

# TEHRAN TIMES

"The Daughter" scoops top awards at Moscow Intl. Film Festival

12

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## Solidarity with Palestinians

**POLITICAL** TEHRAN — Millions of Iranians attended rallies held across the country on Friday to mark Quds Day in show of solidarity with the Palestinian people.

The marchers, among them children, shouted slogans against the Zionist regime of Israel whose occupation of Palestinian lands and its tyranny against the Palestinians are the source of many problems, including extremism and violence, in the Middle East and the larger world.

The demonstrators also carried placards on which a statement by the Supreme Leader was written who had said: "The Zionist regime of Israel will not exist in the next 25 years."

The people also carried images of UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon whose mouth was filled with money under which it was written that "unfortunately" Ban was bribed to remove the "name of Saudi Arabia from the list of child killers."

Senior Iranian officials also participated in the rallies. President Hassan Rouhani said the division in the Islamic world and terrorist acts in the Middle East have deflected the attention of Muslims from the "cause of liberating Palestine."

He called for boosting unity among Muslims to counter the terrorists and materialize the Palestine cause. **See page 2**



© IRNA/Faraj Samadi

## Iran Mercantile Exchange gets WFE membership

**ECONOMY** TEHRAN — Chairman of Securities and Exchange Organization of Iran (SEO) Mohammad Fetanat announced that Iran Mercantile Exchange's (IME) membership status in World Federation of Exchanges (WFE) became final, IRNA reported.

Fetanat, who made the remarks on Thursday in an MOU signing ceremony between IME and Pakistan Mercantile Exchange Limited (PMEX), explained the Islamic Republic's request for membership of WFE, the trade association of 64 publicly regulated stock, futures, and options exchanges, has been accepted. The senior Iranian official noted that Iran's membership in different international bodies has been eased following the implementation of the nuclear deal, known as Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), with the world powers in January.

Since the annulment of the financial embargo, the Iranian administration is shifting from a bank-based financial system into a more market-based one (i.e. switching the trend of financing away from banks towards securities market). This has made it vital for the country's capital market to improve its validity among other international markets via gaining global bodies' membership. **→ 4**

## Assad: West attacks us politically, deals with us secretly

Syrian President Bashar al-Assad says Western countries follow a policy of double standards toward Syria, dealing secretly with his government while aiding militants to topple him at the same time.

"They attack us politically and then they send officials to deal with us under the table, especially the security, including your (the Aus-

tralian) government," Assad told Australia's SBS News in an interview to be aired on Friday.

Western countries follow what the US is telling them to do, the president said in remarks that were carried by Syrian state media.

"They don't want to upset the United States. Actually most of the western officials they only

repeat what the United States want them to say. This is the reality," President Assad said.

Western powers have supported militants fighting to overthrow Assad in a war now in its sixth year, which has claimed more than 400,000 Syrian lives, according to the UN special envoy to Syria. **→ 9**

## PERSPECTIVE

By Harun Yahya  
political expert

## The 'party of God' will always win

Anyone who recites the statement "La illaha illa Allah, Mohammed Rasulullah" is a Muslim in the Sight of God and Muslims. However, in today's societies, some Islamic countries make distinctions for those who belong to different sects of Islam. This is mistaken because there are Alawis, Shias, Sunnis, and some other sects: If they consider people who only belong to their sects as Muslims and others as different or lesser Muslims, then it would be a grave mistake and it would only cause confusion in concepts. Thus, countries should not adopt such a policy but consider anyone from any sect as a pious Muslim. **→ 9**

## "Standing in the Dust" crew launches campaign to pursue Iranian diplomats' freedom

**ART** TEHRAN — The "Standing in the Dust" crew of "Standing in the Dust" has launched a campaign to pursue the freedom of Iranian commander Ahmad Motevasselian and his colleagues who were kidnapped by the Zionist regime in Lebanon. **→ 9**

## Trump does better with white voters: Scott Lucas

**INTERVIEW**  
By Javad Heirannia

**TEHRAN** — Scott Lucas, a professor of international politics in the University of Birmingham, says Republican presidential contender Donald Trump draws his support among white voters.

"Unsurprisingly, Trump does better with white voters, given his hostile comments about groups such as Hispanic Americans," Trump tells the Tehran Times.

Inflammatory remarks by Trump have astonished many American people and politicians. Some

Americans believe that Trump has divided the society.

Shocking statements have unsettled American allies as well. For example, French leader Francois Hollande, in a newspaper interview on Thursday, urged American voters to back Hillary Clinton and warned that electing Trump would be "dangerous" and "complicate relations between Europe and the U.S."

"The best thing the Democrats can do is to get Hillary Clinton elected," Hollande told the French financial daily Les Echos, according to Fox News.

According to AFP, Hollande went so far as to draw a comparison to the unexpected result Brexit decision. "Those who say that Donald Trump could not possibly become the next president of the United States are the same ones who thought that Brexit would never be voted in," he said.

Lucas also said, "He (Trump) tends to poll well with those who are dissatisfied with their economic situation."

And why Trump emerged as the final nominee of Republicans, he said, "Trump succeeded because, in a divided Republican

field, he could count on firm support of a minority --- about 30 to 35% --- of those who participated in Republican primaries and caucuses."

On the election behavior of American people, Lucas said, "I think this has been an unprecedented election in recent history because it is not simply a case of an 'establishment' favorite winning the nominations."

The professor of international politics added, "Many Americans are looking for change outside the traditional party organizations inside and outside Washington."

## Journalism means looking for 'truth, ethics and credibility': Venezuelan diplomat

By Negar Asadi

**TEHRAN** — The Venezuelan embassy in Tehran hosted a ceremony on Wednesday to commemorate the country's national Journalist Day.

"Venezuela commemorates Journalist Day on June 27 which marks publication of the first edition of Correo del Orinoco newspaper that was founded by Simón Bolívar on June 27, 1818," said Sabrina Aguire, the first secretary of the embassy.

She said that being a journalist means looking for "truth, ethics and credibility."

A journalist has a "critical mind" in order to

"reason and face the challenges", she added.

Elaborating on history of Correo del Orinoco, she said that the newspaper was established based on the slogan of "We Are Free, We Write in a Free Country and Do Not Seek to Deceive and Misdemean People."

The newspaper was published during years of "Venezuelan war of independence from the New Granada" and was established by Bolívar to "counter infiltration of Gazeta de Caracas" newspaper, she said.

Gazeta de Caracas was first published on October 24, 1808 and was issued with some interruptions by January 1822.

Aguire also said that 133 editions of the

Correo del Orinoco were published in total, adding that the newspaper sought to inform the Latin American people about events related to liberal seeking wars.

Correo del Orinoco is considered the oldest sovereign newspaper on the Latin American continent which was published weekly from 1818 to 1822 in Angostura, a city on the river Orinoco. The newspaper's name is currently exclusively used by the Correo del Orinoco (2009) newspaper produced by the government of Venezuela.

Elsewhere, Aguire attached great importance to the journalists' role in "reporting the realities".

## Fitch said to visit Iran as foreign banks signal their interest

Ratings agency Fitch has visited Iran as more foreign banks signal an interest in working in

the country six months after sanctions were lifted, according to a top Iranian central

bank official.

Fitch made a trip to Tehran earlier this month to make an initial assessment of the economy, Akbar Komijani, deputy governor of the Central Bank of Iran, said in an interview on the sidelines of the International Financial Congress in St. Petersburg. He didn't elaborate on the meetings. Fitch "have started to review the developments in the financial sector and banking sector situations, and in general the macro-economic conditions," he said. "They are starting their regular activity."

European and Asian banks, including major lenders, are returning to the Islamic Republic,

Komijani said in the interview. "Some of the medium-sized and small banks have accelerated their operations."

The economy is forecast to grow between 4-4.5 percent in the year to March 20, broadly in-line with International Monetary Fund forecasts, he said. Komijani said the central bank plans to unify the rial's two parallel exchange rates by March 2017. Currently there's an official rate set by the bank each day, and a second unofficial price set by the open market which is more favorable to consumers and businesses.

(Source: Bloomberg)



## Tender Invitation No. 95/1002

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Public Relations Department of Iran Aluminum Company (IRALCO)

**MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS**



**We will not let Palestinian cause be marginalized: Khatami**

**TEHRAN** — The interim Friday prayer leader has said Iran will not allow the Palestinian cause to be marginalized.

"We Muslims are one nation and cannot not feel the pains and homelessness of the people of Palestine," Ayatollah Ahmad Khatami told Quds Day demonstrators and prayers, IRIB reported.



**Putin: 'Mythical' nuclear threat from Iran becomes history**

**TEHRAN** — A "mythical" nuclear threat posed by Iran has become a thing of the past, Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Thursday, Sputnik reported.

"A mythical Iranian nuclear threat, which was used as a justification for construction of a ballistic missile defense, has become a thing of the past, but the facilities of missile defense structures are still being constructed in Eastern Europe," Putin said at the meeting with Russian diplomats.



**Commander: S-300 missile defense system ready for use by yearend**

**TEHRAN** — The commander of Khatam ol-Anbia Air Defense Base has announced that the Russian made S-300 missile defense system, which was recently delivered to Tehran, will go operational by the end of the current Iranian year, which ends on March 20, 2017.

"The S-300 air defense system is being mounted and deployed," Farzad Esmayeeli said Friday, Fars reported.

He reiterated that the "strategic" S-300 defense system will monitor the country's skies alongside tens of other defense systems every minute.

# IRGC warns KRG officials over insecurities in western Iran

**POLITICAL TEHRAN** — The Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps' second-in-command has warned Kurdish officials against loose commitment to security issues, days after terrorist cells were smashed in northwestern Iran by IRGC patrol units.

Addressing Friday prayers at the University of Tehran, Brigadier General Hossein Salami said on Friday that Iran will carry out operation beyond borders if necessary.

"I warn the officials of northern Iraq adhere to their commitments as the Islamic Republic will crush threats regardless of geographical considerations."

The remarks comes days after media outlets quoted the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kurdistan Region as having demanded an end to the bombardment of the region's border areas by Iran and Turkey.

"In the last few days the border areas of the Kurdistan Region were bombarded by the Islamic Republic and Republic of Turkey which resulted in wounding a number of people and dozens of villages were forced to flee their villages," the Kurdistan Region cabinet of ministers had said in the statement.

The IRGC commander linked the terrorist attempts with some regional countries which seek to trigger insecurity in Iran, recommending them not "play with the lion's tail."

Western and eastern borders of Iran have been a hotbed for terrorist activities, mainly influenced by weak border monitoring of neighboring countries, including Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Iraq.

Only over the past two weeks, IRGC combat and intelligence officers had killed dozens of terrorists, seeking sabotage inside the country.

On June 13, IRGC announced its forces had killed five members of the Party for Free Life in Kurdistan (PJAK) in the northwestern border city of Sardasht.

In another clash in southern city of Khash on June 13, Iranian police forces killed five members of a terrorist group which is an offshoot of Jaish ul-Adl.

**IRGC second-in-chief warns the officials of northern Iraq adhere to their commitments, saying the Islamic Republic will crush threats regardless of geographical considerations.**

## Tehran says it launches bioterrorism probe into Dadman death

**POLITICAL TEHRAN** — The Supreme National Security Council secretary has decreed a probe into death of one of Iranian nationals, saying claims of bioterrorism are still premature to confirm.

