indian refiners have cleared part of the \$6.4 billion owed to Iran for crude oil imports in euros through Turkey's Halkbank, three sources privy to the payment said on Saturday.

This is the first payment to Iran by India since the lifting of Western sanctions against the Persian Gulf nation earlier this year and came just ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit which began on Sunday.

State refiner Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd paid \$500 million while Indian Oil Corp has settled \$250 million

through the Union Bank of India, the sources said.

The refiners had been holding back 55 percent of the oil payments to Iran after the route to make payments through Halkbank was stopped in 2013, although payment of some of those funds was allowed after an initial temporary deal to lift the sanctions.

It is not yet known when the second installment will be paid, the sources said.

India is one of the biggest buyers of Iranian crude, and is set to import at least

400,000 barrels per day (bpd) from Iran in the year from April 1. But it built up a backlog of payments when Iran was under sanctions.

Modi is making a first trip to Iran since he took office in 2016, aimed at deepening energy ties. During the visit, India will sign a contract to build and operate the port of Chabahar on the southern Iranian coast that is aimed at boosting connectivity with Afghanistan and central Asia.

(Source: Reuters)

Jesus joins Gostaresh Foolad

SPORTS Iranian football club Gostaresh Foolad signed Fernando de Jesus Ribeiro from Esteghlal Khuzestan on Sunday.

The Brazilian 31-year-old shot stopper has joined Gostaresh on a one-year contract.

Fernando de Jesus Ribeiro played a pivotal

role in the Esteghlal Khuzestan's surprise challenge for the Iran Professional League title.

He kept 17 clean sheets in the 2015-16 season, conceding 14 goals.

Gostaresh Foolad finished in ninth place in the table, 18 points adrift of IPL champion Esteghlal Khuzestan.



Iran won't freeze oil output before OPEC meeting

Iran, which is due to meet with OPEC partners on June 2, has no plan to join any freeze in crude output as the country won't be done ramping up oil exports to pre-sanctions levels before the second half of the year, the head of the National Iranian Oil Company said.

The country's oil exports will likely surpass 2.2 million barrels a day by the middle of the summer, Rokneddin Javadi, managing director of NIOC, told Mehr news agency. Iran last exported at this level before

sanctions were imposed on the country for its nuclear program more than four years ago. Sanctions were eased in January, and Iranian officials said they won't discuss any output freeze or cut before reaching pre-sanctions levels.

"The government has no plans for the time being to freeze or interrupt its increase in oil output and exports based on plans that are being carried out," Javadi said. "In the current context, the oil ministry and the government have issued no policy or

program to halt the increase in production and exports and so, the country's plans to increase crude output continues."

Iran's oil production rose to pre-sanctions levels in April, pumping 3.56 million barrels a day -- a rate last reached in November 2011 before trade restrictions were imposed, the International Energy Agency said May 12. Exports soared more than 40 percent to 2 million barrels a day in April -- near pre-sanctions levels, according to the IEA.

(Source: Bloomberg)

Taliban leader killed in drone strike

By staff & agencies

A senior commander of the Afghan Taliban confirmed on Sunday that the extremist group's leader, Mullah Mohammed Akhtar Mansour, has been killed in a U.S. drone strike.

Mullah Abdul Rauf, who recently reconciled with Mansour after initially rebelling against his ascension to the leadership, told The Associated Press that Mansour died in the strike late Friday "in the Afghanistan-Pakistan border area."

Afghanistan's intelligence agency confirmed Sunday that Mansour had been killed.

Earlier in the day Afghan Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah said that Mansour is "more than likely" dead.

Speaking live on television as he chaired a Cabinet meeting, Abdullah said Mansour's death would have a positive impact on attempts to bring peace to Afghanistan, where the Taliban have been waging an insurgency for 15 years.

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Iran cinema executive, Cannes president meet

ART TEHRAN — Cinema Organization of Iran (COI) Director Hojjatollah Ayyubi and Cannes Film Festival President Pierre Lescure have met on the sidelines of the prestigious international event.



Cannes Film Festival President Pierre Lescure (R) holds a Persian calligraphy work that he received from COI Director Hojjatollah Ayyubi (L) during a meeting in Cannes, France.

"The great success of Iranian cinema over the past few years has regained the trust of the people," Ayyubi said at the meeting with Lescure, the COI announced in a press release on Saturday. "The people's matchless warm reception for Iranian films lived up the cinema of the country," he added.

He called the emergence of young, promising Iranian filmmakers the most significant current event in Iranian cinema and added, "The humanistic view of young Iranian filmmakers and their talent and genius have earned many achievements for Iranian cinema in the international arena."

He stressed Iran's readiness to expand ties with Cannes and invited Lescure to visit the country. The invitation was warmly received by Lescure who praised Iran for its ancient rich civilization and culture.

He called the invitation "a great opportunity to become familiar with the unique cinema of the region and an unparalleled strong culture and civilization in the Middle East."

Ayyubi spent last week in France attending the Cannes Film Festival, which wrapped up Sunday.

MEDIA MONITOR



Iranian Army stages military drills

TEHRAN — The Iranian Army on Sunday launched military drills dubbed “Beit al-Moqaddas 28” in Isfahan province.

On the first phase of the drills the army test-fired a number of domestically produced missiles including Nazeat and Fajr, IRNA reported.

In the second phase of the drills, army's elite forces namely “65 Nohed Airborne Brigade” will exercise military tactics.



‘West’s double standards causing discontent in region’

TEHRAN — Iran’s Ambassador to Russia, Mehdi Sanaei, has censured certain Western countries for their double-standard approach toward terrorism, saying their policy has provoked discontent among Middle East nations, Tasnim reported.

Speaking at the International Likhachov Scientific Conference at St. Petersburg University of the Humanities and Social Sciences on Friday, Sanaei emphasized that the West is not supporting popular demands in some Middle East countries.

The Iranian diplomat went on to say that foreign intervention in the internal affairs of some countries in the Middle East have deteriorated regional problems, adding that the problems should be addressed by regional countries not others.



Interior minister visits Poland

TEHRAN — The Iranian interior minister paid an official visit to Poland on Sunday as part of efforts to boost bilateral relations between the Islamic Republic and the Eastern European country in various spheres.

Heading a high-ranking delegation, Abdolreza Rahmani Fazli was scheduled to meet senior Polish officials, including his counterpart Mariusz Blaszczak, the YJC reported.

Officials from the two countries planned to sign a 9-article agreement to boost Tehran-Warsaw co-operation in the fight against organized crime.



Japanese PM due in Iran in near future

TEHRAN — Japan’s prime minister will travel to Tehran in the near future, according to director of the presidential office for political affairs.

Hamid Abutalebi announced Shinzo Abe’s upcoming trip in a commentary on Twitter on Sunday.



IRGC accuses U.S. of running proxy wars in West Asia

TEHRAN — The strategy of the U.S. is to ensure a continuation of proxy wars in West Asia, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps said in an announcement.

The announcement was made on the occasion of the anniversary of the liberation of Khorramshahr from the Iraqi grip in 1982, Fars reported on Sunday.

Aided by Israel, the announcement read, the U.S. intends to keep the Islamic world occupied with numerous afflictions by creating chaos in the region.



Intelligence agents stop 2 terrorists on their way to Tehran

TEHRAN — Intelligence forces have recently captured two terrorists from Daesh and another Takfiri group who were trying to reach the capital Tehran, according to General Abtahi, the intelligence director of Hamadan Province.

The official said the two were spotted and arrested in Hamadan, the IRIB reported on Sunday. Abtahi did not provide any further details.



German politician urges close cooperation with Iran

TEHRAN — Bijan Jirsaraei, former head of the Iran-Germany parliamentary friendship group, on Sunday urged the Western countries to start close cooperation with Iran on regional issues.

Jirsaraei made the remarks in a trans-Atlantic meeting on “Iran-Saudi Arabia Conflict and the West”, IRNA reported.

The West should not repeat the past mistakes towards Iran and it should establish close cooperation with Tehran on resolution of regional conflicts, the German politician said.

Araqchi says Riyadh’s severance of ties with Tehran a ‘miscalculation’

POLITICAL TEHRAN — Abbas d e s k Araqchi termed on Sunday Saudis’ decision to sever ties with Tehran a “miscalculation,” rejecting the two as regional rivals, Fars news agency reported.

The deputy foreign minister for legal and international affairs said this in his speech at the Center for International Public Policy Studies in Japan.

“We (Iranians) see Iran and Saudi Arabia in no regional rivalry. Both are key players in the Middle East,” he was quoted as saying in the session.

According to the top diplomat, with Tehran and Riyadh in peaceful coexistence, counterterrorism attempts will be more likely to bear fruit.

“Extremism and terrorism are common challenges of our region which demand mutual understanding and joint approach shown by all players.”

This is not the first time Iranian officials are extending conciliatory hands to Saudi.

Speaking at the Munich Security Conference event in Germany in 2016, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammed Javad Zarif said he had a simple message: “We need to work together.”

Saudi Arabia severed diplomatic relations with Iran in January 2016, escalating the regional crisis that erupted after the execution of the Shiite cleric Sheik Nimr Baqr al-Nimr initiated outrage among Shites across the Middle East and beyond.

In retaliation to the execution, Riyadh’s diplomatic posts in Tehran and Mashhad were stormed by angry mobs.

Prior to the execution, Iran and Saudi Arabia were at loggerheads over the Mina hajj Stampede in 2015 in which more than 464 Iranian nationals were killed.

Another side to Tehran-Riyadh relations is their strong divergence over the future of the Syrian government, setting the region’s two biggest powerhouses on a collision course fiercer than ever.



While Iran has been backing a political settlement for the Syrian crisis, the Saudi kingdom has been insisting on an “Assad must go” policy.

U.S. ‘vague behavior’ slows implementation of nuclear deal, Iran complains

POLITICAL TEHRAN — Iranian Supreme National Security Council secretary Ali Shamkhani said on Saturday that the U.S. double standard and “vague behavior” are the main reasons behind a slowdown in implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, commonly called nuclear deal.

Shamkhani made the remarks during a meeting with New Zealand Foreign Minister Murray McCully in Tehran.

According to the terms of the JCPOA, Iran must limit its nuclear activities and instead all economic and financial sanctions against Iran be lifted. Though the deal went into effect on January some financial restrictions still remain in place.

Shamkhani said despite efforts being made by Iran and the other signatories to the JCPOA to speed up implementation of the deal the U.S. is manifesting a vague behavior.

The top security official also said the nuclear deal can

build trust between Iran and “non-hostile” countries.

He also said that there are good opportunities for Iran and New Zealand to expand cooperation in various spheres.

Elsewhere, Shamkhani described extremism and terrorism as “main threats” to international security and said an “international determination” is required to root out terrorism.

Adopting a “selective approach” is a “blight” to campaign on terrorism, the security official noted.

He said crisis in Syria can only be settled through inter-Syrians talks and there is no military solution to the conflict.

Shamkhani who served as defense chief from 1997 to 2005 also called on the international community to pay attention to the “war crimes” in Yemen.

For his part, McCully called Iran a “powerful” and “influential” country in the Middle East and called for expansion of ties in various areas.



He also highlighted the importance of fighting terrorism.

Zarif urges more actions by U.S. in implementing JCPOA

TEHRAN — Zarif said the statement issued on Thursday by the chief diplomats from the U.S., EU, France, Germany and Britain indicates the fact that these countries are committed to the nuclear deal.

However, “practical action” is required to be taken in this respect, he added.

On Thursday, during a meeting in Brussels between U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, European Union foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini and their

counterparts from France, Germany and the UK, the governments pledged to provide more information and assistance to encourage companies to resume business ties with Tehran.

“We will not stand in the way of permitted business activity with Iran and we will not stand in the way of international firms or



financial institutions’ engaging with Iran, as long as they follow all applicable laws,” they said in a joint statement.

Zarif said a tendency by foreign enterprises to cooperate with Iran has been “remarkable” and the economic and political delegations’ visits to Iran from

various countries shows the international community’s willingness to cooperate with Iran.

For his part, McCully said economic and political relations between the two countries will be expanded.

He also said that New Zealand makes efforts to be “active” at the UN Security Council as an “effective” and “constructive” actor on issues related to the regional developments and the ones that challenge the UN Security Council.

Rezaee: Civilizational clash between Islamic Revolution and global arrogance

‘Iran’s main strategy is to turn threats into opportunities’

POLITICAL TEHRAN — Mohsen Rezaee has said confrontation between the Iranian Islamic Revolution and the global arrogance is civilizational and fundamental in nature, continuing for a long time.

The secretary of the Expediency Council made the remarks in a gathering on Sunday, Tasnim reported.

Proving a background to the ongoing clash between the two camps, the former Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) commander listed four confrontational periods of violence and terror, post-war détente, threats and sanctions, and infiltration and war of coalitions since the 1979 Revolution.

The first confrontation episode when the revolution was in its infancy was characterized by violence, terror, and war, Rezaee noted, adding learnings from the bumpy course helped tackle security and defensive weaknesses.