Ali Shamkhani made the remarks on Friday while attending International Quds Day rally in Tehran, days after Ali Dadman passed away after months of suffering from cancer.

Dadman was the son of Rahman Dadman, former transport minister at the reformist administration.

"It is still a speculation that the late Dadman was assassinated, taking both time and investigation," Shamkhani explained.

Shamkhani's ambiguous remarks come amid claims that Dadman's death was linked with a bioterrorism attempt.

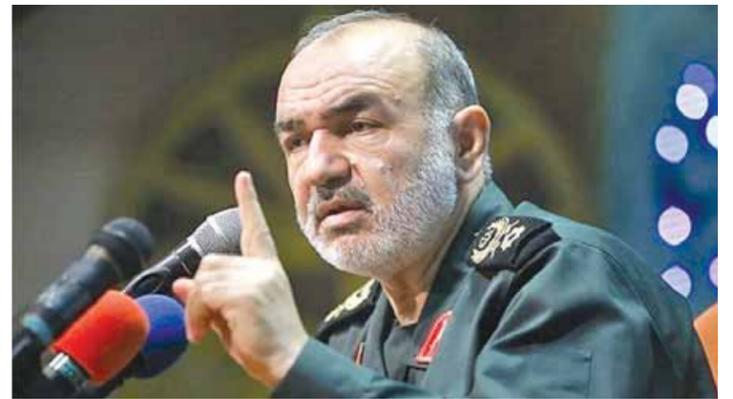
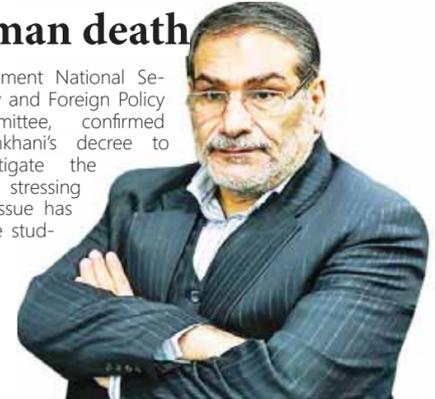
He said, "Investigations are at initial stages and if we make sure of a bioterrorism attempt, then we need to find out which government is behind it."

It is not yet clear what the official meant by the word "government," but Israel is most likely to be a reference.

According to the semi-official website of Tasnim, a biologic center in Israel is behind bioterrorism plots in the world.

Also, in this regard, Allaeddin Boroujerdi, head of the

Parliament National Security and Foreign Policy Committee, confirmed Shamkhani's decree to investigate the case, stressing the issue has to be studied.



Also, on June 28, a top IRGC commander said 11 members of an anti-revolutionary cell had been smashed in Sarvabad County in the western province of Kurdistan.

The county also foiled one of the biggest terrorist plots ever being hatched in June.

According to a statement by Iran's Intelligence Ministry on June 20, it had foiled one of the "biggest terrorist plots of Takfiri-Wahhabi groups" in Tehran and some other cities.

Later details showed Iranian security forces has apprehended 10 Takfiri terrorists in Tehran and three other central provinces, planning "remote control bombings, suicide attacks, and car bombings" in several busy locations.

Also, during the operations, security forces identified 50 bombing locations, confiscated over 100 kilograms of explosives, and stopped the delivery of at least two tons of explosive materials to the terrorists in the country, said Intelligence Minister Mahmoud Alavi.



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## Iranians demonstrate solidarity with Palestinians

**1→** It has been 70 years that the Muslim Palestinian nation are away from their homeland, and the occupants, who are not committed to international law and human principles, have occupied there," he lamented.

Rouhani said, "One of the regional Muslims' ideals is security in the region and one way to establish security in the region is letting the Muslims live in their own land."

Mohammad Javad Zarif, the foreign minister, said Quds Day is the "greatest inheritance" of Imam Khomeini, the founder of the Islamic Republic.

He also said

that Muslims do not accept "wrong policies" and "distance from realities and threats against the world of Islam".

He added that Muslims consider the Zionist regime of Israel the most "serious threat" to the Islamic world and international peace and security.

Supreme National Security Council Secretary Ali Shamkhani said the hegemony seeks to marginalize the Palestine issue.

Shamkhani said the participation at the Quds rally shows that the Iranians support the oppressed Palestinians and prioritize the Palestine issue.

The top security official also noted that the current situation in the Islamic world shows the logic behind naming

**"It has been 70 years that the Muslim Palestinian nation are away from their homeland, and the occupants, who are not committed to international law and human principles, have occupied there," Rouhani says.**

the last Friday of Ramadan the international Quds Day.

Ayatollah Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, chairman of the Expediency Council, praised the people's attendance at the Quds Day rally.

He also said the events in the Middle East region show that more "vigilance" is needed.

First Vice-President Es'haq Jahangiri said that the Iranian people express support for the Palestinians annually on the Quds Day rallies.

While the Iranians support the oppressed people in the world in peaceful ways the terrorist groups shed blood in the region, he said.

Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani said that the people's attendance at rally shows their "sensitivity" towards the destiny of Muslims.

The people voiced support for the Palestinians and proved that they are united, he added.

"Awakening of the Islamic community can be a real support for the Palestinian nation," Larijani noted.

According to the Press TV, a statement was issued at the end of the rally calling for resistance against the Zionist regime of Israel and support for Palestinian resistance, and maintaining unity in the Islamic world.

Quds Day is an annual event held on the last Friday of Ramadan to express support for the Palestinians and oppose Zionism as well as Israel's control of Jerusalem.

## Eternality of International Quds Day

**1→** Fourthly, Imam Khomeini's foresight and his cause to free an Islamic land from the yoke of occupiers and usurpers have brought the nasty phenomenon of Israel to the attention of the world's public opinion and International Quds Day rejuvenates the philosophy each year.

Fifthly, on International Quds Day Islamic countries pit their power against the bullying policy of the Zionist regime. And this is exactly what Imam Khomeini was nurturing in his mind.

Sixthly, even decades before the Islamic Revolution happened in 1979, Israel's strategy was to oppress and defeat its Arab rivals, a strategy which came to materialize in wars between the regime and Arabs. To beat Israel, however, Imam Khomeini saw it quite necessary to consider a

spirituality-based strategy. This way of looking at the issue ended in an ideological resistance against Tel Aviv among Palestinians.

Seventhly, one basic goal of International Quds Day is to unify Islamic nations against Israel after decades of disunity, as eloquently stated by Imam Khomeini: "If each Muslim pours one pail of water, Israel will be washed away."

Eighthly, in Imam Khomeini's thinking, confronting Israel is a principle as the regime has been seeking to sow disunity in the Islamic world.

Drawing a conclusion, it should be said that Imam's initiative opened an ever-widening horizon before the eyes of anti-Israelis, which can finally lead to the "Israel should be wiped out of the Earth" thinking.

# Israel should stop settlements, denying Palestinian development: draft Quartet report

Israel should stop building settlements, denying Palestinian development and designating land for exclusive Israeli use that Palestinians seek for a future state, the Middle East peace "Quartet" recommended in a draft of an eagerly awaited report seen by Reuters.

The draft report by the Quartet countries sponsoring the stalled peace process - the United States, Russia, the European Union and the United Nations - said the Israeli policy "is steadily eroding the viability of the two state solution."

"This raises legitimate questions about Israel's long term intentions which are compounded by the statements of some Israeli ministers that there should never be a Palestinian state," according to the draft report.

The day before Israeli elections in March 2015, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said there would never be a Palestinian state on his watch, only to reverse himself days later and recommit to the objective of a two-state solution.

UN Middle East envoy Nickolay Mladenov briefed the UN Security Council on Thursday on the Quartet report, which he told reporters had been submitted to the Quartet members for final approval and was likely to be released on Friday.

Diplomatic sources said the report carries significant political weight as it has the backing of close Israeli ally the United States, which has struggled to revive the peace talks amid tensions between



Netanyahu and U.S. President Barack Obama.

Relations between the rightist Israeli leader and the Democratic president have yet to recover from their bitter feud over last year's U.S.-led international nuclear deal with Israel's foe Iran.

The draft report said Israel had taken for its exclusive use some 70 percent of Area C, which makes up 60 percent of the occupied West Bank and includes the majority of agricultural lands, natural resources and land reserves.

## Land handovers stalled

"The transfer of greater powers and responsibilities to Palestinian civil authority in Area C, contemplated by commitments in prior agreements, has effectively

been stopped and in some ways reversed and should be resumed to advance the two state solution and prevent a one state reality from taking hold," the draft Quartet report said.

The draft report said that at least 570,000 Israelis are living in the settlements, which most countries deem illegal.

"Israel should cease the policy of settlement construction and expansion, designating land for exclusive Israeli use and denying Palestinian development," the draft report recommends.

It said that only one permit for Palestinian housing construction in Area C was reportedly approved in 2014, while there did not appear to have been any

approved in 2015.

The Palestinians want an independent state in the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem, areas Israel captured in a 1967 war. The last round of peace talks broke down in April 2014, and Israeli-Palestinian violence has surged in recent months.

Since October, Palestinian street attacks that have killed 33 Israelis and two visiting Americans. Israel has killed at least 201 Palestinians, 136 of whom it said were assailants. Others were killed during clashes and protests.

"The Palestinian authority should act decisively and take all steps within its capacity to cease incitement to violence and strengthen ongoing efforts to combat terrorism, including by clearly condemning all acts of terrorism," the draft Quartet report said.

Mladenov told the Security Council on Thursday the Quartet report outlines a "reasonable set of steps" that could be taken to put Israel and the Palestinians on the path to peace.

He said the report concluded that continuing violence, terrorism and incitement; Israeli settlement expansion and a lack of control of Gaza by the Palestinian Authority "severely undermine hope for peace."

The Palestinian Authority headed by President Mahmoud Abbas is based in the West Bank, while Islamist group Hamas has been in control of Gaza since 2007.

(Source: Reuters)

## Istanbul bombers 'from Russia, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan'

The three suicide bombers in the deadly gun and bomb attack on Istanbul's international airport were from Russia, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan, a Turkish government official has said.

The official gave no further details beyond confirming the attackers' nationalities and declined to be named because details of the investigation have not yet been released.

Forensics teams had been struggling to identify the bombers from their limited remains, officials said earlier.

The three bombers opened fire to create panic outside, before two of them got inside the terminal building and blew themselves up.

The third detonated his explosives at the entrance. At least 43 people, including 19 foreigners, were killed, and further 239 others were wounded.

Turkish police also rounded up 13 suspects over the airport attack, the state-run Anadolu news agency reported.

Police carried out simultaneous raids at 16 addresses in Istanbul on Tuesday night, Anadolu reported, adding that three of the suspects were foreigners.

The raids against suspected Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) terrorist group cells were launched in Istanbul and the Aegean coastal city of Izmir.

## Dawn raids

Turkish authorities and U.S. officials believe ISIL, also known as ISIS, was responsible for the gun and bomb attack on Europe's third-busiest airport, the deadliest in a series of suicide bombings in Turkey this year.

Counterterrorism police led by special forces officers carried out raids in several low-income neighborhoods of Istanbul - including Pendik, Basaksehir and Sultanbeyli - Anadolu said, without citing its sources.

Nine suspected fighters, thought to

have been in contact with ISIL members in Syria, were arrested in dawn raids in four districts of Izmir, the news agency said.

It said they were accused of financing, recruiting and providing logistical support to the hardline group.

Turkey is part of a U.S.-led military coalition against ISIL and home to around three million refugees fleeing the five-year civil war in neighboring Syria.

ISIL has established a self-declared caliphate in parts of both Syria and Iraq, and declared war on all non-Muslims and on Muslims who do not accept its version of Islam. It has claimed responsibility for similar attacks in Belgium and France in the past year.

Al Jazeera's Reza Sayah, reporting from Istanbul, said that the attack "does bear all the hallmarks of ISIL", but added Turkish and international officials had not yet provided evidence "connecting the dots".

"This kind of reaction in the past has not been able to stop attacks," he said. "Moving forward, as far as the Turkish population is concerned, they want to see an improvement in intelligence gathering."

## Police detain 11 more suspects

Meanwhile, Turkish police detained 11 foreigners suspected of being members of an Islamic State cell in Istanbul linked to the suicide bombers who staged the attack this week at Istanbul's main airport, broadcaster Haberturk said on its website on Friday.

The arrests in the dawn raid, by a counter-terror police squad in the Basaksehir district on the European side of the city, brought the number of people detained in the investigation to 24, it said.

A police spokesman could not confirm the report, which was also carried by other media.

(Source: Al Jazeera)

## China celebrates Communist Party's 95th birthday, Xi warns on graft, security



Chinese President Xi Jinping warned on Friday that the biggest threat to the ruling Communist Party is corruption, as he used the party's 95th birthday to also warn against any threats to China's security and Taiwan independence.

Since Xi took power more than three years ago, he has mounted a sweeping campaign against deep-rooted graft, warning like others before him it could threaten the party's rule, and taken a muscular approach to protecting China's sovereignty, including its contested claims in the South China Sea.

In a wide-ranging speech in Beijing's Great Hall of the People, Xi said that history had chosen the Communist Party to lead China, but that if they did not manage the party properly and listen to the people, then history would discard them.

"As the ruling party, the biggest danger we face is corruption," Xi told party members, in comments carried live on state television.

"We must have a staunch will, not let up on our zero tolerance attitude, investigate all cases and punish those who are corrupt, to give corrupt elements no place to hide in the party," he added.

Dozens of senior officials have been jailed in Xi's anti-graft battle, including powerful former domestic security chief Zhou Yongkang.

But China faces external challenges

(Source: Reuters)

to. Beijing has been infuriated by a case lodged by the Philippines at an international arbitration court over the South China Sea, vowing neither to participate in the case nor accept the ruling, which is due July 12.

Without making direct reference to the South China Sea, Xi said that while China was not a trouble maker, no foreign country should think China would trade away its core interests.

"Do not expect that we will swallow the bitter fruit of damage to our sovereignty, security and development interests," he said to an audience including military officers, model workers and ethnic minorities.

Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan also have South China Sea claims.

A further headache for Xi this year has been January's election in self-ruled and democratic Taiwan of a president from the pro-independence Democratic Progressive Party, Tsai Ing-wen.

"We will resolutely oppose Taiwan independence splittist forces," Xi said, again without a direct mention of Tsai or her party.

"The 1.3 billion of China and the entire Chinese race will never agree to any person, at any time, using any method to carry out activities to split the country."

## Russian, Turkish FMs meet for first time since jet downing

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and his Turkish counterpart Mevlut Cavusoglu meet for the first time since the two countries broke ties after Turkey's downing of a Russian jet last year.

The two diplomats met on Friday on the sidelines of a regional economic cooperation conference in the Black Sea resort of Sochi.

"We hope that this encounter will set the right tone for the normalization of relations," Lavrov was quoted as saying by TASS news agency.

The meeting follows a phone conversation between Presidents Vladimir Putin and Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Wednesday, after the Turkish strongman sent a letter of apology to Moscow, according to the Kremlin.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Friday's talks were expected to help

pave the way for a meeting between Putin and Erdogan that could take place either before or at a G20 summit in China in September.

Putin has ordered his government to hold talks on lifting an embargo imposed on some Turkish food and to restore full trade ties with Ankara.

Turkish tourism, a key revenue earner for the country, was dealt a serious blow by the diplomatic crisis as the number of Russian tourists visiting Turkey drastically declined.

The two countries support opposite sides in Syria, with Turkey backing militants in their bid to topple President Bashar al-Assad.

RIA news agency quoted Cavusoglu as saying after his meeting with Lavrov that Turkey and Russia should work together for a political solution to the Syria crisis.



Cavusoglu said Ankara is fighting directly with Daesh, this is why Turkey is a target for terrorists.

The country is reeling from a gun and bomb attack at Istanbul's main airport after three suspected Daesh bombers on Tuesday killed 44 people in the deadliest in a string of attacks in the country this year.

Broadcaster Haberturk said on its

website on Friday that Turkish police detained 11 foreigners suspected of being members of a Daesh cell in Istanbul.

The arrests in the dawn raid, by a counter-terror police squad in the Basaksehir district on the European side of the city, brought the number of people detained in the investigation to 24, it said.

(Source: Press TV)

## NEWS

### Obama seeks Syria agreement with Russia

U.S. President Barack Obama has proposed to "deepen" military cooperation between the U.S. and Russia against some Syrian armed groups in exchange for Russia putting a stop to the bombing of U.S.-backed rebels, according to a report.

The U.S. sent the agreement's text to Russia on Monday after several weeks of negotiations, a member of the Obama administration told The Washington Post on Thursday.

The alleged deal stipulates that the U.S. will primarily join forces with Russia to target and strike the al-Nusra Front armed group, the Syrian affiliate of al-Qaeda.

On the other hand, Russia will also pressure the government of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad to halt its bombing of armed rebel groups supported by the U.S., The Washington Post added.

## Mounting casualties

The report comes at a time when casualties from Russian air strikes continue to mount.

Of the 7,031 people killed by Russian air strikes in Syria throughout the past nine months, more than 35 percent of them (2,498) were civilians, according to a press release published on Thursday by the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

Among the civilians, at least 587 were children and 360 women.

More than 270,000 people have been killed throughout five years, according to the Observatory's statistics.

Efforts to reach a peace agreement have fallen through time and again. United Nations special envoy to Syria Staffan de Mistura said on Thursday he aims to restart intra-Syrian negotiations in July and reach a political transition by August.

"What we need is that the stakeholders do come with a feeling of urgency and work on some ideas on how to bridge the differences between what everyone means by political transition," de Mistura said.

(Source: Al Jazeera)

### Al-Qaeda leader warns of 'gravest consequences' if Boston marathon bomber executed

Al-Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahri warned the United States of the "gravest consequences" if Boston marathon bomber Dzhokhar Tsarnaev or any other Muslim prisoners is executed.

Tsarnaev, named in Zawahri's online video message, was sentenced to death by lethal injection on June 24 last year for the 2013 bomb attack which killed three people and injured more than 260.

(Source: Reuters)

### Iraqi Hashd al-Shaabi condemns Saudi FM's remarks

Iraqi pro-government Hashd al-Shaabi, also known as the Popular Mobilization Units, has vehemently condemned the Saudi foreign minister's call for the dissolution of the force, which is assisting army soldiers in battles against the Takfiri Daesh terrorist group.

The organization, in a statement released on Thursday, argued that Adel al-Jubeir's calls for the dismantling of the Popular Mobilization Units exceeded all limits, calling on the United Nations to take measures against him.

The statement further pointed to Hashd al-Shaabi as the main force fighting the scourge of Daesh terrorism, noting that Saudi Arabia is pursuing a spiteful political campaign against the Popular Mobilization Units through its officials and ambassador to Baghdad Thamer al-Sabhan as well as pro-Riyadh media outlets.

Hashd al-Shaabi also urged the Iraqi Foreign Ministry to take a firm stand in the face of Saudi Arabia's abusive policies.

Iraqi National Security Adviser Faleh al-Fayyad also told Arabic-language al-Sumaria television network on Thursday that the top Saudi diplomat's "demand for the dismantling of the Popular Mobilization Units reflects the scope of his narrow-mindedness. Such comments are not beneficial to bilateral relations [between Baghdad and Riyadh]. It is outside the purview of Jubeir or anyone else to debate the issue."

"The world has begun to realize that Hashd al-Shaabi is a key factor in the fight against terrorism. The force crushed Daesh, which operates to cause sectarian tensions in Iraq and is poised to kill 70 percent of the Iraqi population," Fayyad said.

Earlier, Iraqi Foreign Ministry spokesman Ahmad Jamal strongly condemned Jubeir's comments as "meddlesome".

Jamal, in a statement released on Wednesday, expressed Baghdad's disapproval over Saudi Arabia's repeated intervention in Iraq's domestic affairs, calling on Riyadh to stop Saudi nationals from joining Daesh terrorists.

"Hashd al-Shaabi is an official party that incorporates various walks of the Iraqi nation. It is part of the national Iraqi defense forces, under the control of the National Operational Command, and receives its budget from the Iraqi government," the statement said.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi strongly advised the Saudi envoy to Baghdad to stand firmly committed to its diplomatic duties and avoid meddling in Iraq's internal affairs.

(Source: al Alam)

NEWS

**Asia's May Iran oil imports jump 34.5% y/y to more than 4-year high**

Imports of Iranian oil by four major buyers in Asia in May jumped 34.5 percent from a year ago to the highest in at least 4-1/2 years, reflecting Tehran's moves to recoup market share lost under international sanctions. The four countries, South Korea, Japan, China and India, imported 1.62 million barrels per day (bpd) in May, government and ship-tracking data showed. Japan's trade ministry on Thursday released official data showing imports of 307,691 bpd from Iran in May, the highest since January 2012, before sanctions kicked in.

China imported 619,300 bpd in May 2016 which shows a 19.5 percent rise compared to the 518,400 bpd in the same period last year.

In May 2016, India imported 379,200 bpd, showing a three percent year-on-year rise from 368,000 bpd, while South Korea's imports stood at 316,839 bpd, registering 145.6 percent increase from 129,000 bpd in May 2015. (Source: Reuters)

**Armenia to offer cheaper transit duties for Iranian business people**

Armenia is going to offer the best transit duties to Iranian forwarding companies for transportation of their goods through its territory to the Black Sea ports, transport and communications minister Gagik Beglaryan said on June 30.

He said the section of the North-South transport corridor stretching from Agarak to Sisian in the southern Armenian region of Syunik is decided to cover with asphalt instead of concrete at the instruction of the president of the country. According to him, this section of the road is the most complicated. The decision will cut the travel by 70 km and 2 hours.

The minister also noted that after reaching Armenian Yerashk railway station, Iranian businessmen may use the cheaper railway line for taking their goods further to Georgia. (Source: Arka.am)

**Iran says under no obligation to buy Airbus superjumbo jets**

Iran said on Thursday it was under no obligation to buy A380 superjumbo jets, IRNA reported, raising further questions over part of a landmark deal with European plane-maker Airbus.