During détente years, Americans did their utmost to drag Iran into political isolation, pressuring the country to sound the retreat on its revolutionary causes and values, Rezaee stated, lamenting weak performance.

“Threats of the era were political and diplomatic in nature and unfortunately, we did not obtain great achievements.”

A distinction of the third confrontational wave, according to Rezaee, a scholar of Imam Hossein University, was a focus on the economic sector.

“Embargoes on trade, sailing of oil, and imports and exports led to formation of an economic blockade against the Islamic Revolution.”

While the golden opportunity could be grabbed in a best possible way, true heroes of the battle were the Iranian people, the veteran politician reminded, adding “the Supreme Leader outlined tents of resistance economy to vaccinate our economy against sanctions.”

The fourth confrontational experience is a “war of coalitions,” which is driving the country into a regional face-to-face with regional countries, the official noted.

“A war of coalitions means a Saudi-backed regional coalition which resulted in the passage of four articles in



the final document issued by the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.”

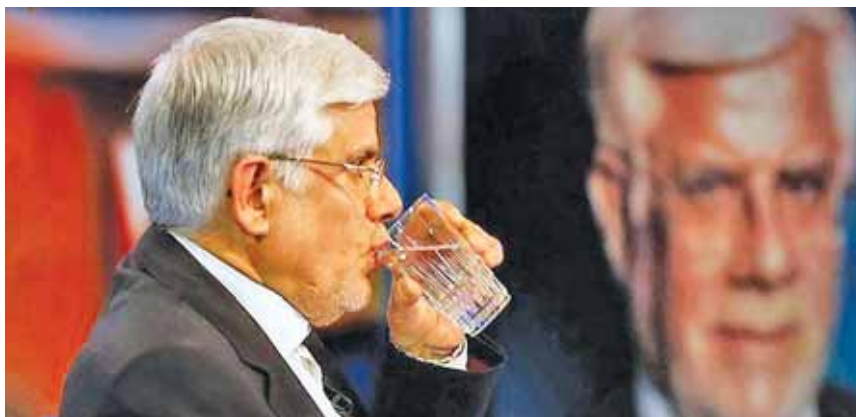
Also, the battle of coalitions has been exacerbated by the signing of the nuclear deal between Iran and global powers as well as by the new situation Iran is dealing with in the Middle East, Rezaee said.

Reformist Aref says seeks all hands on deck in next parliament

POLITICAL TEHRAN — Mohammad Reza Aref has laid emphasis on seeking a “participatory approach” in the upcoming parliament, saying managing the Majlis is more than presiding over the legislative body.

The reformist heavyweight made the remarks in a recent hour-long interview with the Shargh daily in reply to a question on the strategy adopted by the figure and his parliamentary bloc known as “Hope” to cooperate with other parliamentary rivals.

A major parliamentary rival will be the principlist faction, some of whose members are opposed to a policy of appeasement with the West and not in too much harmony with the Rouhani administration.



“Our motto is interaction and participation. I insist on participation both with the government and within the Majlis,” he

was quoted as saying.

The former vice president further denounced any monopolization at

management levels in the Majlis, calling for participation of all parliamentary blocs.

Aref is seen to be the main rival of the incumbent Parliament speaker Ali Larjani who won a re-election in the religious city of Qom, coming second.

Head of the reformist bloc secured the heaviest share of public backing in the metropolis of Tehran in the February parliamentary elections.

Aref had previously vowed to seek change of tack in the upcoming parliament, citing people’s hope for a different parliament.

Also he had called for more harmony between the upcoming parliament and government to address issues as unemployment, inflation, etc.

Iraqi army tells residents of ISIL-held Fallujah to prepare to leave

ISIL commanders fleeing Iraq town en masse

By staff & agencies

Iraq's army has asked residents to prepare to leave the ISIL (Daesh)-held city of Fallujah, state TV reported on Sunday, in a possible indication of an offensive.

The army "is asking the citizens that are still in Fallujah to be prepared to leave the city through secured routes that will be announced later," the channel said.

Fallujah is a city in the Iraqi province of Al Anbar, located roughly 69 kilometers (43 mi) west of Baghdad. In January 2014, a variety of sources reported that the city was controlled by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) terrorist group.

Meanwhile, Senior commanders from the Daesh terrorist group have reportedly started fleeing the town of Karma in Iraq's beleaguered western province of Anbar in masse as Iraqi security forces are making headway toward the area.

Iraqi military commander Colonel Mahmoud Morzi al-Jumali announced that the terrorist commanders have begun escaping from the town, which is located 48 kilometers (30 miles) west of the capital, Baghdad, and heading toward an unknown location in Anbar Province, Lebanon's al-Ahed news website reported.



non's al-Ahed news website reported.

In another event, at least 35 Daesh terrorists have turned themselves in to Iraqi security forces deployed to the outskirts of the city of Fallujah, which is located roughly 69 kilometers (43 miles) west of Baghdad and is held by Daesh.

A security source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the development

attests to the panic, confusion and serious cracks within the ranks of Daesh.

Separately, Iraqi security forces together with Popular Mobilization units retook control of a strategic highway on the outskirts of Trebil Village, which lies in Anbar Province and on the Iraq-Jordan border, on Friday.

Violence has plagued the northern and western parts of Iraq ever since

Daesh Takfiris launched an offensive in the country in June 2014 and took control of portions of Iraqi territory.

The militants have been committing crimes against all ethnic and religious communities in Iraq, including Shias,

Sunnis, Kurds, Christians and others. Iraqi army soldiers and fighters from allied Popular Mobilization units have been fighting to win back militant-held regions.

Salahuddin bombing kills 10

At least ten people were killed in a bomb attack in Iraq's Salahuddin Province, north of the capital, Baghdad, security sources say.

A terrorist armed with an explosive device carried out the bombing outside the police headquarters in the town of Dajil, al-Zahra region, Sumer News Agency quoted an Iraqi Interior Ministry spokesman as saying.

An unnamed security source said 10 people were killed and more than a dozen others wounded when the assailant was stopped by an officer and blew up the device.

The Iraqi Interior Ministry, however, has released a different count putting the casualty numbers at three killed and eight wounded.

Taliban leader killed in drone strike

Mullah Mohammed Akhtar Mansour posed threat to U.S. troops, peace: Kerry



Mansour was "the main figure preventing the Taliban joining the peace process," Abdullah said. "From the day he took over the Taliban following the death of Mullah Omar, he intensified violence against ordinary citizens, especially in Afghanistan."

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, speaking in Myanmar Sunday, repeatedly referred to Mansour in the past tense.

Mansour, he said "posed a continuing imminent threat to U.S. personnel in Afghanistan, Afghan civilians, Afghan security forces" and members of the U.S./NATO coalition.

He said the air strike on Mansour "sends a clear message to the world that we will continue to stand with our Afghan partners."

"Peace is what we want, Mansur was a threat to that effort," Kerry said. "He also was directly opposed to peace negotiations and to the reconciliation process. It is time for Afghans to stop fighting and to start building a real future together."

Mansour formally led the Taliban after the death was announced last summer of Mullah Mohammad Omar, the movement's founder.

Mansour, Mullah Omar's deputy, concealed Mullah Omar's death for more than two years, and ran the Taliban in his name until the death was revealed by the Afghan government.

The revelation caused wide fissures in the movement that Mansour worked hard to mend.

Mullah Rauf was an early detractor of Mansour's but decided earlier this year to declare loyalty to him in the interest of unifying the movement.

Earlier, the U.S. Department of Defense said a drone strike had targeted Mansour "in a remote area of the

Afghanistan-Pakistan border region."

Afghan officials, who spoke on the condition that they not be named as they were not authorized to speak to media on the subject, said the drone strike took place in Pakistan's Baluchistan province, near the village of Ahmad Wal.

The Afghan government has long accused the Pakistani authorities of harboring and supporting the Afghan Taliban.

The drone strike targeted Mansour's vehicle which was carrying Mansour and one other person at the time, a U.S. military source said.

Another Taliban source identified the driver as Muhammad Azam Hasanai, and said the vehicle the two men were traveling in was completely destroyed.

After taking office in 2014, Ghani prioritized appeasing the Pakistani authorities in the hope that they would encourage the Taliban to participate in a dialogue aimed at ending the war.

Overtures to Islamabad failed, however, and earlier this year Mansour's Taliban said that they rejected peace talks and would not participate.

A four-country process with Afghanistan, Pakistan, China and the United States appears to have floundered, with Kabul refusing to send a delegation to the most recent round of talks, sending only the ambassador to Islamabad.

A senior Afghan official, who also spoke only on condition of anonymity, said Mansour controlled a substantial financial empire, largely built on smuggling drugs produced in southern Afghanistan's Helmand province. Different Taliban factions have recently fought over control of smuggling routes, the official said, an indication that the group's ideological discipline and unity was slipping.



"When they started fighting for power, that was the erosion of the legitimacy of their own rank and file," he said.

The official said there had been a recent shift in the balance of power from Mansour to his deputy, Surajuddin Haqqani, a leader of the notoriously brutal Haqqani network. It is not clear, however, which commander or faction will now take over the leadership of the group.

Mullah Mohammad Yaqub, the son of Taliban founder Mullah Omar, is popular, charismatic and believed to favor participation in a peace talks. He controls the Taliban's military commissions in 15 of Afghanistan's 34 provinces and, like Rauf, recently reconciled with Mansour.

Cameron says would meet Trump despite 'dangerous' Muslim comments

British Prime Minister David Cameron said on Sunday he would be prepared to meet U.S. presidential candidate Donald Trump, but kept up his criticism of the Republican's proposed ban on Muslims entering the United States, calling it "very dangerous".

In December Cameron called Trump, potentially the next leader of Britain's closest ally, "divisive, stupid and wrong" for calling for the ban. Trump fired back, saying he would probably not have a

good relationship with Cameron.

But, amid signs that both sides are backing away from the standoff, Cameron told ITV's "Peston on Sunday" show he would meet the property mogul if he came over before the U.S. election.

"American presidential candidates have made a habit of coming through the UK, and so if that happens I'd be very happy to (meet Trump)," Cameron said.

He said that Trump's call for a tem-



porary ban on Muslims travelling was "a very dangerous thing to say ... as well as a divisive and wrong one."

Trump last week appeared to row back, saying he expected to have "a good relationship" with Cameron. On Friday he said Cameron had invited him to London - though Cameron's team later said no invite had been extended.

(Source: Reuters)

Sisi says all scenarios possible in EgyptAir crash

Egypt sends submarine to hunt for crashed jet

Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi urged the media on Sunday not to speculate about the cause of an EgyptAir plane crash which killed all 66 people on board, and said all scenarios are still being considered.

In a speech he gave at the opening of a fertilizer plant, Sisi said the investigation into the cause of the crash could take a long time but that no one could hide the facts.

"Until now all scenarios are possible. So please, it is very important that we do not talk and say there is a specific scenario," Sisi told assembled ministers and MPs.

Egypt deployed a submarine on Sunday to hunt for the EgyptAir plane that crashed in deep Mediterranean waters, President Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi said, warning investigations into the disaster would take time.

In his first public remarks on Thursday's crash of the Airbus 320 jet, which killed all 66 people on

board, Sisi also said all possible scenarios were still being considered and cautioned against rushing to conclusions.

"Search equipment has moved today from the oil ministry, they have a submarine that can reach 3,000 metres under water," he told assembled ministers and members of parliament at the opening of a fertiliser plant in the port city of Damietta.

"It moved today in the direction of the plane crash site because we are working hard to salvage the black boxes".

Egypt has said its navy has so far found human remains, wreckage and the personal belongings of passengers floating in the Mediterranean about 290 km (180 miles) north of Alexandria, but is still searching for the plane's two black box recorders that could provide valuable evidence on the cause of the crash.

Waters in the area of the Mediterranean under search could be 3,000 metres deep, which would place the black box locator beacons on the edge of their detectable range from the surface.

Shortly before it disappeared off radar screens, the plane sent a series of warnings indicating that smoke had been detected on board, French investigators said on Saturday.

The signals did not indicate what caused the smoke or fire but they offered the first clues as to what unfolded in the moments before the crash.

"Until now all scenarios are possible. So please, it is very important that we do not talk and say there is a specific scenario," Sisi said.

"This could take a long time but no one can hide these things. As soon as the results are out people will be informed."

(Source: Reuters)

NEWS

Turkey's incoming PM Yildirim says new constitution top priority

Turkey's incoming prime minister said his new government's top priority would be a new constitution to create an executive presidency, a move that would give President Tayyip Erdogan the broad powers he has long sought.

Binali Yildirim also told a special congress of the ruling AK Party on Sunday that he would continue the fight against ISIL terrorist group and Kurdish militants at home and in Syria, saying the change in leadership would not affect the campaign.

"The problems of this nation and the love of this nation are the president's responsibility," he said. "The new constitution will be for an executive presidential system."

Yildirim, the current transport minister and a close ally of Erdogan for two decades, was the sole candidate for party head, and therefore the next premier.

He will replace Ahmet Davutoglu who announced that he would step down this month following weeks of public tension with Erdogan.