The order for the double-decker jetliners grabbed attention in January as part of a preliminary deal signed in Paris for 118 Airbus planes worth \$27 billion. Iran has also provisionally agreed to buy or lease 109 Boeing jets.

Reuters reported on Monday, however, that Tehran was having second thoughts about whether to take delivery of the order for a dozen A380 superjumbo jets.

"We have freedom to choose ... we have no obligation and commitment to buy A380 planes," Transport and Urban Development Minister Abbas Akhoundi said, according to IRNA.

Discussing the Airbus order in February, the chairman of national flag carrier Iran Air said the A380 would not arrive for another five years and the airline would in the meantime monitor the expansion of Tehran's Imam Khomeini airport.

"This is part of a five-year plan for Iran's aviation ... and the Iranian official in charge of buying such planes will decide then," Akhoundi said.

The U.S. and Europe lifted sanctions in January under a 2015 deal with Tehran to limit its nuclear program, but U.S. sanctions unrelated to the nuclear issue remain, banning dollar transactions with Iran and making it harder for firms to access finance for business in the Islamic Republic.

Iran needs an estimated 400 jets to renew its fleet after decades of sanctions and to prepare for projected growth, according to Iranian and Western estimates.

A spokesman for Airbus said it could not comment on any details of commercial agreements. (Source: Reuters)

**The slow-motion crisis in Saudi Arabia, in two minutes**

Long-stewing problems in one region don't go away just because another region is at center stage. While Brexit has raged, 3,000 miles away in Riyadh the Saudi royal family, beset by the long-term plunge in petroleum prices, is racing to transform the kingdom's oil-centered economy. If it ultimately fails to realize its grand plan in an already Middle East, the impact would be incalculable.

Saudi Arabia, an important strategic ally of the U.S., can't subsist on oil money indefinitely. Its plan includes a landmark sale of up to 5 percent of the national oil company, possibly the world's biggest IPO, to help build a sovereign wealth fund that could top \$2 trillion. (Source: Bloomberg)

JUMP

**Iran Mercantile Exchange gets WFE membership**

Iran, reportedly, became a member of International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO), association of organizations that regulate the world's securities and futures markets, earlier in April.

As Amir Hamooni, CEO of Iran Fara Bourse (IFB), Iran's secondary securities exchange, recently told the Tehran Times, IFB currently awaits for being accepted as an affiliate member of IOSCO and plans to apply for WFE membership in the next step.

**Iran provides \$500m of technical-engineering services to Kazakhstan**

**ECONOMY** TEHRAN — Iranian desk companies and firms provide around \$500 million worth of technical and engineering services to Kazakhstan (per annum), IRIB news agency reported on Wednesday.

"The value of trade between Iran and Kazakhstan is about \$280 million," Head of Iran-Kazakhstan Joint Business Council Amir Abedi was quoted as saying.

Considering the \$500 million worth of technical and engineering services provided to Kazakhstan, the figure reaches \$800 million, he added.

Abedi made the remarks on the sidelines of a business forum between Iran and the CIS countries in Tehran.

Mentioning the presence of 400 Iranian companies in Kazakhstan providing technical and engineering services, the official noted that the prospect of trade between the two



countries for the next 5 years is set to reach \$5 billion.

Stating that mining, agriculture, engineering and technical services

and consumer commodity groups could be potential areas of cooperation between Iran and Kazakhstan, Abedi added, "to increase trade relations between Iran and Kazakhstan some obstacles need to be removed among which banking and visa problems could be mentioned".

In April 2016, Kazakh and Iranian governmental and private partners signed memoranda of understanding (MOUs), yielding almost \$1 billion in bilateral trade.

The contracts are expected to open a new era of cooperation between the two countries, cementing ties in other areas including trade, transportation, technology, industry, banking, shipping, railways, information technology, and energy.

Among Central Asian nations, Iran has the strongest political and economic ties with Kazakhstan, which is the biggest country in the region.

**Iran's July oil exports 70% higher than year ago: source**

Iran's oil exports in July are set to fall from June levels as the country battles Saudi Arabia and Iraq for market share but are about 70 percent higher than a year ago, according to a source with knowledge of the country's crude lifting plans.

Exports will be about 2.14 million barrels per day (bpd) in July, down from about 2.31 million bpd in June, the highest since January 2012, the source said. The decline is mostly attributable to a fall in condensate exports as South Korea cuts purchases of the ultra-light oil and reduced crude liftings from European customers.

Iran's oil exports have nearly doubled since December, the last month before sanctions targeting its nuclear program were lifted, but it is facing ever tougher competition from its rival Saudi Arabia and neighbor Iraq.

This year, "we are really seeing the triumvirate turning the screws, especially with the return of Iranian barrels after the lifting of sanctions," Matt Smith, a director of Commodity Research at ClipperData, said on his daily blog.

"Exports for the three nations are averaging more than 2.3 million barrels

per day higher through May year-to-date compared to the same period last year," he said.

Iran has been regaining market share at a faster pace than analysts had projected since sanctions were lifted in January and exports will be above 2 million bpd for a fourth month in July.

Exports to Europe in July are set to fall to about 430,000 bpd from about 580,000 bpd this month, the source said.

Iran's loadings to Asia in July are about the same as this month at 1.63 million bpd, according to the source. Loadings peaked this year in April at 1.71 million bpd.

Loadings for China, Iran's biggest customer, will be slightly over 654,000 bpd in July, up nearly 50,000 bpd from June. India will pick up about 480,000 bpd, the highest since March. South Korean loadings will be about half of those this month at 190,000 bpd. Japan is set to load about 235,000 bpd.

Greece, Italy, Spain and Turkey are all loading Iranian oil, according to the source. Poland is absent this month, after making its first purchase since last August in June.

(Source: Reuters)

**Iran claws back market share as oil tanker heads to Poland**

A supertanker with Iranian crude is heading toward Poland's Baltic Sea port of Gdansk, trade sources said and ship-tracking data showed, as Iran continues to claw back market share after the lifting of Western sanctions.

It was not immediately clear whether the buyer was Polish refiners PKN Orlen or Grupa Lotos, or whether the oil would remain in Poland or be shipped to Germany, which is connected by pipeline to Gdansk.

Regardless of the ultimate destination, the cargo is the first Iranian crude sold into this part of the Baltic Sea market since January's lifting of sanctions, intensifying the battle for market share between top producers including Russia and Saudi Arabia.

The Atlantus Very Large Crude Carrier (VLCC) left Iran's main oil export terminal Kharg Island laden with 2 million barrels of crude on June 27, Reuters ship tracking showed, and is destined for Gdansk.

VLCCs cannot dock in the Baltic Sea port but sources said the oil would be transferred to a smaller vessel to discharge in Gdansk.

Nearly wholly dependent on oil from Russia, Polish refiners are taking advantage of the turf war and cheap oil prices

to try alternative grades and gain a stronger negotiating position with Russian producers.

Lotos started taking Saudi oil last year - in a development that Moscow called a major challenge - and PKN Orlen recently signed a supply deal with Saudi Aramco, its first long-term deal with a supplier from the Persian Gulf region.

Both companies said they were also interested in running Iranian oil in their refineries.

Saudi Arabia has been aggressively expanding its global buyer list and Iran has been hot on Riyadh's heels in its efforts to get its old customers back and find new ones. Oil major Shell resumed Iranian oil purchases this month.

Tensions between the two Persian Gulf producers have stymied OPEC's attempts to find a plan to boost global oil prices.

Before sanctions, Iran was exporting about 2.2 million barrels per day (bpd). July exports are expected to be around 2.1 million bpd, up about 70 percent year-on-year.

In May, Poland's deputy energy minister said the country was in talks with Iran over cooperation in the oil and gas sector. (Source: Reuters)

**Essar oil makes \$500m payment of its outstanding to Iran via new channel**

Essar Oil has paid \$500 million to Iran via a new payment channel opened recently to clear one-fifth of its outstanding. Indian refiners are using Germany-based EIH bank to help clear past oil dues to Iran.

Industry sources said Essar Oil, which owed about \$2.6 billion in past dues, paid \$500 million. Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd. (MRPL) and Indian Oil Corp. (IOC) have paid over \$1 billion.

Sources said MRPL, which owed Iran \$2.6 billion before the payments started last month, paid \$300 million this month on top of \$500 million it paid in May. IOC cleared another \$30 million over and above the \$250 million it paid last month. The company owed \$560 million before the payment cycle started.

Hindustan Petroleum (HPCL) had paid \$17.5 million out of its outstanding \$23 million. Its joint venture with Mittal Energy - HMEL - owes another \$60 million.

Sources said the payments last month were routed through Union Bank of India, which in turn transmitted the money to National Iranian Oil Co. (NIOC) through HalkBank of Turkey. This month, the refiners are using State Bank of India (SBI), which transfers the euro to



NIOC through EIH.

The balance dues will be cleared in 2-3 months, they said, adding that the oil companies have been advised to buy foreign currency in a calibrated manner to avoid a run on the rupee. The payments made in May and this month are the first by Indian refiners in a foreign currency since lifting of sanctions against Iran in January this year.

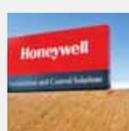
The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is coordinating the repayments, they said. With sanctions blocking banking channels, Indian refiners have since February 2013 paid nearly half of the oil import bill in rupees while keeping the remainder, pending opening of payment routes.

The refiners had last paid \$700 million to Iran in October using a limited window provided by the US to clear some of the outstanding using the dollar. At that time, Essar Oil had paid \$338 million while MRPL had remitted \$299 million. IOC had paid another \$60 million while HPCL paid \$3 million.

The dues to Iran on crude oil that refiners buy have accumulated as western sanctions blocked payment routes since 2013. Since February 2013, refiners like MRPL and Essar Oil have been paying 45 per cent of dues on purchase of crude oil from Iran in rupees through UCO Bank in Kolkata.

The remaining has been accumulating, pending finalization of a payment route and mechanism. After the lifting of sanctions, Iran has scrapped the 45:55 payment mechanism and is billing Indian refiners in euros since April. (Source: dailypioneer.com)

NEWS IN BRIEF



**Toyota Industries, Honeywell in bid to buy Intelligrated: sources**

Japan's Toyota Industries Corp is competing against U.S. diversified industrial conglomerate Honeywell International Inc. to acquire U.S. distribution systems and logistics company Intelligrated Inc., people familiar with the matter said.

The strong interest in the company follows German forklift truck maker Kion Group AG's agreement last week to buy Intelligrated's larger peer Dematic for \$3.25 billion to expand into automated warehouses and supply chains that have ballooned with the growth of e-commerce.

A deal for Intelligrated could come in days and value the privately held company at around \$1.5 billion, including debt, the people said this week.



**Oracle ordered to pay HP \$3 billion in Itanium case**

A California jury ordered Oracle Corp to pay Hewlett-Packard Enterprise Co \$3 billion in damages in a case over HP's Itanium servers, an Oracle spokeswoman said on Thursday.

Oracle said it would appeal the verdict. The Itanium processor is made by Intel Inc.

Oracle decided to stop developing software for use with HP's Itanium-based servers in 2011, saying that Intel made it clear that the chip was nearing the end of its life and was shifting its focus to its x86 microprocessor.

But HP said it had an agreement with Oracle that support for Itanium would continue, without which the equipment using the chip would become obsolete.