The official vote is due later in the day, and Yildirim is expected to speak again once he is elected as party head.

A co-founder with Erdogan of the AKP, Yildirim has been the driving force behind major infrastructure projects in Turkey which were one of the pillars of the party's electoral successes during its first decade in power.

He has been seen as someone who will help pursue two of Erdogan's biggest priorities - an executive presidency and the fight against militants of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) in the largely Kurdish southeast.

Erdogan and his supporters see an executive presidency, akin to the system in the United States or France, as a guarantee against the fractious coalition politics that hampered the government in the 1990s.

His opponents, including some sceptics within the AKP, say he is merely furthering his own ambition.

Yildirim was elected as a deputy for Istanbul in November 2002 when the AKP won its first election. He was appointed transport, maritime and communications minister, a post which he then almost continuously held in successive governments.

His ties to Erdogan date back to the 1990s when Yildirim, educated in shipbuilding and marine sciences, was in charge of a

high-speed ferry company in Istanbul, where Erdogan was mayor.

(Source: Reuters)

Top U.S. commander for the Middle East visited Syria

The top U.S. military commander for the Middle East made a surprise visit to northern Syria to witness efforts to build up local forces in the fight against ISIL terrorist group, officials said.

General Joseph Votel, head of U.S. Central Command (Centcom), met U.S. military advisers working with Syrian Arab fighters, a Centcom spokesman said.

He also met leaders of the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), the spokesman said, without providing further details.

During the secret trip, which lasted several hours, the Centcom commander visited a handful of locations, CNN reported as it accompanied Votel, the highest-ranking U.S. military official to travel to Syria since its civil conflict began in 2011.

U.S. special operations forces are helping train fighters in Syria to combat ISIL as Washington leads a coalition of countries in an air war against the extremists in Iraq and Syria.

ISIL has seized swathes of territory in Syria and Iraq to create a self-styled "caliphate." Its leader, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, has received pledges of allegiance from extremist groups around the world.

The United States has roughly 200 advisers on the ground in Syria, but no combat units. Votel's visit comes as the first of 250 more U.S. special operations forces are beginning to arrive.

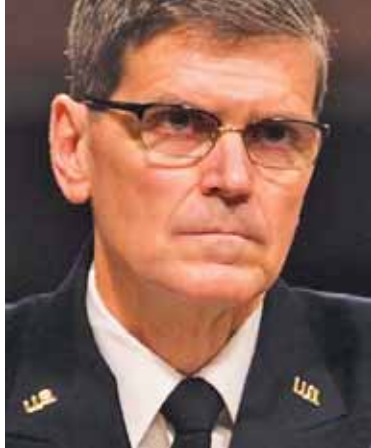
Kurds play a dominant role in the U.S.-backed SDF, providing the core of the forces that have pushed back ISIS in the country's northeast.

The SDF has a total of about 25,000 Kurdish fighters and about 5,000 Arab fighters.

Washington is pushing to bring more Arab forces into the group. The Syrian war erupted in early 2011 after Assad's forces launched a brutal crackdown on anti-government protests, and has since claimed more than 270,000 lives.

Votel's visit comes after international talks on ending the Syrian conflict broke up with no clear breakthrough earlier this week as new faction-fighting erupted and the death toll continued to mount.

(Source: AFP)



NEWS

Iran's 4-month crude steel output hits 5.57m tons: WSA

ECONOMY TEHRAN — Iran's crude steel production reached 5.57 million tons in the first four months of 2016, a 1.5 percent rise compared to the same period last year, World Steel Association (WSA) reported.

The country produced 5.488 million tons of crude steel in the first four months of 2015.

Iran's steel production totaled 1.509 million tons in April 2016, the figure grew 7.8 percent compared to the same month last year. Iran had produced 1.399 million tons of steel in April 2015, the report said.

It is worth noting that based on WSA, in the first four months of 2016 world's steel production stood at 521.2 million tons which indicates a 2.8 percent fall compared to the same period last year.

As a major steel producer in the region, Iran boosted its steel mills across the country in recent years, as central Isfahan and southwestern Khuzestan provinces remain the major steel producers.

According to WSA, Iran was the biggest producer of crude steel in the Middle East in 2013. The country's rank was 14th in the world in 2014.

Tata Motors in talks to set up JV to assemble petrol cars in Iran

Tata Motors is in talks with a local manufacturer to set up a joint venture for assembling its petrol cars in Iran as it looks to tap the fast growing market that has just emerged from sanctions.

Tata Motors is talking to Iran Khodro Company for a joint venture to assemble knocked down units of the petrol versions of its models, including the latest compact car Tiago, Bolt and Zest, which are powered by the company's new Revotron petrol engines, sources said.

Knocked down version of the cars will be imported and assembled at Iran Khodro's manufacturing facility after adding local contents like tires and batteries.

Tata Motors will use Iran Khodro's sales network to sell the cars.

The branding will be of Tata Motors and Iran Khodro will be just a contract manufacturer, they said, adding that Tata Motors will start assembling in Iran in less than 2 years.

Initially, Tata Motors is looking at 100,000 cars a year which will be gradually ramped up. Production at the factory, which may be located in suburban Tehran and Mashhad, is slated to begin by 2018.

Iran Khodro had earlier this year renewed partnership with French manufacturer PSA Peugeot Citroen.

Iran Khodro Company (public joint stock) was founded in August 1962. Starting with contract manufacturing of sedan 'Paykan' for British firm Rootes in 1966, it has manufactured for France's Peugeot as well as Tondar 90 sedan (Renault Logan). It manufactures several Chinese models now.

Peugeot had earlier this year signed a contract with Iran Khodro to start a joint venture that will make three new models.

(Source: dnaindia.com)

Russia to increase direct flights to Iran



The number of direct passenger flights between Russia and Iran will increase substantially in the near future.

The Ministry of Transport of the Russian Federation has provided the airline Siberia (S7 Airlines is part of the group) and Ural Airlines with approval to perform regular flights to Iran.

Two Russia's leading passenger carriers S7 Airlines and Ural Airlines managed to get approval from the Russian aviation authorities after February, when Moscow and Tehran signed a memorandum on increasing the number of flights to 28 per week.

"Indeed, we have been assigned to 4 routes, Moscow — Tehran, Moscow — Isfahan, Moscow — Mashhad, St. Petersburg — Tehran. S7 Airline chose this particular route as it sees a potential in this. The frequency of flights and opening dates are unknown so far, as we have just received the information and our colleagues are at a preparatory stage," Anna Bazhina, a spokesperson for the airline Siberia (S7 Airlines), said in an interview with Sputnik.

Currently, Russian airline Aeroflot flies to Tehran four times a week, while Iran Air flies only once a week. According to the summer schedule of 2016 a charter Iranian airline, Mahan Air, is set to start flights to Sochi.

(Source: Sputnik)

Iran still locked out of global financial system: central bank chief

1→

The U.S., the UK, France and Germany said jointly on Thursday that they "will not stand in the way of permitted business activity with Iran, and we will not stand in the way of international firms or financial institutions engaging with Iran as long as they follow all applicable laws".

Officials from the U.S. office of foreign assets control (OFAC) are travelling to Europe soon to give further clarifications to the banks. But such pleas have so far failed as banks complain about the threat posed by continuing U.S. sanctions.

"Banks need enough reassurances, even if this means rewriting guidelines or revising regulations, or giving banks written guarantees," Seif said.

"Until our western interlocutors have fully fulfilled their obligations under the nuclear deal, we won't see a real change in our banking relations."

UK firms such as Lloyds Banking Group and Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) have refused to serve as clearing banks for their Iranian counterparts, preventing them from reopening their London branches, the governor said.

"Our first expectation from Britain is to provide assistance so that our Iranian banks can start operating in London again," he said.



The British government holds big stakes in both RBS and Lloyds. RBS declined to comment on the issue but a spokesman from Lloyds said: "We are not aware of any such issues arising. We do not restrict payments where they are allowed by the legal and regulatory frameworks under which we operate."

Seif said Iran was unable to repay its debts to some of its foreign suppliers during the sanctions years because it did not

have access to any payments channel, even though it had enough money.

Moreover, restriction on Iran's access to the dollar system has created serious issues, Seif said, even in cases where no dollars are exchanged.

"If we want to change Omani rials to euros, we don't need dollars, but the system is designed in away that it has to be changed to dollars first, then euros. They should find a way for us to resolve this issue."

Inflation rate hits 10.2% in Iran



ECONOMY TEHRAN — The desk Statistical Centre of Iran has announced that the inflation rate for the 12-month period ended in the last day of the second Iranian calendar month of Ordibehesht (May 20) compared to the same period in the previous year hit 10.2 percent.

The inflation rate for the 12-month period ended in the last day of the first Iranian calendar month of Farvardin (April 19) compared to the same period in the previous year was 10.8 percent, according to the Mehr news agency.

Meanwhile, the center put the point-to-point inflation rate at 6.8 percent in Ordibehesht, falling from 7.7 percent in its previous month.

The Central Bank of Iran (CBI) has

announced that the inflation rate in the past Iranian calendar year of 1394, which ended on March 19, 2016, compared to its previous year stood at 11.9 percent.

On February 20, Iranian Finance and Economic Affairs Minister Ali Tayyebnia said that the country's budget plan for the Iranian calendar year of 1395(which began on March 20) has envisaged an inflation rate of 11.3 percent.

Curbing inflation was one of the major promises by Iranian President Hassan Rouhani during his presidential campaign. Under the previous administration, inflation skyrocketed to cross 44%.

The CBI aims to lower inflation to single digits by 2017.

Britain trying to facilitate banking transactions with Iran: Hammond



ECONOMY TEHRAN — Britain is working in collaboration with other European countries to find practical mechanisms to facilitate banking transactions between Iran and Europe, said British Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond.

Hammond made the remarks on Friday in a meeting with Central Bank of Iran (CBI) Governor Valiollah Seif who was visiting London to attend a Euromoney Iran Conference on May 19, Tasnim news agency reported.

In the meeting, the officials discussed economic cooperation and ways to remove obstacles to banking transactions between the two countries.

Mentioning the implementation of Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) and West's moral and contrac-

Seif said Iran's economic situation has improved dramatically since the coming to power of the moderate president Hassan Rouhani in 2013.

"You can't compare today's situation to three years ago," he said. "Three years ago Iran was experiencing a volatile economic situation, rising inflation, unstable market and fluctuations in foreign currencies on daily basis, but now the government has successfully curbed the inflation and brought stability to the currency market."

Seif added: "Falling oil prices shocked oil-dependent countries — even those which were not affected by sanctions, like Iran — but we felt no shock in our economy thanks to good management and good planning of our financial policies."

David Lipton, a senior official with the IMF who visited Tehran recently, said, "In recent years, the authorities have made considerable progress in restoring macroeconomic stability under difficult circumstances."

"Inflation has declined from 45% in 2013 to around 8% recently, the foreign exchange market has stabilized, and some key reforms have been implemented."

(Source: Guardian)

Tehran, Wellington endorse co-op document on agro ties

ECONOMY TEHRAN — Iran and New Zealand signed an MOU on broadening agricultural cooperation, increasing volume of investments and gaining access to each other's agro products markets.

The MOU was signed by Iran's Agriculture Minister Mahmoud Hojjati and New Zealand Foreign Minister Murray McCully in Tehran on Saturday, IRNA reported.

"New Zealand enjoys high capacity in agricultural sector and can have wide range of cooperation with the Islamic Republic in this regard," Hojjati said, "It is a large producer of agro products and we can collaborate on presenting joint-processed products to different markets."

New Zealand's foreign minister, for his part, underlined that the signed document would be on agenda from the time on to help enhancement of all-out cooperation between the two countries.

Referring to the untapped commercial, economic



Iran's Agriculture Minister Mahmoud Hojjati (R) and New Zealand Foreign Minister Murray McCully shaking hand after signing a document on agricultural cooperation in Tehran on Saturday

and agricultural potentials of both sides, McCully said the two sides should enlarge cooperation in these fields.



Twitter prohibits share option repricing without consent

Twitter Inc. said it would prohibit without shareholder consent the repricing of stock options -- including those given to employees by Chief Executive Officer Jack Dorsey last fall -- in the event of a buyout or through an option exchange program.

The move is an effort to protect shareholders while retaining talent as Twitter's stock price tumbles and Dorsey has brought on new board members and executives to give new life to the one-time tech darling. Dorsey handed over a third of his Twitter stock, amounting to about 1 percent of the company and valued at \$200 million, in October when the stock was trading at about \$30. The shares were up 1.1 percent to \$14.31 at 10:36 a.m. in New York.



GM said to pay \$100 million over SUV fuel-economy mistake

General Motors Co. will spend about \$100 million to reimburse customers who bought 2016 Chevrolet Traverse, GMC Acadia and Buick Enclave sport utility vehicles with overstated fuel economy figures, said a person familiar with the matter.

Fuel economy was overstated by 1 to 2 miles per gallon because the company failed to reflect new emissions-related hardware in calculations of efficiency for window stickers, according to a statement. The 135,000 owners of the SUVs will receive a debit card or a 48-month, 60,000-mile protection plan, GM said in an e-mail. The company notified dealers today and will start sending letters to vehicle owners on May 25.



Barcelona agrees to kit deal extension with Nike

Barcelona have agreed an extension to their kit-manufacturing deal with Nike which Spanish media reported was the most lucrative arrangement of its kind in the world. The Spanish champions issued a statement saying details of the contract will be specified at their next general assembly. Barcelona-based daily newspapers Diario Sport and Mundo Deportivo reported that the deal could be worth 155 million euros (\$174 million) a season and would run until 2026.

"FC Barcelona and NIKE, Inc. have extended their current sponsorship deal, which was due to end on June 30, 2018," Barcelona said on Saturday. "The long-term agreement is a landmark in global football and builds upon a highly successful partnership."

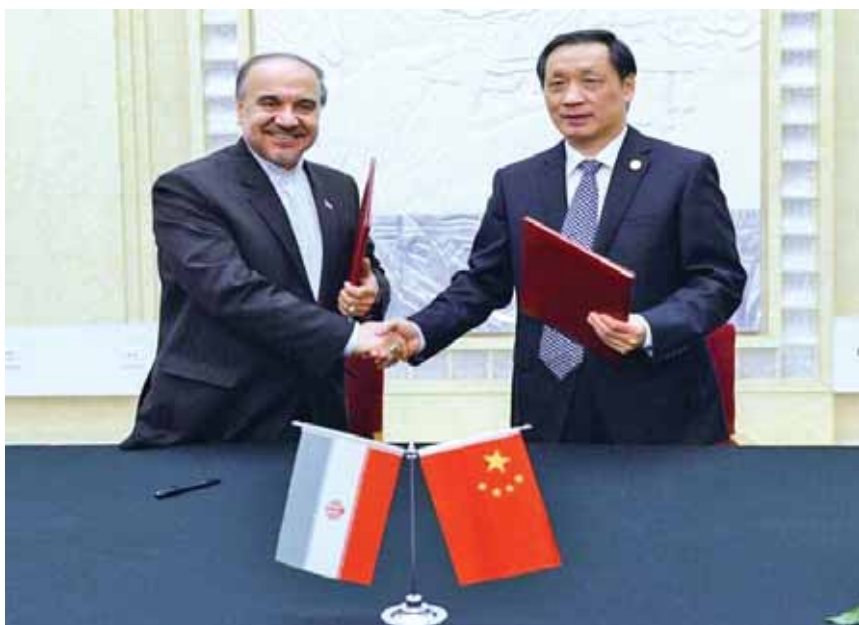
Iran welcomes more visitors from China

Iran's vice president and chairman of the Cultural Heritage and Tourism Organization (CHTHO) Masoud Soltanifar said Iran expects to deepen tourism cooperation with China and that Iran will welcome more visitors and investors from China during a May 18 meeting in Beijing dedicated to introducing policies and investment opportunities in Iran's tourism industry.

According to Soltanifar, the country has abundant travel resources and is capable of providing its visitors with a variety of travel experiences. He hoped that more Chinese visitors would come to Iran to enjoy its rich cultural heritage. Iran is a secure country in a relatively insecure region and has a lot of natural and cultural sites which are worth visiting.

"Iran will become one of the top 10 hottest tourist destinations in 2016," said Soltanifar. The number of foreign visitors has increased by 2.7% since the sanctions against Iran were lifted in January this year.

Therefore, Iran wants to attract



CHTHO director Masoud Soltanifar (l) held a meeting with China National Tourism Administration Chairman Li Jinzao on May 19, during the First World Conference on Tourism for Development at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing.

more Chinese tourists and more Chinese investors for Iran's tourism industry.

Iran has already established two tourism offices in Guangzhou and Shanghai. The purpose is to introduce Iran's tourist attractions to Chinese tourists, and offer vacation packages.

Vice President Soltanifar said that Iran is already trying to attract more visitors by simplifying visa application procedures and improving tourism facilities to cater to Chinese visitors.

Iran also welcomes Chinese investors for the country's tourism facilities. "Iran needs to build at least 300 three-star and five-star hotels within the country to meet the demand of increasing foreign visitors," said Soltanifar.

Currently, less than 50,000 Chinese tourists visit Iran every year. But with the relationship between China and Iran becoming closer, the number of Chinese tourists visiting Iran will likely grow in future.

(Source: china.org.cn)

Dos and don'ts for visiting the world's most popular landmarks

When you're planning a trip to a new place, what do you typically put on your "must-see" itinerary? For many of us, it's the iconic spots we see everywhere—from TV and magazines to history books and travel brochures—the destination's landmarks, if you will. So to help you plan for your next adventure, we named the top landmarks in the world in our Travelers' Choice awards. These are the famed places that millions of travelers have said are really worth visiting.

There isn't necessarily a right or a wrong way for you to visit these landmarks (unless of course you show up when it's closed), but this advice, collected from the TripAdvisor Forums and traveler reviews, will help arm you with the info you need to have the best visit possible.

■ Machu Picchu, Machu Picchu, Peru

*DO: Book well in advance for the Inca Trail – we're talking as far as 3-4 months in advance if you plan on making your trip between the months of June and August.

*DON'T: Let crowds interfere with getting your well-deserved, Instagram-worthy shot! You can book an overnight accommodation in Aguas Calientes and take the first bus up to the ruins, so you can see Machu Picchu before all the visitors arrive.

■ Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque Center, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

*DO: Dress moderately. Aim for long trousers/skirts, loose fitting long sleeve shirts, and a headscarf for women. Alternatively for women, there are abaya cloaks available to borrow during their visit.

*DON'T: Forget to check if there is a free tour available on the day you visit. It's a great way to expand your knowledge of the UAE's history and meet an Emirati national.

■ Angkor Wat, Siem Reap, Cambodia

*DO: Plan your visit strategically. Angkor Wat opens for sunrise while the temples open at 7:30 A.M., so make your first stop at the temple you wish to see first and plan the rest of your day around that.

*DON'T: Be afraid to NOT follow the crowds. If you wish to climb the Bakan Sanctuary (upper level of Angkor Wat) then try going right after sunrise when groups typically head back to town for breakfast, meaning less wait time for queues.

■ Peter's Basilica, Vatican City, Italy

*DO: Plan on dedicating a minimum of 1-2 hours for your visit. A good plan would be to arrive right when the Basilica opens and make the Cupola your first stop. Although the Basilica is free, you will need a ticket for

the Cupola.

*DON'T: Plan your visit without a specific date in mind. The Papal Audiences are typically held on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 A.M. in St Peter's Square. During this time the Basilica remains closed until around noon time. If you plan accordingly, you could put in a request for Papal Audience tickets, which are free of charge.

■ Taj Mahal, Agra, India

*DO: Pay close attention to what date you purchase your ticket for, as the ticket will only be valid for the date that is shown.

*DON'T: Let the Monsoon Season (roughly July through September) keep you away! It doesn't typically rain all day (perhaps a maximum of half an hour), so just be proactive and bring a rain jacket and umbrella!

■ Mosque-Cathedral of Cordoba, Cordoba, Spain

*DO: Keep in mind that opening times for the Mezquita actually vary from day to day. To guarantee it'll be open, make sure you check out the hours on their website.

*DON'T: Worry about crowds. Even during busy periods, there is still ample space to move through the lush space.

■ Church of the Savior on Spilt Blood, Petersburg, Russia

*DO: Some research on the historical background of this landmark. You'll have a different appreciation and understanding for what you see inside of the "not to be missed" Cathedral.

*DON'T: Assume the stunning exterior architecture is the main attraction. It's not enough to just admire from the outside, this is a must-see on the inside as well. The Church of the Savior on Spilt Blood dates from the late 1800s, has more than 7,500 square meters of truly breathtaking mosaics and captivating historical details.

■ The Alhambra, Granada, Spain

*DO: Book your tickets as soon as you've finalized the date of your planned visit. Remember you'll also need around 5 hours to see the whole monument that day, so don't schedule too much else to do that day.

*DON'T: Be late. Plan to arrive at least 30 minutes before the time printed on your ticket.

■ Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool, Washington D.C.

*DO: Consider taking a guided tour. Washington D.C. is crawling with monuments and museums, and even the biggest history buffs can benefit from having an expert share all the details. Many tours hit multiple landmarks and let you skip the lines, which can help you maximize

your time.

*DON'T: Take this landmark's significance for granted. To put into perspective – not only will you get to observe the grand Lincoln statue but also read his words from the Gettysburg Address that are inscribed on the wall. The Reflection Pool is the site of yet another historical speech—Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I have a dream..."

■ Milan Cathedral, Milan, Italy

*DO: Allocate 2-3 hours of your day to spend during your visit here. If you go during the summer, bring a hat to protect yourself from the sun and be sure to drink plenty of water (and also grab some delicious gelato!)

*DON'T: Let the excitement of being in Milan get the best of you! You know visiting the Milan Cathedral is certainly something to tick off your list, but the Cathedral's rooftop is often overlooked and is a great way to take in the breathtaking skyline and architecture.

(Source: Trip Advisor)

NEWS

Idyllic Thai island Koh Tachai closed indefinitely



Thai authorities have closed a popular island in the Andaman Sea to visitors, blaming high tourist numbers for damaging its ecosystem.

Known for its idyllic white beaches and excellent diving, Koh Tachai is the northernmost of the Similan Islands archipelago, a national park in southern Thailand.

Tunya Nethithammakul, director general of the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation, told CNN Tuesday that the island had been closed to visitors "indefinitely," due to the severe deterioration of its ecosystem.

The problems included litter and food waste, gasoline from tour boats leaching into the water and damage to coral, he said, adding that overwhelming numbers of tourists were to blame.

"This is such a small island, I would say it could accommodate just a few hundred tourists a day," he said.

"But it turned out that at certain points there were almost 2,000 tourists visiting the island (daily)."

Situated about 137 kilometers (85 miles) northwest of the tourist hub of Phuket, Koh Tachai has no hotels, and the majority of visitors stay only for the day, eating lunch on the island.

Tourist boats are blamed for leaching gasoline into the island's waters.

Some tourism operators have offered overnight trips where guests stay in tents.

The island is marketed by local tour operators as the "Maldives of Thailand."

Nethithammakul said that many of the islands in Similan National Park would have been closed soon anyway due to the monsoon season, along with other national parks in coastal areas.

(Source: CNN)

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PICTURE OF THE DAY ISNA/Mohsen Esmailzadeh



A woman holds a basket of roses picked for rosewater in a rose garden at Farkhad village, near Mashhad for making rosewater

Tunisia's interest in a viable Libya

By Khemaies Jhinaoui

For the first time in five years, Libya is progressing toward the establishment of a viable national government. That is good news for Libya and also for Tunisia. The agreement to form a Libyan Government of National Accord vindicates Tunisia's approach of settling differences through compromise and negotiations.

Tunisia's free and fair elections of 2014 came only after an inclusive dialogue between the various political actors had created

a climate of civil peace and coexistence in the country. The Nobel Peace Prize awarded to the Tunisian civil society groups who led the process was in recognition of the value this consensus-based approach that helped Tunisians avoid the tragedy of zero-sum politics and its disastrous repercussions.

Today, stability in next-door Libya can only serve Tunisia's national interest. That is why we have spared no effort bridging differences between Libyan protagonists. Toward this end, we have consistently extended our support to

United Nations initiatives and to the efforts of Prime Minister-designate Fayez Sarraj. That was the gist of the message Tunisian Prime Minister Habib Essid and I carried to Tripoli earlier this month.

The tensions and conflicts that Libya went through since 2011 have created a perfect environment for violent jihadists, including those who were involved in terrorist attacks in Tunisia in 2015. These attacks were meant to destabilize Tunisia, wreck its economy and cut it off from the rest of the world. The terrorists failed.



Tunisians rose in unity against the terrorist threat. Our government thoroughly reviewed and strengthened anti-terrorism efforts. With the help of our regional and international partners, especially the United States, we have boosted the readiness and the efficiency of our security forces, which have successfully dismantled many terrorist cells and prevented a number of attacks. We have also enhanced our border security with Libya and are in the process of erecting a border fence with a state-of-the-art electronic monitoring system.