**Qualcomm files 17 new complaints in China courts against smartphone maker Meizu**

Qualcomm Inc. has filed 17 fresh complaints in China against Meizu Technology Co., stepping up its battle with the Chinese smartphone maker after the two were unable to reach a licensing accord in the U.S. tech giant's biggest market.

The patent infringement complaints by Qualcomm, submitted to intellectual property courts in Beijing and Shanghai on Thursday, mark the second time in a week it has taken legal action against Meizu, one of China's top 10 handset suppliers. It filed its first complaint in Beijing last Friday.

Qualcomm is seeking to uphold terms of its landmark 2015 anti-trust settlement with China's economic policy panel, the National Development & Reform Commission.

# Opening Persia: A land of unparalleled attractions

Iranians people have been turning their charm on visitors for two millennia, since before the era of the Silk Road. In fact, Persia's age-old tradition of hospitality was the only extremism we found during our visit from April 25 to May 12. And we found it at every turn; I have never felt so welcomed.

In February, the New York Times, citing the Associated Press, reported that Iranian officials claimed that 5 million foreign travelers had visited Iran in 2014, 3,400 of them Americans, contributing some \$7.5 billion to the economy. The Times reported that by 2025, the country aims to attract 20 million tourists a year; Iranian officials estimate they will spend about \$30 billion.

For decades, I had been wowed by glossy photographs of Iran's archaeological sites, its lavish palaces with stained glass windows, its ancient baths, bazaars brimming with spices and carpets, Islamic architecture and dazzling blue-green-tiled mosques topped with domes of mesmerizing mathematical perfection. And yet, three-dimensional Iran still came as a surprise.

Travelers who return home helped spread the word about the country's treasures, but they also often speak of the disparity between Western perceptions and the realities of a young and welcoming population.

Iranians are proud of their unparalleled attractions, including 19 UNESCO World Heritage Sites with dozens more listed as tentative, and they are clearly happy to share them. Drop into any cafe filled with young, hookah-smoking locals (the aromatic fruit-flavored tobacco comes in a variety of flavors), and you will find a citizenry that is exceedingly charming, friendly, curious and always eager to chat.

"You're American?" they'll ask. "Thank you for coming to my country!"

Strangers invited us to dinners, weddings and more than a few alfresco picnics. One girl insisted that a woman in our group accept the ring she was wearing. Another lovingly handed us her year-old baby, as if we were long-lost cousins.

More than 70% of Iran's 80 million people are under age 35, and 33% are under 15, a result of the early Islamic Republic's policy of making population growth a priority.

The second-largest country in the Middle East after Saudi Arabia, Iran straddles a strategic region between East and West, and between the oil fields of the Persian Gulf and the Caspian Sea.

Boasting an ancient and sophisticated culture, Iranians speak Farsi, one of the oldest living languages, and most speak an impressive level of English, which they are not shy about practicing with you.

They are quick to inform you that they are Persians, not Arabs, and will gladly tell you just what they think of the country's tenuous rapport with Saudi Arabia.



The classical Persian garden, this one in Shiraz, contains the Zoroastrian elements of sky, earth, water and plants (Lindsay Fincher/MIR Corporation)

Given Persians' long-standing tradition of being well-traveled and very well-educated, a strong national identity and pride prevails. The notion of beauty and poetry is everywhere in a country that is both exotic and comfortable with an underlying nuance of sensuality.

Iran is more than twice the size of Texas and mostly desert. But it is also a country of great beauty, natural and man-made: high, arid mountains, rural villages of adobe homes, some of the world's oldest (and painstakingly restored) archaeological sites and flourishing modern cities that are millennia old.

There is even a popular ski resort an hour's drive from Tehran. Roads are good, and our bus was modern and comfortable, though bathroom stops were a succession of "squatty potties" that kept us yearning for the elusive Western toilet.

Tabriz, a former capital in the northwest area of the country, made for a beautiful introduction to Iran. Its massive and ancient bazaar (some parts of the 2.75 square-mile market date back a thousand years) evokes the city's history as a classic stop along the Silk Road, with a section dedicated to hand-made carpets, each a masterpiece of skill, once written of admiringly by Marco Polo.

A day excursion brought us to tiny Kandoan, a kind of Cappadocia in miniature.

With its notorious traffic and visible extremes of wealthy haves and impoverished have-nots, Tehran is surprisingly modern in places, with hotels, art galleries and a clutch of fashion boutiques that would not look out of place in Europe's capitals.

"Tehran's impressive museums make the city an absolute priority," Lucas said. "In particular, the Crown Jewels as well as the newly opened Islamic section of the National Mu-

seum," that had reopened months before our arrival after an extensive 9-year renovation.

We drove past the former American Embassy, the "nest of spies" that was the site of the 1979 takeover by Iranian student revolutionaries who held 52 Americans hostage for more than a year. It is kept as a sort of museum of the revolution with anti-American murals still covering its outside walls.

Our only domestic flight brought us to the desert capital of Yazd, a fascinating city known for its mud-brick historic quarter, towerlike buildings traditionally known as wind catchers, and its pre-Islamic fire-based Zoroastrian religion symbolized by a flame that is said to have been burning since 470, transferred from its original site in 1940.

Refined Shiraz is the fabled heartland of Persian culture. With a long history of literary, artistic and intellectual patronage, it was the seat of the 18th century capital once famed for its vineyards, which no longer exist.

Iranians love Shiraz for its beautiful gardens and for being the city of love and poetry. Much of the latter is due to the revered 14th century poet Hafez, whose park-like tomb is a popular meeting place for groups of friends or young couples who come and read to each other the poet's verses of love.

Shiraz is also the base from which to visit Persepolis, the ceremonial capital of the largest empire that ever existed, dating to 515 B.C. It was destroyed in 330 B.C. during Alexander the Great's invasion of Persia and disappeared beneath the desert sands until it was excavated in the 1930s.

The sprawling site is tainted with infamy today as a result of the shah's ostentatious commemoration of the 2,500th anniversary of the Persian monarchy, staged in 1971 for an astounding \$90 million (\$516 million in

today's dollars). This over-the-top attempt to instill nationalistic pride backfired royally.

Food is at the center of Persian culture, and it played a big role in our Iran experience. The repertoire of dishes was diverse and exotic but often felt comfortably familiar because Persian cooking has influenced Middle Eastern, Moroccan, Northern Indian and Turkish cuisines.

At times, it was highly refined, at other times basic and straightforward, beginning with the requisite barley soup and the ubiquitous grilled kebabs, which are sold on every street corner as well as in upscale restaurants, served alongside a bed of fluffy saffron rice.

Dishes are infused with fresh flowers (rose petals) and herbs (mint) or spices (saffron) and fruit (pomegranate and barberry). Gormeh sabzi, Iran's national dish of green-herb stew made with lamb and kidney beans, is sure to make an appearance. So is fesenjan, a chicken stew with a rich sauce of pomegranate and walnut. Tahdig is the golden, crunchy buttery crust from the bottom of the rice pot.

And to top it all off, creamy Persian ice cream delicately flavored with rose water or saffron or made from pistachios that Iranians insist are the finest in the world.

Though the population is 99% Muslim, of which 90% are Shia, Iran is largely free of the kinds of Shia-Sunni friction that so sour its regional neighbors.

But there is no reason to wait. Right now is a great time to explore both sides of Iran: ancient Persia, whose wonders are breathtaking and awe-inspiring, and modern Iran, with all its surprises and contradictions.

(Source: Travel Weekly)

## A CLOSER LOOK

### Traveling with little kids, is it possible?

Travelling with children can be a bit like taking a herd of wild goats on holiday. Whether they're your own or someone else's, factoring a child's needs into your travels involves a lot more than sticking on a CD full of pop music and making toilet stops.

#### Take your time

The greatest thing you can take – whether at the airport, sightseeing or getting from A to B – is extra time. Toddlers love to explore and don't care for the time pressures of travel, so you're more likely to all retain your cool if you factor the faffing, gawping, stalling, toilet stops and tantrums into your timeframe.

#### Book ahead

Whether you're camping or staying in hotels, it pays to book ahead. Trying to retain the spontaneity of travel BC (Before Children) doesn't pay off if you arrive at your destination to find you can't bag a bed or pitch and have to hit the road again with tired, hungry toddlers melting down in the backseat.

#### Give them a camera

Giving toddlers their own (robust, child-friendly) camera encourages them to observe their surroundings and focus on what interests them. You might be surprised at the results from their knee-high view.

Amongst pictures of feet and wheels, my three-year-old has shot flowers, animals, helicopters, boats, rocks and rabbit poo.

#### Be prepared for the climate

It's simple advice, but children dressed comfortably for the weather and terrain will be happier in a new environment. With all the gear available, there's no excuse for dressing toddlers in ski-suits four sizes too big, forgetting their gloves, or leaving them barefoot on a beach where sea urchins lurk.

#### Pack pull-ups for potty training

Planes and public transport during the potty training days can be a nightmare. As if you didn't have enough in your hand luggage, now you're expected to add a potty, three changes of clothes and bags of wet, stinky pants. Potty-training gurus may disagree, but if toddlers are still having lots of little accidents then I'm all for putting them back into Pull-Ups on the plane.

#### BE APP-Y

Thanks to toddler-friendly apps, there's no need to cram a toy box into your hand luggage when travelling by plane. By all means take a book and a magic scribbler (crayons just get lost down the side of seats), but the most compact form of entertainment is a device loaded with apps and games.

#### Use public transport

Most toddlers love the novelty of travelling by train, bus and boat, so ditch the hire car and use public transport where possible. In Switzerland, my two-year-old would repeat the names of the metro stops as they were announced – provoking ripples of laughter and making him even more excited about boarding the train each day.

#### Invest in a child locator

In my experience, toddlers aren't fans of reins, backpacks with a leash, or any infringement on their freedom. Keep tabs on them at airports, train stations and crowded attractions with a child locator.

The child wears a small unit (strapped to a belt or shoe) and you keep the transmitter. If you lose your child set off the alarm and follow the sound to find them.

#### Don't forget the medicine

Whether they're out of routine, jet-lagged, or eating less healthily, kids always seem to get ill on holiday. Dampen the impact of broken nights, frayed temperaments and fevers by packing an easy-to-swallow medicine such as Calpol in the UK. Other basic ingredients in your first aid kit should include antiseptic wipes, plasters, sting treatment, and a thermometer.

(Source: roughguides.com)

## PICTURE OF THE DAY Tehran Times/Bahman Vakhshour



Pasha-kola village is located near Amol, northern Mazandaran Province

In the name of God



Shahid Tongdooyan petrochemical company

**Call for Identify resources**

Shahid Tongdooyan Petrochemical Company (STPC) intends to identify the following chemical suppliers which are qualified.