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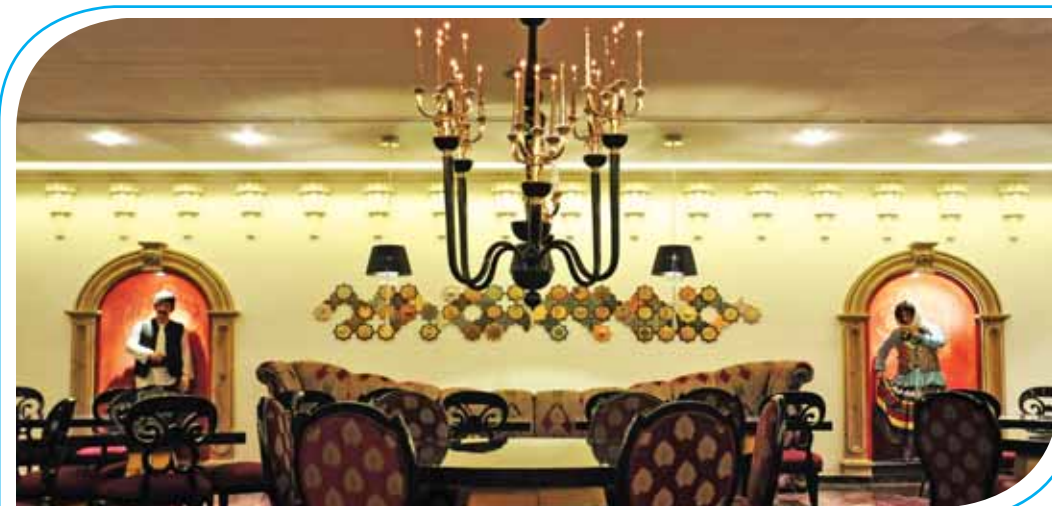
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NEWS IN BRIEF

Iranian scientists design system hiding military equipment from radars

Iranian researchers at Islamic Azad University, Islamshahr Branch, central Iran, have developed a nano-composite which is capable of absorbing radar electromagnetic and infrared thermal waves with high efficiency.

Hassan Hosseini, the lead author of the study, said in this research, firstly, SrTiO3 was synthesized as thermal infrared (TIR) absorbent and core and then BaFe12O19 as microwave absorbent was prepared on SrTiO3 via co-precipitation method as first shell.



Secondly, polyaniline (PANI) was coated on SrTiO3/BaFe12O19 NPs (NPs) via in situ polymerization by multi core-shell structures (SrTiO3/BaFe12O19/PANI).

Nanometer size and structures of samples were measured by TEM, XRD and FTIR, he said, adding, Morphology of nano-composite was showed by SEM images.

The TIR absorption and microwave reflection loss of nano-composites were investigated at 10-40 m and 8-12 GHz, TIR and microwave frequencies, respectively, the Iranian scientist explained.

The infrared thermal image testing showed that the ability of infrared thermal imaging was increased by increasing SrTiO3/BaFe12O19 as core and independent to increasing PANI as final shell, he continued. The electromagnetic waves are mainly used in military and aerospace fields for tracking planes, ships and military equipment, Hosseini noted.

Hosseini said the absorbents are capable of keeping military equipment including ship, planes and soldiers hidden from night cameras in day and night, adding they can be used in hospitals and radiation therapy centers to preserve technicians and nurses.

(Source: ISNA)

Fatty foods in teens and later breast cancer risk

Teens who eat high amounts of saturated fats or low amounts of healthier mono- and polyunsaturated fats tend to have denser breasts 15 years later, new research suggests.

That's important because greater breast density is a risk factor for breast cancer, the study authors said.

But the researchers noted they didn't find a large change in breast density volume based on dietary fat intake.

"It was a modest difference in breast density," said the study's senior author Joanne Dorgan. She's a professor of epidemiology at the University of Maryland School of Medicine in Baltimore.

While this study can't prove cause-and-effect, the researchers speculated that different fats may play different roles in breast tissue formation and maintenance. Teen years are a critical time for breast development, the study authors noted.

Dorgan and her team reviewed data from the Dietary Intervention Study in Children. This clinical trial, sponsored by the U.S. National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, started in 1988, enrolling more than 600 children between ages 8 and 10. More than 300 of the children were girls.

On multiple occasions, the participants reported details of their diets. Later, in a follow-up of the same group, the researchers used MRI scans to measure breast density in 177 female participants when they were ages 25 to 29.

The researchers found that higher intakes of unhealthy fats and lower intake of healthy fats during adolescence were associated with an increased risk of denser breasts. Experts and organizations such as the American Heart Association (AHA) recommend that a healthy diet should contain about 5 percent saturated fat.

(Source: WebMD)

Plant cell wall development revealed in space and time for the first time

Scientists have mapped changes in composition of plant cell walls over space and time, providing new insights into the development and growth of all plants.

The work is a first step towards precision-breeding to enhance the properties of plant-based products such as timber and biofuels.

Conducted by an international research team using the model laboratory plant Arabidopsis, the study is published today in the journal Current Biology.



The cell wall is a defining feature of plant cells, providing essential functions like strength and mechanical support to plant tissues.

The cell wall is also associated with cellular function, including enabling the plant to grow and to sense and respond to developmental cues and environmental stresses such as pathogen invasion.

Plant cell walls are also the main component of plant biomass, our only renewable biomass, and are consumed by humans as a component of food - dietary fiber.

"Despite their importance to society, we currently know very little about how these walls are built and refined during plant development" said study co-author Dr. Monika Doblin from the ARC Center of Excellence in Plant Cell Walls situated within the School of Biosciences at the University of Melbourne.

(Source: EurekAlert)

Chinese Space Vision to send people into space with a balloon

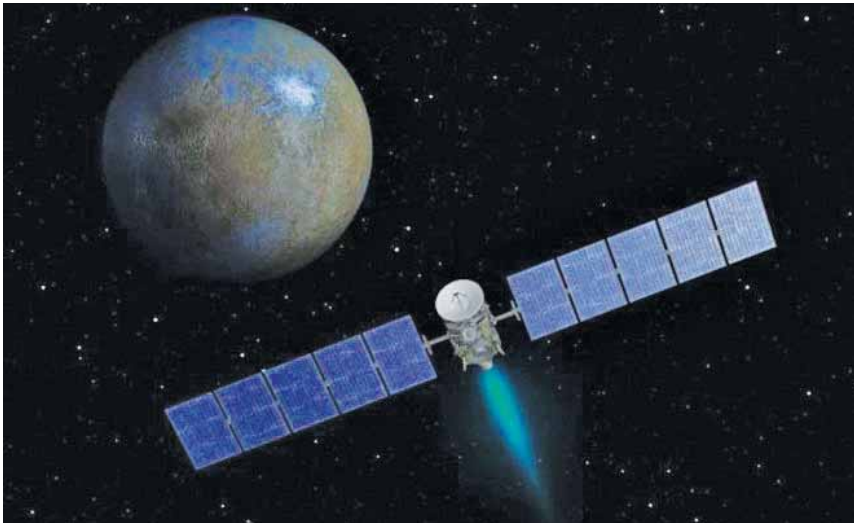
A Chinese firm, which has developed the country's first space parachute suit, has hit on a novel business idea to send people into space using a high-tech balloon and return to earth using a parachute for \$77,000.

Traveling to space and returning in a parachute will soon become available in China by JHY Space Technology Co Ltd (Space Vision), a Beijing-based company which has released China's first-ever space parachuting suit.

In the next few months, the high-tech company will test related equipment, and recruit more parachuting volunteers to train them, state-run China Daily reported. The first three challengers are an entrepreneur, a champion woman parachutist and an aircraft engineer, it said.

Challengers will soar into the stratosphere in a high-tech balloon, and return to the Earth in a parachute. The especially customized suit has a radar, ground-based monitoring operations, space-ground communications and an image transmission system.

Out of plenty of potential customers in China who have enough courage, physi-



Challengers will soar into the stratosphere in a high-tech balloon, and return to the Earth in a parachute.

cal strength, skills and wealth, professional parachutist He Yufeng would become the first woman space parachutist glob-

ally after her tryout.

"I want to challenge myself, and challenge the current world record of 41,419

Low-salt diets not beneficial: global study finds

A large worldwide study has found that, contrary to popular thought, low-salt diets may not be beneficial and may actually increase the risk of cardiovascular disease (CVD) and death compared to average salt consumption.

In fact, the study suggests that the only people who need to worry about reducing sodium in their diet are those with hypertension (high blood pressure) and have high salt consumption.

The study, involving more than 130,000 people from 49 countries, was led by investigators of the Population Health Research Institute (PHRI) of McMaster University and Hamiltion Health Sciences.

They looked specifically at whether the relationship between sodium (salt) intake and death, heart disease and stroke differs in people with high blood pressure compared to those with normal blood pressure.

The researchers showed that regardless of whether people have high blood pressure, low-sodium intake is associated with more heart attacks, strokes, and deaths com-



pared to average intake.

Important findings

"These are extremely important findings for those who are suffering from high blood pressure," said Andrew Mente, lead author of the study, a principal investigator of PHRI and an associate professor of clinical epidemiology and biostatistics at McMaster's Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine.

Beyond Pluto: What New Horizons found in the Kuiper Belt

NASA announced Thursday New Horizons' recording of 1994 JR1, a 90-mile Kuiper Belt Object (KBO) currently orbiting 3 billion miles from the sun. The space probe was able to capture 1994 JR1 using its on-board Long-Range Reconnaissance Imager (LORRI) from a distance of 69 million miles away.

NASA said the LORRI instrument caught the KBO twice on April 7 and 8, breaking the record for the closest view of a KBO - set by a New Horizons observation of 1994 JR1 late this past year, from approximately 170 million miles away, which at the time set its own record for closest KBO picture.

The first of the space agency's New Frontiers missions, New Horizons will send back data from its encounter with Pluto through this year as it continues on its path to fly by the KBO 2014 MU69 in January, 2019.

While the find represents a milestone for New Horizon's observational capacities, it also provided researchers insight into 1994 JR1 and other KBOs.

Southwest Research Institute (SwRI) scientists were able to place the minor planet in its region in space more accurately than ever before using a composite of the previous two JR1 sightings.

Location of JR1

"Combining the November 2015 and April 2016 observations allows us to pinpoint the location of JR1 to within



1,000 kilometers (about 600 miles), far better than any small KBO," said SwRI New Horizons team member Simon Porter said in a joint release. The new information allowed the team to dispel a previous theory that JR1 is a Plutonian quasi-satellite, and learn more about its rotation period.

By analyzing light curve information taken from JR1, measuring the changing intensity of light reflected off of the KBO, scientists were able to confirm the length of a day on 1994 JR1: 5.4 hours. In comparison, Pluto's rotational period lasts slightly less than 6.4 days, nearly 30 times longer than its Kuiper Belt neighbor.

Spencer also said in the NASA release that observations of objects like JR1 are good preparation for the New Horizons team ahead of potential flybys of other KBOs on the probe's path to an ultra-close look at 2014 MU69.

(Source: The CSM)

New treatment for deadly skin cancer causes cells to rupture, die

After battling melanoma for more than a decade, Herbert Schwartz was having a routine visit with his dermatologist last year when his doctor detected three dark spots on his lower left leg.

Schwartz, 83, had previously experienced melanoma — the leading cause of skin cancer-related deaths — on his back and neck. In those two previous cases, he underwent outpatient surgery to remove the cancer cells. This time, the lesions on his leg returned after surgery.

So Schwartz visited Dr. Jose Lutzky, medical oncologist and director of the melanoma program at Mount Sinai Medical Center in Miami Beach, Fla., to undergo treatment to remove the lesions. Lutzky treated Schwartz with oncolytic virus therapy, approved by the Food and Drug Administration last October. In the therapy, a modified live herpes virus is injected directly into the melanoma lesions, where it replicates inside the cancer cells, causing them to rupture and die.

New cases of melanoma

Melanoma is the sixth most common type of cancer in the United States, according to the National Cancer Institute. An estimated 76,380 new cases of melanoma are expected in 2016, with an estimated 10,130 deaths projected for the year.

"It increases the chances eight to nine times of a patient having a second unrelated melanoma," Lutzky said.

To be proactive about preventing skin

meters, which was established by former Google executive Alan Eustace for space sky diving," she said.

Flight system technology

Jiang Fang, founder and president of Space Vision, said many technical experts have endorsed the feasibility of the commercial tour, and China's flight system technology for manned spacesuits is mature enough for such projects.

"We hope to lead the growth of the domestic commercial aerospace sector by starting with space parachuting, and gradually establish a path for the public to travel into the space," he said.

The commercial space parachuting project will be launched in Sanya, Hainan province, where the tropical island has ocean and space resources, clean air and a space launch center.

Meanwhile, Hainan is starting its comprehensive space travelling industry. By 2030, China hopes to become an aerospace power, partly because of the 13th Five-Year Plan (2016-20) to drive aerospace growth.

(Source: The Indian Express)

"While our data highlights the importance of reducing high salt intake in people with hypertension, it does not support reducing salt intake to low levels.

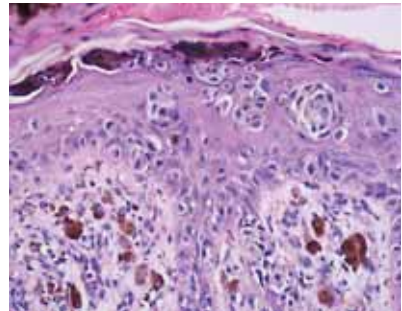
"Our findings are important because they show that lowering sodium is best targeted at those with hypertension who also consume high sodium diets."

Current intake of sodium in Canada is typically between 3.5 and 4 grams per day and some guidelines have recommended that the entire population lower sodium intake to below 2.3 grams per day, a level that fewer than five percent of Canadians and people around the world consume.

Previous studies have shown that low-sodium, compared to average sodium intake, is related to increased cardiovascular risk and mortality, even though low sodium intake is associated with lower blood pressure.

This new study shows that the risks associated with low-sodium intake — less than three grams per day — are consistent regardless of a patient's hypertension status.

(Source: Newswise)



cancer, people who are fair-skinned, have had a lot of sun exposure, or have a lesion that is bleeding or not healing should visit a dermatologist once a year, Lutzky said.

Another treatment in the fight against melanoma is Mohs surgery, which was developed by Dr. Frederic Mohs in the 1930s to microscopically remove all cancer.

Thin skin layers are progressively removed and examined until only cancer-free tissue remains. Mohs surgery allows surgeons to verify that all cancer cells have been removed at the time of surgery.

Mohs surgery is recommended for people with skin cancer that is difficult to treat such as a recurring tumor, as well as for skin cancer located on the face, ears or above the neck, said Catherine Balestra, a Mohs surgeon at the Minars Dermatology Skin and Laser Center in Hollywood, Fla.

(Source: Miami Herald)

Airbus channels H.R. Giger for world's first 3D-printed motorcycle

Airbus is typically associated with making airplanes, but a subsidiary called APWorks just announced the creation of the world's first 3D-printed motorcycle that can actually be used as a daily rider. Aptly named the Light Rider, given that it weighs in at a mere 35 kg (77 lb), the electric-powered two-wheeler appears to be what would happen if H.R. Geiger designed a motorcycle.

The company said the exoskeleton-like design of the Light Rider came from the need to make the frame structurally able to withstand the loads and stresses of everyday riding. Powered by a 6-kW (8-hp) electric motor with a top speed of 80 km/h (50 mph), it may not be at home on the freeway, but can be used for daily city driving and commuting.

The frame of the Light Rider weighs all of 6 kg (13 lb) and is made of a material created and patented by APWorks called Scalmalloy. This is a second-generation aluminum-magnesium-scandium alloy (AlMgSc) that the company claims is stronger than the aluminum-silicon powder material used in most production-scale 3D printing today.

Solid frame parts

The use of Scalmalloy allowed APWorks to create hollow rather than solid frame parts, which made it easier to hide most of the cables and other elements that might be more visible on a standard motorcycle. Bionic algorithms were also used to optimize the entire structure, resulting in a cleaner overall design and a finished bike that weighs 30 percent lighter than other eBikes currently in production.

In 2015, TE Connectivity created what was then billed as the first 3D-printed motorcycle, but it was a prototype only, weighed in at around 200 kg (440 lb) and was powered by a 750-W (1-hp) electric motor.

While the Light Rider might be low on weight, the cost to buy one could be considered pretty heavy for the average motorcycle owner.

APWorks said it would consider creating different styles of motorcycles, like an enduro or motocross bike, before it would venture into mass producing the Light Rider. So anyone lucky enough to afford one of the 50 currently being constructed may be the owner of one very limited edition motorcycle.

(Source: gizmag.com)

➔ The country is emerging as a neo-economic power both worldwide and regionally," Rahimpour was quoted as saying.

Modi may prove to be the harbinger of a will to push past bilateral discussions into some final agreements.

The first of Iranian projects now available to India is the Farzad-B oil field. A preliminary contract for the exploration and expansion of the field was signed between Iran and a consortium of three Indian companies in 2000.

India is also interested in running projects in Chabahar Port in southeastern Iran. Recently, New Delhi proposed investing \$20 billion in petrochemical projects, including LNG plants, in the area.

The port has also caught India's eye as a transport joint in that it could be used to beat China's Gwadar port project in

Modi on landmark visit to Tehran, contracts on target



ISIL leader urges attacks in Europe and U.S.

An ISIL terrorist group spokesman has urged sympathizers in Europe and the U.S. to launch attacks on civilians there if they are unable to travel to the group's self-declared caliphate in Syria and Iraq.

In a 31-minute audio message released late Saturday by the ISIL media arm al-Furqan, Abu Mohammed al-Adnani told his followers that, "the tiniest action you do in the heart of their land is dearer to us than the big-

gest action by us ... there are no innocents in the heart of the lands of the Crusaders."

Al-Adnani also said the U.S.-led war against the group was doomed to failure and that America "fell in the swamp of perdition."

The speech may have been aimed at boosting morale after the group suffered a string of military setbacks and lost territory in both Iraq and Syria. Last

week, Brett McGurk, the U.S. presidential envoy to the 66-country anti-IS coalition, said that "this perverse caliphate is shrinking."

Addressing these losses, al-Adnani said that even if it was pushed out of its strongholds such as Raqqa and Mosul this would not count as defeat because "defeat is the loss of will and the desire to fight."

(Source: AP)

Saudi offers to change stance on Israel



The report comes days after Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi urged Israelis and Palestinians to seize what he said was a "real opportunity" and renew "peace" talks.

Most extremist cabinet in the works PM Benjamin Netanyahu, however, is set to form the most extremist cabinet in Israel's history after revealing his intention to name notorious politician Avigdor Lieberman as the new minister of military affairs.

Palestinians have denounced the planned appointment, saying the decision showed Israel was intent on spreading extremism and expanding illegal settlements.

As the minister of military affairs, Lieberman would oversee military operations in the Palestinian territories and have a major say in policy towards the settlements.

Lieberman himself lives in a settlement which the international community considers illegal and persistent expansion of settler units as one of the biggest causes of the escalating tensions.

He has called on the Israeli regime to

treat Palestinian resistance movement Hamas the same way as the United States treated "the Japanese in World War II."

Israeli-Saudi links

On Saturday, an Israeli website said the "nightmare" of those critical of the new Israeli cabinet "is if Saudi King Salman and Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, along with Netanyahu and Lieberman, will sit on the same podium and sign a cooperation agreement."

"But this is a reality that is happening every day, not just wishful thinking," the Israeli military intelligence website Debkafile wrote.

Last month, a well-connected former general in the Saudi military said the kingdom would open an embassy in Tel Aviv if Israel accepted the Saudi initiative to end the Middle East conflict.

Anwar Eshki was asked during an Al Jazeera interview how long it would be before Riyadh opened an embassy in Israel.

"You can ask Mr. Netanyahu," Eshki replied, referring to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, the Jerusalem Post

neighboring Pakistan.

Iran and India are also pursuing the transfer of gas via pipeline on the seabed. So far the Indian side has proposed to construct a \$4.5 billion seabed pipeline for taking Iran's gas to India.

There is also the Binaloud oil field. A consortium led by India's ONGC Videsh in 2008 discovered the field off the Farsi offshore block in 2008. The consortium is now keen to seal a contract for developing the gas field.

Furthermore, India is currently the main consumer of agricultural fertilizers and Iran is a main producer of the products.

According to a recent report by IRNA, India is also looking forward to investing \$20 billion in fertilizer plants in Chabahar through a credit line.

reported on its website.

"If he announces that he accepts the initiative and gives all rights to Palestinians, Saudi Arabia will start to make an embassy in Tel Aviv," Eshki said.

Eshki met publicly in June with Dore Gold just before the latter was appointed director-general of the Israeli foreign ministry. Gold said then Israel had contacts with "almost every Arab state."

In the interview, Eshki said the Saudis are not interested in "Israel becoming isolated in the region."

In March, Netanyahu said Israel's relations with regional Arab countries were "dramatically warming" in what analysts said was an acknowledgement of behind-the-scenes ties.

Moshe Ya'alon, Israel's minister of military affairs who resigned on Friday, pointed to open channels between the regime and Arab states in February.

Ya'alon said he was unable to shake hands with Arab officials in public due to the "sensitive" political realities, however, the two sides "can meet in closed rooms."

The Israeli minister later publicly shook the hand of Saudi Prince Turki bin Faisal al-Saud, who himself has openly met with a number of Israeli officials in the past.

Israeli training Saudi forces: Hezbollah Sheikh Naim Qassem, deputy secretary general of Lebanon's Hezbollah resistance movement, said in April that Israel was training Saudi military forces under the framework of clandestine relations.

Dozens of Saudi military officers were being trained following secret contacts that led to military cooperation, he said.

"The Saudis are currently fulfilling the cycle of the Israeli project in public and secret meetings," he added.

(Source: Press TV)

Saudi Arabia and its allies have asked Israel to resume Middle East negotiations under new terms which include changes to Riyadh's "peace" initiative, Israeli media reports say.

The kingdom, its Persian Gulf allies, Jordan and Egypt have been sending messages to Israel through various emissaries, including former British PM Tony Blair, the Israeli newspaper Arutz Sheva reported.

"They are expecting to receive from Israel a response and are also expecting Israel to make gestures toward the Palestinians" in the West Bank, the paper said.

The Saudi "peace" initiative, unveiled in 2002, offers to normalize ties with Israel by 22 Arab countries in return for Tel Aviv's withdrawal from the occupied West Bank.

Tel Aviv has rejected the Saudi initiative due to the fact that it calls for Israel to accept the right of return for the Palestinians who were forced to flee their homes under the Israeli occupation.

Saudi Arabia and its allies are now prepared to discuss changes to the initiative in order to resume talks between Tel Aviv and the Palestinian Authority, Israel's Channel 10 News revealed.

The daily Maariv revealed earlier this month that the Israeli regime would present a bill to the Knesset in the coming weeks, calling for the annexation of 60% of the West Bank.

According to the paper, preliminary talks have been held to annex Area C of the West Bank where more than 350,000 illegal Israeli settlers are based.

Nevertheless, there is a desire among the leadership of the Arab countries in the region to change their attitude towards Israel and to start taking an active mediating role, Channel 10 reported, citing diplomatic sources.

Iran to Increase Regional Market Share by 2025

ECONOMY In-depth studies suggest that the regional countries would enjoy a market of about 6,700,000 vehicles in 2025, 4m of which would be new demands, said the CEO of Iran's leading vehicle manufacturer, Iran Khodro.

In an address to the first International Conference on Industrial Management in Tehran, Hashem Yekehzare provided the participants with a detailed report on the regional production, import and export of cars.

"Now the main question is that how many shares the Iranian car makers are willing to gain in the market," he noted.

Yekehzare further went on saying that according to a plan developed by

Iran's Ministry of Industry, Trade and Mine, the Iranian car makers should produce three million vehicles and export one third of them by 2025.

IKCO CEO also added, Iran and its 24 neighboring countries establish a booming market with a population of 575 million people.

"The region's car makers produce 2,700,000 cars; however 4,400,000 ones are being sold in this market. The rest 1,700,000 cars are supplied via import. Unfortunately, the Iranian car manufacturers have a relatively little share in this market," he noted.

Yekehzare emphasized that Iran should gain greater shares of the market and added, "Meeting at least one-fourth of the regions needs is

a feasible strategy for us but this is not possible without close cooperation of influential organizations in our economy and industry."

"In 2015, IKCO's turnover stood at about \$23 billion but we predict that the amount would reach \$50 billion by 2025 due to the considerable potential of Iran's car industry," he said.

Yekehzare noted that IKCO has already signed a number of MoUs with the French and German car makers Peugeot and Mercedes-Benz.

"Another important agreement is set to be signed with a well-known car manufacturer in the near future. But the main point we have in mind is that signing contracts with foreign partners is not the only way to the development

mestic productions."

Speaking among industrious staff and personnel of the Bank, he, who is member of the Board of Directors of the bank, said: "Bank Melli Iran is one of the largest economic enterprises in the country which has always had significant role in supporting government's economic projects."

Given the above issue, the bank tries its utmost effort to materialize objectives of "resistance economy" especially at the condition that most economic sanctions

on Iran have been lifted after a landmark nuclear deal was signed between Iran and P5+1 (the five permanent members of UN Security Council plus Germany), he emphasized.

In the end, he pointed to the main objectives of the bank in the current year as follows: attracting maximum financial resources, collecting the outstanding claims, generating more job opportunities and presenting better banking services in line with gaining customers' satisfaction.

NEWS

Hadi delegation to rejoin Yemen peace talks: UN envoy

The UN special envoy for Yemen says representatives of the former president, Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi, will come back to negotiations aimed at putting an end to the conflict gripping the Arabian Peninsula country.

Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed said on Sunday that Hadi had agreed to end its latest boycott of the discussions after mediation by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani.

On April 21, the UN-brokered peace talks started in Kuwait City between Houthi Ansarullah fighters and their allies in one side and loyalists to Hadi on the other side. The talks came against the backdrop of an open-ended shaky ceasefire that began on April 10 in the impoverished state.

The Saudi-backed delegation, however, suspended its participation in the negotiations on May 17, saying it would only return if the Houthis withdrew from areas under their control and handed over their weapons. However, Abdulmalek al-Mikhlafi, a representative of the pro-Hadi side, said on Twitter that its delegation had agreed to give the peace talks a "last chance."

"We have fixed all the references. This is a first step on the path for a real peace that leads to implementing Resolution 2216 beginning with withdrawals, surrender of weapons and the restoration of state institutions," he said, referring to the resolution adopted by the UN Security Council last April.