#### Subject:

| ROW | CHIMICAL NAME                      | CONSUMPTION RATE(TON/YEAR) |
|-----|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1   | Isophthalic acid(IPA)              | 5000                       |
| 2   | Titanium dioxide(anatas grade) 1   | 600                        |
| 3   | CMB(cobalt manganese bromide)      | 600                        |
| 4   | Antimony (III)oxide                | 110                        |
| 5   | Antimony (III)acetate              | 150                        |
| 6   | Hydro bromic acid (HBR48%)         | 250                        |
| 7   | Therminol 66(heat transfer media)2 | Up to process condition    |
| 8   | Cobalt acetate (industrial grade)  | 60                         |

Note1: titanium dioxide only acceptable by Huntsman & Sachtleben)

Note2: Heat transfer media (therminol66) only acceptable by Solutia (Eastman)

#### General conditions of suppliers & specialized degree necessary:

1. Have at least 2 years relevant experience to chemical
2. License agency or distribution agency
3. Business cards

#### Place & deadline of receive evaluation forms:

Legal & contracts affair, Phase #1, (STPC), site #4, Petrochemical Economic Special Zone(PESZ), Bandar Imam Khomeini, Khuzestan province, Iran.06152172045

It shall be given latest by 16:00 pm on **12/Jul/16**

#### Place & deadline of submission evaluation forms document:

Legal & contracts affair, Phase #1, (STPC), site #4, Petrochemical Economic Special Zone(PESZ), Bandar Imam Khomeini, Khuzestan province, Iran.

It should be submitted latest by 16:00 pm on **23/Jul/16**

#### Contacts:

You can contact any of the addresses below:

Email: Moradpour.a@stpc.ir

Tel: 061521-72045

Fax: 061521-72043

# Brexit talks will be stunningly complex. Who will provide the statesmanship we need?



## ARTICLE

By **Tony Blair**  
Former British PM

Certain things surely are agreed by both sides. This was the most important decision taken by the UK in many decades. The result was clear but close. The country is now deeply divided, regionally, generationally and attitudinally.

The question is how to unite; how to protect and advance the UK's national interest; and specifically what is the right future relationship with Europe.

This will not be easy. The elation – at least amongst some of the Brexiteers – is matched by a profound dismay in the ranks of Remain voters; and in the case of younger voters an anger which will not abate quickly. And those of us who are passionate believers in the Union are wracked by the possibility of its breakup.

"Our nation is in peril. To allow us to come safely through

this we need to be adult in our politics."

Many of the 48 percent will feel completely disenfranchised, without a natural political home and, at least under Labour's present leadership, alienated from either main political party.

### Labour Party

With the Labour Party effectively disabled we need the Conservative Party to conduct its leadership battle with genuine patriotic regard for our nation's interest.

The next weeks are vital in the signals we send to Europe and the way Britain is perceived. For example, Theresa May says she will have a Brexit Minister conduct the negotiation for Britain. OK, I understand the Tory politics of that; but is it really sensible for the country?

Don't underestimate the damage having Nigel Farage address the European Parliament in that way does to our interests. Remember who has to agree any new deal for Britain: the European Parliament.

David Cameron has a huge role and responsibility in shaping the climate of the future negotiation. It will matter to the outcome and it matters now.

There is going to be a negotiation of extraordinary com-



plexity where there are a thousand devils in every detail. Those we used to call "our European partners" are, unsurprisingly, divided and uncertain themselves. Some want us out fast. Some agree to delay the Article 50 process. This needs serious statesmanship.

So before any formal negotiation begins, we need to get a high level sense of where the boundaries are going to be, the things that might be compromised, the things that are red lines.

The psychology of the other 27 countries is crucial to feel and shape: they could decide that other secessionist movements should be deterred and so be disinclined to flexibility; or they could decide that the British view – especially on immigration – reflects something strong across Europe and have a measured response which tries to accommodate that sentiment.

We will start to disentangle what a negotiation around the European Single Market really means. How much do we really need to be in it? What are the practical consequences of being out of it? Is there room for any compromise on parts of it?

We will also begin to be able in real time to understand the impact of our decision. Will the financial markets calm down? What will be the position of our major European wide companies on jobs? What will be the decisions of American, Japanese and Chinese investors? Will they shrug or pull back? What will our growth rates look like and our projections on the costs of borrowing?

During this time, we need also from the Leave leadership a detailed vision of what the new British economy they advocate really means.

→ 9

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# Istanbul attacks: Why Turkey's Erdogan looks more vulnerable than ever

By Lina Khatib

The attack on Istanbul's main airport has underlined President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's increased weakness, a vulnerability that's a product of the actions of Turkey's allies and opponents alike. But it's partly Erdogan's own doing.

From the beginning of the Syrian uprising, Erdogan has used the conflict as an opportunity to crack down on the Kurdish Workers Party (PKK), a militant group that has been battling the Turkish state for decades and is listed by NATO, the U.S. and the EU as a terrorist organization.

The government stoked the fires of Kurdish grievances, and the PKK returned the favor in-kind -- ratcheting up its terror attacks on the Turkish state, mainly against security institutions like the police, which have increased in number and frequency over the past five years.

But the attacks also benefited Erdogan, who used the attacks to present himself as the only person able to secure Turkey from terrorism.

The tactic worked for a while and enabled Erdogan to use the fear of instability as a rallying tool to secure a sweeping victory for his party in the last parliamentary election.

But the focus on the PKK also meant diverting security resources that could have been deployed to gather intelligence on and prevent attacks by another cause of instability -- ISIL, whose fighters are believed by some Turkish officials to have been behind last week's airport massacre.

## ISIL as a convenient tool

At the same time, Turkey saw ISIL as a convenient tool to help overthrow the Syrian regime of Bashar al-Assad, particularly as some elements in the Turkish administration have been sympathetic towards the group.

This facilitated the movement of ISIL fighters in and out of Syria through Turkey's porous borders.

This pragmatic stance towards ISIL initially offered Erdogan a way to assert himself vis-à-vis Assad, but it also paved the way for ISIL to strengthen its presence and activities in Turkey. Turkey was held hostage by fears that a crackdown on ISIL would result in serious retaliation on Turkish soil.

This laissez-faire stance on ISIL also eventually put Erdogan under dual pressure -- from the U.S. on one side, and Russia on the other.

The White House pushed Turkey to collaborate with the international anti-ISIL coalition -- something which Turkey was reluctant to do, partly because the government regarded the coalition as casting aside the matter of regime change in Syria. But Turkey's participation in the coalition



meant that ISIL now saw Turkey as an opponent, and the terror group began unleashing attacks in the country.

Russia, on the other hand, saw the Obama administration's lukewarm approach towards regime change in Syria as an opportunity to affirm its own political standing towards the West.

With Turkey seen as an economic and political competitor, Moscow set its sights on Ankara and engaged in a series of military provocations out of its base in Syria that eventually led in November to the downing of a Russian fighter jet that had trespassed into Turkish air space.

Rather predictably, Erdogan handled Moscow's anger over the incident with defiance. But the U.S. and Russia were both quick to support rising Kurdish groups in northern Syria on the basis that those groups were fighting ISIL. As those groups have direct connections with the PKK, Erdogan found himself stuck between the U.S. on one side and Russia on the other.

## Diplomatic relations

**Turkey was held hostage by fears that a crackdown on ISIL would result in serious retaliation on Turkish soil.**

Having already severed diplomatic relations with Israel in 2010 in the wake of the Gaza flotilla crisis, Erdogan was becoming increasingly isolated in the international community. Even the new cooperation with Saudi Arabia over Syria proved to be a bad bet as the Kingdom itself complained about being let down by its American ally on Syria -- as well as on Iran, following the nuclear deal.

Without a strong regional backbone and with pressure from both the West and the East -- as well as with a growing terrorist problem at home from both the PKK and ISIL -- Erdogan was pushed to compromise, restoring diplomatic relations with Israel and patching things up with Russian President Vladimir Putin over the downed fighter jet.

But instead of appearing as a shrewd politician, those compromises made Erdogan appear weak. This has played right into the hands of ISIL, which had been looking for a spectacular way to mark the second anniversary of the establishment of its so-called "caliphate."

At a time when ISIL is facing increasing pressure in Syria and Iraq, Erdogan's vulnerability provided the terrorist organization with a golden opportunity to compensate for its losses. Whether Erdogan will be able to overcome it remains to be seen.

(Source: CNN)

## COMMENT

### A worthwhile project for Europe: Israeli-Palestinian Peace

By Paul R. Pillar



A common theme in commentary about implications of the Brexit vote last week is that both the European Union and Britain will be so preoccupied with sorting out whatever will be Britain's new relationship with Europe that they will have a deficit of energy and attention to devote to other matters.

Paul Scham of the Middle East Institute applies this thought to diplomacy aimed at resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, writing that "it seems unlikely that the EU will be willing or able to focus on Israeli-Palestinian issues for the foreseeable future."

#### The recent initiative

He expects that members of the Israeli government are feeling relieved about that. He no doubt is right on that last point; the Israeli government does not want any diplomacy aimed at ending the occupation of Palestinian territory, and it has been fighting hard to defeat the recent initiative by the French on the subject.

But although the general idea of limited time and attention is valid, there is more that the Europeans can, and should, do in making progress on other diplomatic matters, and on the Israeli-Palestinian matter in particular. Look beyond the discombobulation resulting from the British vote and one can see that the initial reactions to the shock of last Thursday probably have underestimated the ability of the Europeans to walk and chew gum at the same time. Moreover, it will sink in over the coming weeks that Britain might never actually leave the EU. Boris Johnson has good reasons to be waffling the way he has since the vote.

European statesmen also will be able to understand that it is in the best interests of the European project for them not just to sit and stew about the little Englishers. Now more than ever, with doubts being voiced about the future of that project, there is a need for activity that will restore a sense of commonality and momentum to Europe. The EU needs good projects that will show that Europe as a collective enterprise is robust enough that something like the Brexit business will not screw up everything else.

#### EU efforts

Vigorous diplomacy aimed at resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is one such project. As a candidate for EU efforts it has several attractions.

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

**Researchers design system that could predict flood**

Iranian researchers have designed and produced a system that can predict any flood.

Deputy Head of Iran's Meteorological Center for Research Ebrahim Fattahi said that Iran stands among the first 10 countries of the world in terms of natural incidents.

He said there are 7 valleys and rivers in northern Tehran which, increase the risk of flood in case of heavy rains.

"Therefore, we designed a software system which is capable of predicting flood 5 days earlier."

Fattahi continued that the device designed by Iran's Meteorological Organization can predict the time of flood 120 hours earlier.

Using the system, it is possible to take required steps for reaction in due time, he said.

He said that the system has been used for Karzeh and Karoun rivers, western Iran, so far.

(Source: ISNA)

**Low doses of methylene blue improves short-term memory**

According to a recent study, methylene blue, a drug used to treat a blood disorder, has shown positive results regarding short-term memory and attention. Patients' response was evaluated by MRI before and after the methylene blue dose, and the results were promising.

Methylene blue is a drug used in clinics for more than 100 years, and it is known for treating methemoglobinemia, a blood disorder. This type of blood condition consists of the production of an abnormal amount of methemoglobin, which is a form of hemoglobin.

Hemoglobins carry and distribute oxygen to the body, but when a person has methemoglobinemia, hemoglobins can only carry oxygen, but they cannot deliver it to the body tissues, Medline Plus explains.

The study was published in the journal *Radiology* on Monday and was conducted by Timothy Q. Duong, Ph.D., from the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, Texas. During animal tests, methylene blue has been useful with ischemic strokes, traumatic brain injuries and Alzheimer's disease.