Yemen has seen almost daily military attacks by Saudi Arabia since late March 2015. More than 9,400 people have been killed and at least 16,000 others injured since the onset of the aggression. Saudi Arabia launched its offensive against Yemen in a bid to bring Hadi, a staunch ally of the Riyadh regime, back to power and undermine the Houthi Ansarullah movement.

(Source: Press TV)

Tunisia's interest in a viable Libya

6 ➔ Efficient shield

The vigilance of Tunisian troops is proving to be an efficient shield against terrorist infiltration. Earlier this year, Tunisian forces swiftly crushed an attempted incursion by Islamic State extremists in the border town of Ben Guerdane. Enhancing our security is not a luxury. It is a necessity to protect our young democracy. Tunisia is at a crucial junction. In addition to restoring security, we must generate economic recovery. Neither of these objectives are easy tasks, but Tunisia's democratically elected leadership has the vision and the determination to make the necessary reforms.

We are working to set forth new rules of governance that enshrine transparency and fairness between citizens. Tunisia's Parliament will soon examine a package of legislative initiatives designed to promote a friendlier environment for business and investment so as to speed up growth and reduce joblessness.

We will rely above all on our own resources to meet the daunting challenges at hand. Some of these challenges are the cumulative result of decades of inadequate development policies. But the unmet expectations of disadvantaged segments of the population require immediate attention. Recent expressions of discontent by unemployed youth were a reminder of the risks involved in failing to address the demands of young Tunisians who five years ago took to the streets demanding freedom, dignity and jobs. Our tourism industry is still suffering from last year's terror attacks, as are the half-million Tunisians whose livelihood depends on tourism. The time has come for foreign governments to review their travel advisories regarding Tunisia in light of the tangible improvements in our security situation. Our international partners know full well the progress achieved in this area.

There should be no doubt also about our commitment to democracy. Five years after the 2011 revolution, Tunisia's democratic experiment is on the right track and Tunisians' hard-earned freedoms are irreversible. Recently, the international media watchdog Reporters Without Borders ranked Tunisia the leading Arab country in terms of press freedom.

And while we appreciate the assistance we have received from our friends, we also believe that the scope of support should be more commensurate with our challenges and with the fact that Tunisia serves as a model for other struggling societies in the Middle East and North Africa. This calls for exceptional initiatives from the international community to spur the growth and development that our economy — and our people — need, the same kind of initiatives the world undertook to bolster the economies of Eastern European countries following the fall of the Soviet Union. Investing in Tunisia's unique democratic experiment will yield dividends to all.

(Source: The Washington Times)

"SINA BANK" backs Euromoney Conference financially

ECONOMY "Euromoney Institute Conference" will be held with the sponsorship of SINA BANK and SINA Investment Holding Company with the aim of providing a platform for Iranian and international banks to discuss the necessary steps for Iran's re-integration into the international financial community. In addition, capital market participants will discuss the means by which international institutional investors can get exposure to one of the best performing frontier markets.

Setting up an association for policymakers, removing key obstacles and challenges behind entry of Iran to the international banking system arena and introducing opportunities in an interactional ambience have been cited as the other main objective of this prestigious conference which will be held on May 19 in London Park Hotel. Managing Director of SINA Bank Eng. Pishro announced the above statement and said: "Euromoney Institute is one of reliable international institutions in world which is tasked with conducting feasibility studies in banking system, capital market and investment."

It should be noted that CEO of the bank will respond to the questions of economic activists and participants in this prestigious event, the report ended.

ECONOMY Helping materialize objectives of "resistance economy" has been cited as the main objective of Bank Melli Iran (BMI), details of which will be followed up strictly in the current Iranian calendar year in 1395 (started March 20, 2016).

Caretaker of BMI Mohammad-Reza Hosseinzadeh announced the above statement and said: "According to the predefined planning made in this regard, the bank will focus on paying small-scale and job-generating facilities in order to facilitate export activities and spur do-

IRAN'S WILDLIFE

Shocking discovery by Iranian herpetologists

By Farnaz Heidari

Iranian herpetologists have made the remarkable discovery of new genus and species of gekkonid from two gravid specimens which were found within Koh-e Homag protected area, Hormozgan Province, Southern Iran.

Even more significantly, these specimens distinguished as a new genus that scientifically described by Iranian scientists not just by solo foreign researchers. Description of new genus is a unique phenomenon.

Tail dorsal view of different species, Photographs by B. Safaei-Mahroo.

Barbod Safaei Mahroo is an Iranian pathfinder herpetologist who leads this project by collaboration of Dr. Hanyeh Ghaffari and his colleague, Professor Steven C. Anderson.

Safaei Mahroo told the Tehran Times that “to appreciate the importance of any given discovery, we must consider it in its scientific context.”

“Herein we describe a new genus and species of gecko from southern Iran, easily distinguishable from all other genera of gekkonid lizards by a unique combination of characters, although we have not identified any autapomorphies,” he noted.

He went on to say that “ordinarily we would be reluctant to name a new monotypic genus; however, assigning this new, distinct species to any existing genus would be arbitrary and would artificially broaden the concept of such a genus without justification.”

Female holotype of Parsigecko ziaiei sp. nov. Photograph by B. Safaei-Mahroo.

Geckos are among the smallest lizards and therefore a principal prey species, so their presence is vital for ecosystem. A feature that distinguishes geckos from other lizards and most other reptiles is voices. Geckos can squeak and growl, make rolling trills and issue quite unsettling barking sounds, among other vocalizations.

Inevitably this is part of their nocturnal life and their specific adaptation that has made geckos so successful. Safaei Mahroo and his colleagues’ surveys confirmed that Parsigecko genus is the only endemic genus of Gekkonidae in Zagros Mountains.

Zagros Mountains forest steppe contains numerous endemic lizards but Parsigecko found in an isolated patch of the habitat. Among seven endemic geckos of the Zagros, the new species was found at the highest altitude of 1596–1697 meters. Other geckos occur mostly from 500 to 1500 meters elevation, and Cyrtopodion hormozganum was reported from only 70 meters.

Mission impossible in vertebrate field

During the last 100 years there were no similar gain in zoology field for Iranian researchers. It is also spectacular in the family of Gekkonidae because similar discovery occurred in 1914 and 1957.

The genus Parsigecko and its sole species, P. ziaiei, can be distinguished from other genera by some specific identification keys such as dorsal scales, post-mental scales, abdominal scales, nasal scales and so on.

The sole species has been named in honor of Iranian famous ecologist Hooshang Ziaiei. He is one of the establishers of Department of the Environment (DoE) and the writer of magnificent field guidebook of “Mammals of Iran”. As a university lecturer, Ziaie has trained many students in the field of wildlife conservation.

Posters on streets help to promote environmental culture: artist

INTERVIEW

By Maryam Qarehgozlou

TEHRAN — Environmental catastrophes affect almost all aspects of our lives and one way or another we are all responsible for what we have done to the Earth. We all share the same earth and are fully responsible for what we do on it.

One of the most important steps needed to be taken towards having a better environment is to raise public awareness and artistic works ranging from films to paintings and graphic designs as a global language can set the scene for such accomplishment.

Parisa Tashakkori is an Iranian graphic designer whose works of art mostly carry environmental implications. Being a jury member for poster contests in Mexico, France, and Iran are of the few of her career highlights.

She was also awarded with honorary diploma in international design and illustration festival “COW!!!” of Ukraine in 2007, came in third in 10th international poster triennial “Ekoplagat’ 05” of Slovakia in 2005, and was the prizewinner in graphic category of first exhibition of material recycling of Tehran in 2002.

The Tehran Times had an interview with Tashakkori on the sidelines of the Fifth International Green Film Festival May 13-20, 2016. Tashakkori was also in charge of the international visual arts exhibition of the festival and managed to add graphic arts of Mexican and Brazilian artist to the exhibition.

In what comes next Tashakkori explained her motives and the importance of the art in encouraging environmental preservation.

What made you decide to choose environmental challenges as your main focus?

A: In 2001 as I was looking for a topic for my bachelor’s degree thesis I used to go to the library to search through the documents and books and I was looking for a radical subject which was less discussed earlier. After months of research and study specifically on the UNESCO magazines I started to understand how important and serious environmental predicaments are in the world.

I checked with my professor who welcomed my idea and introduced me to another professor and we decided to concentrate on environmental posters and on the theoretic part of the thesis I went through the activities of the artists who had tried to raise public awareness about envi-



ronmental catastrophes.

How art can foster environmental culture among the public?

A: The impact of art on the environmental culture and its stewardship is more than you can imagine. In almost all communities the artists are role models for the public and that’s why they can promote environmental culture among them. Particularly graphic designers can play a key role in raising awareness and visual literacy of the public.

Images are more effective communicators and it is proved that an image can convey a message way more quickly than a written text. Professional graphic designers can readily interpret the environmental crisis and the strategies to respond and phase out the crisis in a way that is easy to comprehend and appreciate for the public. By facilitating mutual understanding through their works of art they can even involve the public to resolve the complex environmental issues.

How artists can be encouraged to cooperate in addressing environmental problems?

A: I believe that the artists have the potential to take part in projects tackling such issues and are interested in working in this field. What matters is that the officials have to ask them to work in this field. A good example of such cooperation is Tehran’s municipal-



ity efforts in setting up billboards in the city seeking social reforms which are designed by professional graphic designers for the past few years.

What was your role in the Fifth International Green Film Festival visual arts exhibition?

A: I was in charge of arranging the international visual arts exhibition and I succeeded in adding Brazilian and Mexican works of art to the exhibition.

The Mexican posters and graphic designs belonged to a biannual poster contest coordinated by Gus Morainslie, a Mexican graphic designer and was comprising of 88 black and white posters revolving around water shortage and overuse of plastic.

The “Global Mix” section of the exhibition also included 28 posters designed by world’s renowned designers, which was organized by the Brazilian designer Felipe Taborda.

How do you evaluate art exhibitions in Iran?

A: Unfortunately in Iran the artistic works which are rather good would mean no more than a piece of paper which turn into a pile of trash after the exhibition especially regarding the posters. The designers would be forgotten too and the award winner works are never put into good use. That’s why there are

hardly memorable graphic designs about environmental event in Iran. The posters of these events are also designed with unprofessional designers at the very last moments.

Even when we achieve some positive results in this field the director will be removed from the office and a new director will be appointed and all the hard work will be destroyed.

How do you suggest improving such festivals and exhibitions?

A: We can take such festivals and exhibitions to the streets. Unlike paintings which are kept in art galleries and showcased to the artists and their friends the posters belong to the streets were their addressees are. The public needs to see the posters closely, know what’s happening around them and even tear them to show their objection.

How a housewife should know that plastic bags or the bleach are detrimental to the environment without being informed about its harms. I’m sure that if they know about their harmful effects they would stop using them and would change their lifestyle.

Posters are not being used efficiently in Iran. I strongly believe that environmental predicaments are so much significant that need to be broadcast both in the TV and even showcased on the streets.

How southern Africa is coping with worst global food crisis for 25 years

From Angola to Zimbabwe, food prices are soaring and malnutrition is on the rise as the latest El Niño weather event takes a brutal toll

Angola
Drought is affecting 1.4 million people across seven of Angola’s 18 provinces. Food prices have rocketed and acute malnutrition rates have doubled, with more than 95,000 children affected. Food insecurity is expected to worsen from July to the end of the year.

Botswana
Three years of drought have hit the country’s livestock and arable farming sectors hard. At least 50,000 people are in danger of severe malnutrition.

Mozambique
A “red alert” has been announced for southern and central provinces. Some rain fell in April in southern Mozambique, but most of this year’s harvest has been lost. Nearly 500,000 people are being given food aid.

Malawi
Up to 8 million people, or half the country, will need food aid after a second year of drought and disastrous floods in 2015. More than 1m tons of food are needed.

The situation is worst in the south and central regions.

Namibia
About 500,000 Namibians are dependent on government food aid after crops failed for a third year running. Businesses in Windhoek, the capital, have been ordered by city authorities to cut water consumption by 30%.

South Africa
Seven provinces have declared a drought crisis. Maize production is down 40%. South Africa, which normally exports about 1m tons of food a year, will have to import about 3.5m tons of corn.

Swaziland
Food prices have escalated and the country’s staple food, maize, has been subject to a 66% price hike since January. The UN has provided \$3m (£207m) for food and emergency relief for 95,000 affected people.

Tanzania
Tanzania has an electricity crisis after it had to shut its hydropower plants because drought is causing low water levels in its dams. Food prices have soared. Local farmers and pastoralists have clashed over dwindling pasture and water supplies and Kenyan and Ugandan farmers have invaded national parks with their cattle.

IN FOCUS

Tehran Times/ Maryam Qarehgozlou



After getting on the Ramsar cable car, located in the city of Ramsar, Mazandaran province, you can reach Ilmieli mountainous area, with an altitude of 700 meters, the closest peak to the Caspian Sea.

TV meteorologist running on trail rescues baby screech owl

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — A Philadelphia television meteorologist has broken off from a trail run to rescue an injured baby screech owl and take it to a wildlife center, where it’s doing well. Longtime WPVI-TV personality Cecily Tynan says on her Facebook page she found the injured owl on the ground Monday clacking its beak at her.