A single dose of Methylene blue was used, and it showed an improvement in long-term contextual memory and extinction memory. Long term contextual memory is the conscious recall of the source and circumstances of a particular memory, and extinction memory is a process in which a conditioned response from stimuli that is gradually reduced over time, *Science Daily* reports.

Dr. Duong said that the memory-enhancing effects of methylene blue were known in the 1970s, but the neuronal changes in the brain responsible for memory improvement and the effects of this drug on short-term and sustained attention tasks had not been investigated.

(Source: Pulse Headlines)

**How to build a nanomachine that detects Ebola**

Researchers say they've designed a nanomachine capable of detecting a mockup of the Ebola virus.

Eric Henderson, a professor of genetics, development and cell biology at Iowa State University, says such a machine would prove valuable in the developing world, where access to diagnostic medical equipment can be rare.

He says his nanotechnology could be fabricated cheaply and deployed easily. Used in conjunction with a smartphone app, nearly anyone could use the technology to detect Ebola or any number of other diseases and pathogens without the need for traditional medical facilities.

The trick lies in understanding the rules that govern how DNA works, according to Henderson.

"It's possible to exploit that rule set in a way that creates advantages for medicine and biotechnology," he says.

The iconic double-helix structure of DNA means that one strand of DNA will bind only with a complementary side. Even better, those compatible strands find each other automatically, like a castle that builds itself.

Henderson harnessed those same principles for his nanomachines. The components, once added to water and then heated and cooled, find each other and assemble correctly without any further effort from the individual deploying the machines.

And just how "nano" is a nanomachine? Henderson says about 40 billion individual machines fit in a single drop of water.

The machines act as a diagnostic tool that detects certain maladies at the genetic level.

For the recently published paper in *Scientific Reports*, Henderson and graduate student Divita Mathur, now a postdoctoral research fellow at the Naval Research Laboratory, designed the machines to look for signs of a mock version of Ebola.

(Source: futurity.org)

**Penguin population could drop 60 percent by end of the century**

Climate has influenced the distribution patterns of Adélie penguins across Antarctica for millions of years.

The geologic record shows that as glaciers expanded and covered Adélie breeding habitats with ice, penguin colonies were abandoned. When the glaciers melted during warming periods, this warming positively affected the Adélie penguins, allowing them to return to their rocky breeding grounds.

But now, University of Delaware scientists and colleagues report that this beneficial warming may have reached its tipping point.

In a paper published on June 29 in *Scientific Reports*, the researchers project that approximately 30 percent of current Adélie colonies may be in decline by 2060 and approximately 60 percent may be in decline by 2099.

**In recent decades**

"It is only in recent decades that we know Adélie penguins population declines are associated with warming, which suggests that many regions of Antarctica have warmed too much and that further warming is no longer positive for the species," said the paper's lead author Megan Cimino, who earned her doctoral degree at UD in May.



**The species is experiencing population declines along the West Antarctic Peninsula (WAP), which is one of the most rapidly warming places on Earth, while Adélie populations in other areas around the continent where the climate is stable or even cooling remain steady or increasing.**

Co-authors on the work include Matthew Oliver, principal investigator on the project and Patricia & Charles Robertson

Professor of Marine Science & Policy in UD's College of Earth, Ocean, and Environment; Heather J. Lynch, assistant

professor in the Department of Ecology and Evolution at Stony Brook University; and Vincent S. Saba, a research fishery biologist with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service.

The Adélie penguin is a species that breeds around the entire Antarctic continent.

**Population decline**

The species is experiencing population declines along the West Antarctic Peninsula (WAP), which is one of the most rapidly warming places on Earth, while Adélie populations in other areas around the continent where the climate is stable or even cooling remain steady or increasing.

The researchers' objective was to understand the effects of climate change on Antarctic Adélie penguin colonies.

The study builds on previously published work by Oliver's research team to better understand Antarctica's shifting ecosystem by tracking penguins and their habitats.

The current work used satellite data and global climate model projections to understand current and future population trends on a continental scale.

(Source: EurekAlert)

**Pelvic exams may not be needed**

Although some 60 million pelvic exams are done each year, the practice hasn't been studied much.

The United States Preventive Services Task Force, a panel of experts in preventative and primary care, has declared that the current evidence is "insufficient" to assess the balance of benefits and harms of the pelvic exam.

The task force performed an exhaustive search of the medical literature published over the past 60 years and located only eight studies looking at the diagnostic accuracy of pelvic exams for just four medical conditions.

"We can't make a recommendation one way or the other at this time," said Dr. Maureen Phipps, the chairwoman of obstetrics and gynecology at Brown University's Warren Alpert Medical School and a member of the task force. "We need more evidence."

The finding refers only to the practice of routine pelvic exams for healthy women, and does not apply to women who are pregnant or those with existing conditions or symptoms that need to be evaluated.

**Screening pelvic exams**

"This is not a recommendation against doing the exam," Dr. Phipps emphasized. "This is a recommendation to call for more research to figure out the benefits and harms associated with screening pelvic exams. That's the big message here." The recommendation is open to public com-

ments through July 25.

This is the first time the Preventive Services Task Force has turned its attention to pelvic examinations.

The recommendations about pelvic exams do not change current guidelines for cervical cancer screening, in which cells are collected from the surface of the cervix.

The screening test is recommended every three years for women ages 21 to 29 and every five years for ages 30 to 65.

Pelvic exams have been subjected to quite a bit of scrutiny in recent years, possibly because of turf battles between physicians and reimbursement battles with insurers. (Source: *The NYT*)

**New NASA tech could provide the entire Solar System with internet**

NASA is celebrating the first deployment of new technology at the International Space Station (ISS) that makes it much easier, faster, and more efficient to transmit data to Earth.

Essentially, it's the first step toward internet connectivity in space that is just as reliable as your home Wi-Fi signal.

The new system, called Delay/Disruption Tolerant Networking (DTN), provides a smart solution to interrupted connections, and lays the groundwork for Solar System-wide internet connectivity in the not-so-distant future.

On Earth, we're accustomed to what happens when something blocks a wireless internet signal.

The connection slows, or even becomes disrupted entirely.

For transmissions from ISS, this was a big problem because the objects in the way were large and numerous — planets, other spacecraft, radiation waves, and the like.

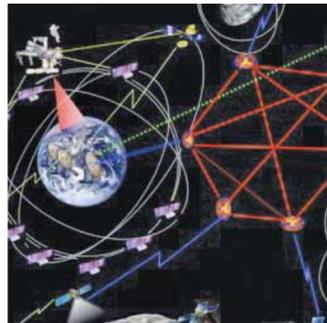
Those obstacles made the signal slow, and sometimes meant some data was lost in transmission.

**Pitfalls in the way**

DTN addresses those pitfalls in the way it transmits data. Rather than streaming bit by bit, the DTN process stores data when and if a connection becomes interrupted, and then forwards it using relay stations to its intended destination.

This means the network can function even when a recipient server is offline.

NASA has been testing DTN technology for years, and installed it earlier this month in the Telescience Resource Kit (TReK), a software suite for researchers



to transmit and receive data between operations centers and their payloads aboard station.

NASA reports that adding this service on the station will also enhance mission support applications, including operational file transfers.

**Giant leap**

In order to make this giant leap for the future of space internet, NASA partnered with one of the "fathers of the internet," Dr. Vinton G. Cerf, vice president and chief internet evangelist for Google and a distinguished visiting scientist at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California.

Cerf worked with NASA's team to develop the technology, and he predicts many benefits in space as well as on Earth, especially in disaster relief conditions.

"Our experience with DTN on the space station leads to additional terrestrial applications especially for mobile communications in which connections may be erratic and discontinuous," said Cerf.

(Source: *Inhabitat*)

**Sudden heart death more common in male minority athletes**

It's always surprising and heartbreaking to hear about a young athlete dying suddenly. Now a new study finds that in many of these cases, an underlying heart problem was already present.

The researchers found that about one-third of sudden cardiac deaths were caused by the heart condition hypertrophic cardiomyopathy. This condition causes a portion of the heart's wall to grow abnormally thick, which hinders the heart's performance. There are often no symptoms, study authors said.

About 40 percent of sudden deaths in males were caused by hypertrophic cardiomyopathy. More than 50 percent of hypertrophic cardiomyopathy occurred in minority males. Just 1 percent of these cases were found in minority females, the study published in *The American Journal of Medicine* found.

**Cause of cardiac death**

"We have established that hypertrophic cardiomyopathy is the leading cause of sudden cardiac death in male athletes and is an underappreciated cause of sudden death in male African-American and minority athletes, but is a rare cause of death in female athletes," lead investigator Dr. Barry Maron said in a journal news release. Maron is from Tufts Medical Center in Boston.

The study identified more than 2,400 sudden deaths between 1980 and 2011. The deaths occurred among competitive athletes while engaged in 29 different sports. The athletes were between the ages of 13 and 25. More than 840 of those deaths were heart-related, the study showed.

The researchers found that:



•Male athletes were 6.5 times more likely to die from sudden cardiac death than females.

•Blacks and other minorities had death rates nearly five times higher from sudden cardiac death than whites.

•Sudden cardiac death was three times more likely among minority male and female basketball players than white players.

•Less than 5 percent of athletes who died had structurally normal hearts.

Certain heart problems were more common in female athletes who died suddenly. These included defects in the heart's arteries present from birth and conditions that cause potentially dangerous irregular heartbeats, the study found.

The new findings highlight the potential value of the American Heart Association/American College of Cardiology's recommendations to screen minorities and others for heart conditions before participation in athletics, Maron said.

(Source: *HealthDay News*)

**Record-breaking electric car goes from 0 to 62 mph in 1.5 seconds**

In a record-setting feat, an electric car zoomed from 0 to 62 mph (100 km/h) in just 1.513 seconds last week, making it the fastest known electric car in the world.

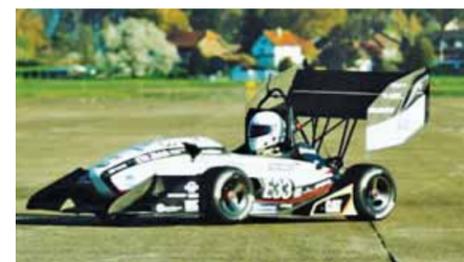
The "Grimsel" electric car took less than 98 feet (30 meters) to reach 62 mph, according to ETH Zurich, a science, technology, engineering and mathematics university in Zurich, Switzerland.

The previous world record — 0 to 62 mph in 1.779 seconds — was set in 2015 by a team at the University of Stuttgart in Germany.

The new record was set at the Dübendorf Air Base near Zurich on June 22. The award-winning team of 30 students, from ETH Zurich and Switzerland's Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts, built the car in less than a year.

**Fifth electric vehicle**

The Grimsel is the fifth electric vehicle at the Academic Motorsports Club Zurich (AMZ), a club created by students



at ETH Zurich in 2006, and sets new standards in lightweight construction and electric drive technology, ETH Zurich representatives said in a statement.

The car is made out of carbon-fiber materials and weighs just 370 lbs. (168 kilograms), or about as much as

a small upright piano. It has four-wheel drive, and each of its wheel-hub motors is capable of generating 200 horsepower and 1,254 foot-pounds (1,700 newton meters), the researchers said.