The Schuylkill (SKOO'-kul) Center for Environmental Education says the month-old owl fell out of its nest and probably wouldn’t have survived for long on the ground.

Center officials say the owl was “very dehydrated and had very little energy” but is doing better with intravenous fluids and even has another baby owl there for company. They hope to release it into the wild in August.

Iran's Taftian takes bronze at Golden Spike

SPORTS Hassan Taftian of Iran **d e s k** claimed a bronze medal in the 100 meters at the Golden Spike meet in Ostrava, Czech Republic on Friday.

Taftian came third clocking 10.25 seconds.

Six-time Olympic gold medallist Usain Bolt, who owns the 100m world record at 9.58 and the world 200m record of 19.19, finished in 9.98 seconds.

"My reaction was good," Bolt said about the start. "This is a very important season. This is a very big year for me."

"I have a lot work to do. I just need to continue, need more races to go," he added.

Silver medal went to Barbadian Ramon Gittens with 10.21 seconds.

It was the eighth time Bolt has raced at the Golden Spike. In 2012, he won the 100 in Ostrava in 10.04, a poor time by his standards, before he won three more gold medals at the London Olympics. He won his first three golds at the 2008 Beijing Games.



Iran learns rivals at AFC U-16 Women's Championship



Iran is pooled in Group C of the AFC U-16 Women's Championship 2017 qualifiers.

The Iranian football team has been drawn along with Chinese Taipei, Bangladesh (host), the United Arab Emirates, Kyrgyzstan and Singapore.

The top four teams from the last edition – DPR Korea, Japan, China PR and Thailand (who expressed a desire to also play in the qualifiers) – have directly qualified for the finals.

The winner from each group (total four teams) will qualify to the finals (eight teams in total). If Thailand finish top of their group in the qualifiers, the second-placed team from the same group will also qualify to the final competition.

■ Draw Result

Group A: Thailand (host), Myanmar, Jordan, Guam, Laos, Pakistan

Group B: Korea Republic, India, Philippines, Malaysia, Northern Mariana Islands, Lebanon

Group C: Iran, Chinese Taipei, Bangladesh (host), United Arab Emirates, Kyrgyzstan, Singapore

Group D: Uzbekistan, Australia, Vietnam (host), Hong Kong, Palestine, Iraq

Each group will play a one-round league in a centralized venue.

The qualifiers will be played from August 27 to September 4, 2016.

(Source: the-afc)

Iran discovers AFC U-19 Women's Championship Qualifying fate



Iran learned its opponents at the AFC U-19 Women's Championship Qualifying.

The team has been pitted against Vietnam (host), India and the Philippines in Group D.

The top four teams in the 2015 edition of the AFC U-19 Championship in China – Japan, DPR Korea, Korea Republic and China PR – received a direct qualification to the tournament leaving the 18 teams above to battle it out in the qualifiers.

■ Draw Result

Group A: Australia, Jordan, Lebanon, Singapore, Northern Mariana

Islands

Group B: Uzbekistan, Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong, Tajikistan (host), Pakistan

Group C: Thailand (host), Myanmar, Palestine, Kyrgyzstan

Group D: Iran, Vietnam (host), India, Philippines

Each group will play a one-round league in a centralized venue and the winner from each group (total four teams) will qualify to the finals (eight teams in total).

The qualifiers will be held from October 29 to November 6, 2016.

(Source: the-afc)

Late Iranian keeper Hejazi commemorated

SPORTS Iranian football fans commemorated the five year anniversary of the death of the legendary goalkeeper Nasser Hejazi in Tehran's Behesht-e Zahra cemetery on Sunday.

Hejazi died on May 23, 2011 at the age of 62 after a long battle with lung cancer.

He played for Iran as a goalkeeper in late 1960s and 1970s. Hejazi won the AFC Asian Cup twice for Iran and also played for the Persians in the 1976 Olympic Games and the 1978 FIFA World Cup.

In 2000, the Asian Football Confederation ranked

him the second best Asian goalkeeper of the 20th century behind former Saudi Arabia keeper Mohamed Al-Deayea.

In his coaching career, he led Esteghlal from 1996 to 1999 and later in 2007.

The Iranian giant finished runner-up in the AFC Champions League in 1999 under tutelage of Hejazi.

Hejazi earned 62 caps for Iran from 1968 to 1980. He received an offer from Manchester United after the 1978 FIFA World Cup, and trained with them for a month, appearing in a reserve match against Stoke City.



FIFA Futsal World Cup: Iran draws with Spain

SPORTS Iran has been drawn **d e s k** in a tough-looking Group F alongside two-time world champion Spain, African champion Morocco, and tournament debutant Azerbaijan in the FIFA Futsal World Cup.

There will be six groups of four teams with the top two in each section plus the four best third-placed teams will advance to the knockout phase.

Iran will open the campaign with a match against Spain on September 12 at the Coliseo Cubierto Mayor in Medellin, Colombia.

The groups were defined as follows:

Group A: Colombia, Portugal, Uzbekistan, Panama

Group B: Thailand, Russia, Cuba, Egypt

Group C: Paraguay, Italy, Vietnam, Guatemala



Group D: Ukraine, Brazil, Mozambique, Australia

Group E: Argentina, Kazakhstan, Solomon Islands, Costa Rica

Group F: Iran, Spain, Morocco, Azerbaijan

Iran's Mehdi Taremi set to join CD Leganes

SPORTS Iranian international **d e s k** striker Mehdi Taremi is on the verge of joining Spanish Segunda Division side Leganes with a three-year deal according to local media.

Leganes is currently top of Spanish Segunda Division with 65 points with three games until the end of the season. They are the favorites to win the promotion to La Liga.

Taremi finished the 2015-16 season as the Iran Professional League top scorer with 16 goals. The 23-year old striker who made a name for himself with Iran-javan after he became the second top scorer of Azadegan league in 2013-14 season has scored five goals in 9 appearances for Team Melli.

Taremi who joined Persepolis in the



summer of 2014 with a two-year contract was one of the key members of Branko Ivankovic team who nearly missed the title and finished second on the goal difference in the IPL 2015-16 season.



Persepolis linked with a move for Ronaldinho: report

SPORTS Iranian most-popular football team Persepolis has been reportedly linked with a summer move for former Brazil midfielder Ronaldinho.

The 35-year-old has offered a contract worth \$3 million to the Iranian club but Persepolis coach Branko Ivankovic has turned down the offer.

The media reports suggest that Ronaldinho has a lucrative offer from Antalyaspor to be reunited with his former Barcelona team-mate Samuel Eto'o in Turkish side.

Persepolis finished in second place in the Iranian Professional League behind Esteghlal Khuzestan due to inferior goal difference.

WRESTLING

Iran comes first at Greco-Roman World Cup

Iran captured the Greco-Roman World Cup title for the fifth time in seven years after defeating Russia 8-0 in final on Friday.

Younger brother of Saeid ABDVALI, Saman gave his nation the first win of the finals with a tight 2-1 victory over Sergei EMELIN (RUS) at 59kg.

The second win for Iran came by hometown hero Omid NOROOZI who had raucous support from many Iranian fans. A 2012 Olympic champion, Noroozi won the first period 2-0 by a gut wrench and blow up the hall in second period by a side throw.

The third straight win for Iran was at 71kg, where Afshin BYABANGARD had a come-from-behind 3-2 victory over Abuiazid MANTSIGOV.

Russia didn't send a wrestler on mat at 71kg, giving Iran the 4-0 lead.

The deciding match of the meet came at 85kg between Iran's Ramin TAHERI and Ramazan ABACHARAEV (RUS) as TAHERI's 6-4 win brought bout and team title victory to Iran.

Habibollah AKHLAGHI, Ghasem REZAEI and Bashir BABAJANZADEH added three other wins to host country, beating Russia 8-0 in the 2016 Greco-Roman World Cup final match.

"We were deserved to win World Cup trophy. I should thank Shiraz people who supported us well during the tournament," said Iranian Wrestling president Rasoul KHADEM.

Before this year, Iran had captured World Cup team title four times (2010, 2011, 2012 and 2014). This is the nation's fifth victory in the last seven years.

Russia had not sent their best wrestlers to World Cup in order to prepare for Olympic Games. "It was our third or fourth team. Our main wrestlers are training for Olympic Games and best Russian team will show off at Olympic Games," said Russian Greco-Roman head coach Gogi Koguashvili.

In third place match, Turkey had a tough win 4-4 (16-14) over Kazakhstan to place third.

Russia advanced to the final match in group A as defeated Belarus and Germany and Kazakhstan (all 7-1).

In group B, Iran beat Ukraine (8-0), Azerbaijan (7-1) and Turkey (7-1) for reaching the final match.

■ Final match

IRAN (IRI) df. RUSSIA (RUS), 8-0

59 kg - Saman Morad ABDOLLI (IRI) df. Sergey EMELIN (RUS), 2-1

66 kg - Omid Haji NOROOZI (IRI) df. Zaur KABALOEV (RUS), 7-2

71 kg - Afshin Nemat BYABANGARD (IRI) df. Abuiazid MANTSIGOV (RUS), 3-2

75 kg - Saeid Morad ABDVALI (IRI) df. Irakli KALANDIYA (RUS) by Injury Default, 0-0

80 kg - Ramin Soltanmorad TAHERISARTANG (IRI) df. Ramazan ABACHARAEV (RUS), 6-4

85 kg - Habibollah Jomeh AKHLAGHI (IRI) df. Sosruko KODZOKOV (RUS), 3-0

98 kg - Ghasem Gholamreza REZAEI (IRI) df. Kanemir MAGOMEDOV (RUS), 2-1

130 kg - Bashir Asgari BABAJANZADEH DARZI (IRI) df. Sergey SEMENOV (RUS), 7-2

■ Third place match

TURKEY (TUR) df. KAZAKHSTAN (KAZ), 4-4

59 kg - Fatih Orhan UCUNCU (TUR) df. Mirambek AINAGULOV (KAZ), 3-0

66 kg - Askhat ZHANBIROV (KAZ) df. Enes Nogman BASAR (TUR), 3-0

71 kg - Darkhan BAYAKHMETOV (KAZ) df. Murat Huseyin DAG (TUR), 3-2

75 kg - Doszhan KARTIKOV (KAZ) df. Furkan BAYRAK (TUR), 2-0

80 kg - Burhan AKBUDAK (TUR) df. Askhat DILMUKHAMEDOV (KAZ) by TF, 8-0

85 kg - Kansu ILDEM (TUR) df. Khussein MUTSOLGOV (KAZ), 5-2

98 kg - Fatih Cemal BASKOY (TUR) df. Alimkhan SYZDYKOV (KAZ) by TF, 10-2

130 kg - Nurmakan TINALIYEV (KAZ) df. Atilla Serafettin GUZEL (TUR), 6-4

■ Fifth place match

BELARUS (BLR) df. AZERBAIJAN (AZE), 4-4

59 kg - Sakit GULIYEV (AZE) df. Elbek TAZHYIEU (BLR) by TF, 8-0

66 kg - Elman MUKHTAROV (AZE) df. Mikita ZINEVICH (BLR) by TF, 9-0

71 kg - Pavel LIAKH (BLR) df. Ruhin MIKAYILOV (AZE), 4-1

75 kg - Tsimur BERDYIEU (BLR) df. Shamistan GULUZADE (AZE) by FALL, 4-0

80 kg - Pavel PAMINCHUK (BLR) df. Emin AHMADOV (AZE), 1-0

85 kg - Islam ABBASOV (AZE) df. Hoha HAHNIDZE (BLR), 3-2

98 kg - Sjarhei STARADUB (BLR) df. Orkhan NURIYEV (AZE), 5-2

130 kg - Oyan NAZARIANI (AZE) df. Heorhi CHUHASHVILI (BLR), 8-7

■ Seventh place match

UKRAINE (UKR) df. GERMANY (GER), 5-3

59 kg - Ievgen MIAGKYI (UKR) df. Dustin SCHERF (GER) by TF, 8-0

66 kg - Artur POLITAIEV (UKR) df. Muhammet Yasin YETER (GER) by TF, 8-0

71 kg - Maximilian Andreas SCHWABE (GER) df. Olexandr LYTIVNOV (UKR) by TF, 11-2

75 kg - Jan ROTTER (GER) df. Ievgen PYSHKOV (UKR), 4-1

80 kg - Yaroslav FILCHAKOV (UKR) df. Hannes WAGNER (GER), 5-0

85 kg - Andrii GLADKYKH (UKR) df. Florian NEUMAIER (GER), 2-1

98 kg - Muhammed Etki SEVER (GER) df. Zelimkhan DZIHASOV (UKR) by TF, 9-0

130 kg - Ihor DIDYK (UKR) df. Christian JOHN (GER) by TF, 11-0

(Source: Unitedworldwrestling)

British James Bay won in the Most Performed Work category for his popular hit "Hold Back the River" while the Album Award went to "Darling Arithmetic" written by Conor O'Brien, who records his music under the name Villagers.