A foot-pound is how much energy it takes to raise 1 lb. a distance of 1 foot.

The Grimsel's traction-control system regulates each wheel's performance individually, which allows the car to accelerate even faster, according to ETH Zurich.

"No large-scale production car — even one with a combustion engine — can reach an acceleration comparable to (what) the Grimsel (achieved)," ETH Zurich representatives said in the statement.

The Grimsel even helped AMZ maintain first place at the Formula Student world rankings — a position it has held since 2013, according to ETH Zurich.

(Source: *Live Science*)

A UN report has revealed that 3.6 million children in Iraq, meaning one in five, are at the serious risk of death, injury, sexual violence, abduction and recruitment into Takfiri militant groups wreaking havoc in the crisis-hit Arab country.

In a statement titled "A Heavy Price for Children", the United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) announced that the number of children in danger of such hazards has soared by 1.3 million in 18 months, describing Iraq as "one of the most dangerous places in the world for children."

"Children in Iraq are in the firing line and are being repeatedly and relentlessly targeted," UNICEF's Iraq representative, Peter Hawkins, said, adding, "We must help give children the support they need to recover from the horrors of war and contribute to a more peaceful and prosperous Iraq."

The UNICEF report further disclosed that a total of 1,496 children have been kidnapped in Iraq since the past two-and-a-half years, when the foreign-sponsored militancy gripped the country, adding that the number translates to 50 children abducted on a monthly basis, with many forced into militancy or sexual exploitation.

"The kidnapping of children from their homes, their schools and from the streets

## 3.6 million Iraqi children at risk from increasing violence: UN



is horrifying. These children are being ripped from their families and are subjected to sickening abuses and exploitation," Hawkins said.

The UN children's agency also revealed that more than 1.5 million Iraqi children – almost 10 percent of the minor population – have been uprooted, often multiple times, since the beginning of 2014.

Additionally, almost 3.5 million children growing up in conflict zones are missing out on education, and nearly one in five schools is out of use due to structural damage.

The UN agency called for an urgent action to protect children's rights in Iraq, particularly an immediate cessation of killing, maiming and abduction of minors by Takfiri groups.

The UN body also demanded an unhindered and unconditional humanitarian access to children all across Iraq, education for out-of-school children through catch-up classes, as well as increased access to learning and educational materials to teachers and children.

The northern and western parts of Iraq have been plagued by gruesome violence ever since Daesh terrorists mounted an offensive in the country in June 2014.

Iraqi government forces, backed by fighters from allied Popular Mobilization Units, have been pushing the militants out of the country's territory.

(Source: Press TV)

## Israeli forces kill two Palestinians

Israeli forces have killed two Palestinians in two separate incidents in the occupied Palestinian territories.

The first fatality was caused near the revered Muslim religious monument of the Ibrahim Mosque in the city of al-Khalil (Hebron) on Friday. The victim has been identified as Sareh al-Hajoui.

Israeli police alleged that the victim had tried to carry out a stabbing attack against the forces. They, however, added that no forces had been wounded in the purported attempt.

Al-Khalil houses 200,000 Palestinians as opposed to hundreds of Israeli settlers. Tel Aviv has dotted the city with security posts and enforces a heavy surveillance regime over it to guard the settlers.

The female was the third Palestinian to be fatally shot by Israeli forces over the past two days. The victims include a Palestinian teenager, which Israelis killed on Thursday, claiming that he stabbed a 13-year-old resident of an illegal Israeli settlement. The teenage girl later succumbed to her injuries while another settler was wounded.



More than 220 Palestinians have been killed since October, 2015, when Israelis began a crackdown on them in the West Bank and in the occupied al-Quds (Jerusalem).

In August that year, Israel imposed restrictions on

the entry of Palestinian worshipers into the al-Aqsa Mosque compound in al-Quds, heightening concerns about Israeli plans to change the status quo of the compound. Palestinians are also angry at increasing violence by Israeli settlers and their attacks on Palestinian properties.

Also on Friday, a Palestinian was killed after inhaling Israeli teargas during clashes with Israeli forces at the Qalandia checkpoint between al-Quds and the city of Ramallah.

The clashes, which broke out as the Palestinians were heading to hold the last Friday prayers of the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan, also injured 40 other Palestinians and one Israeli soldier.

The checkpoint is the only one frequented by the Palestinians who seek to cross the Gaza Strip and West Bank into al-Quds. Palestinian sources said the clashes erupted after Israeli forces attacked the Palestinians with batons and teargas canisters, trying to speed up the traffic at the checkpoint.

(Source: al Alam)

## The 'party of God' will always win

Believing in One God and embracing the teachings of Prophet Mohammed (S) should be the only aspect to count a person as being a Muslim. Calling others from different sects as believing in another religion is utterly mistaken. It would be a serious error to call it another way. Everyone is a genuine and complete Muslim, be they a Shia, Alawite or Sunni.

As we are all aware of, the real cause behind the strife in the Islamic world is disunity and what is to blame for that state of affairs is lack of affection. Each sect should evaluate the other sect through a brotherly bond. Leaders should send messages of friendship, respect and protection for other sects and it is of the utmost importance not to leave it only in the rhetoric but put them into action. Because when one party feels a dislike or exclusion from the other, then they will naturally keep up their guard against them and this will eventually lead to fragmentation. A Muslim is a Muslim no matter which sect he belongs to and his duty is to follow what God has ordered them in the Qur'an and to act like "well-built walls".

As a Muslim from a country where the Sunni sect is dominant, I have great love and admiration for my Shia brothers. I love them dearly and I express my deep affection for them in my articles and interviews. When I hear there is oppression against them, I immediately stand up for them and do the best I can to defend

their rights. I am also very honored to be given the opportunity to write in prominent Iranian media outlets to share my thoughts and my enthusiasm to prevent any conflict between sects. For this reason, I frequently touch on topics such as sectarian conflict and its devastating repercussions that we see each and every day in the Islamic world. I also inform people of the remedy to end this issue and that remedy is sowing the seeds of love for one another. With these efforts, I am pleased to become a means to shape public opinion to draw the sects closer. Since political leaders act to satisfy their citizens' wishes who vote for them, these thoughts will help them make their policies accordingly. Without the consent of public opinion, politicians would not dare to take a step and make opposite decisions. I have always been on the side of God and fear only Him and never feared the blame of any censurer. I have always used my conscience without holding any political side while sharing my opinions. I believe it is my duty from God to strive in His Way and to ingratiate both Sunnis and Shias reciprocally as a religious obligation.

Love begins with humble steps, then envelops the entire world. Love is a strong power, which God has embedded in human nature. Friendship always produces fruitful results and love is always the savior. Muslims, no matter which sect they are from, become pilgrims side by side around the Kaaba, as we praise and express our love for

God together. A love for Prophet Mohammad and Ahl al-Bayt is deeply and permanently stamped in our hearts. We also share a deep and profound love and loyalty to Imam Ali (AS) and his two precious sons, 'the sayyids of the People of Paradise'. Our beloved Prophet (S) loved Imam Ali (AS) dearly. Ali was the second person to accept Islam when he was only ten years old. He naturally grew up to be one of the most beloved companions and friends of our Prophet (S). Imam Ali (AS) has always been very special to Muslims of the world. He was incredibly pious, strong, and reliable and his heart burst with love for God and His Messenger. He once famously and single-handedly unhinged the gate of the Khybar Fort during battle. His passionate love for God and His Messenger helped him achieve this incredible feat, which would be normally impossible for a human being. His two sons, Imam Hassan (AS) and Imam Hussein (AS) were equally courageous, pious and strong who were true lovers of God.

In addition to their great achievements and contributions to Islamic civilization throughout history, our Shia brothers' loyalty and love to Prophet Mohammed (S), Imam Ali (AS) and his sons had always been exemplary. Burning with the desire to fulfill the commands of God, many Muslim leaders throughout history have worked to ensure unity amongst Muslims. For instance, the great Persian King Nader

Shah started an initiative to bring the Shia and Sunni sects closer; his efforts were greatly lauded and emulated by leaders in subsequent generations. Today, as the Muslim world is going through one of the worst episodes of its history, Muslim leaders once again see the urgency of ending this fragmentation. Of course, these conflicts within the Islamic world are occurring as a miracle since it is against human nature as nobody would want to fight, kill or bomb human beings. Yet, as a trial for Muslims, God is testing them to see how they would react. Good people appear in such situations. It is hard to keep peace, solidarity, friendship, joy, and peace of mind in such environments but we insist on supporting them incessantly. No oppression or any other constraints withhold us from acting with reason and love, in any case.

It is our holy book the Qur'an that teaches the foundation, philosophy and soul of love. Love is very precious and not something one can achieve easily. Paradise is also very precious and so is earning God's good pleasure. If anyone could achieve love easily, then it would turn into simply an ordinary feeling. Love is a high and deep sensation and its knowledge belongs to the Qur'an. If we continue to persevere and keep love on our agenda, you will see we will prevail because we are created with love and for love. Mercilessness will fail and those who love will reign and it will be the "party of God" who will be ultimately victorious.

## Assad: West attacks us politically, deals with us secretly

The government is fighting militants coming from scores of countries, including Europe, the US and Australia, and has vowed to battle on until Damascus regains control of all of Syria.

The West and its regional allies, most notably Turkey, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia, have been funneling monetary and battleground means to the militants who have been fighting the Syrian government since 2011.

Western calls for Assad's ouster have become ever more muted as they become preoccupied with the rise of Daesh and other Takfiri groups striking at the heart of Europe.

According to the British daily The Telegraph, independent sources have separately confirmed that President Assad has received visits from government officials.

On Thursday, it was reported that the United States is seeking to establish a new military alliance with Russia



in Syria that would see the two countries join forces in combating Takfiri groups.

The two countries have been supporting opposite sides in Syria, with Russia aiding the Syrian government with airstrikes to push Takfiri militants from several key

areas, including the second city of Aleppo.

Until now, the US has been hampering a Russian bid to place a number of militant groups, including al-Qaeda-linked Jaysh al-Islam and Ahrar al-Sham, on the UN terror list.

In June, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said Washington had asked Moscow to stop conducting airstrikes against the al-Nusra Front terrorists in Syria.

Al-Nusra and other Takfiri terrorists hold most of the northwestern province of Idlib and parts of neighboring Aleppo province.

Last year the Pentagon launched a \$500 million "train-and-equip" program to train and arm some 5,400 militants a year as a proxy ground force in Syria, but it yielded only a small cadre of under 200 militants before it was officially pulled.

(Source: SANA)

## NEWS

### Russia slams EU for 'short-sighted' sanctions extension

Russia Friday blasted the European Union for extending economic sanctions over the Ukraine crisis, insisting the punitive measures would not make Moscow change course.

The foreign ministry said in a statement that it viewed the move as "a continuation of the short-sighted policy of Brussels" and that it was "absurd" to link them to a failure to make progress on a peace deal to end fighting in eastern Ukraine.

"In essence the European Union has with its own hands made EU-Russian relations hostage to the irresponsible games of the Ukrainian authorities," the statement said.

The EU measures target the oil, financial and defense sectors of the Russian economy and were first imposed after the shooting down of Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 in July 2014, blamed on pro-Moscow rebels in eastern Ukraine.

"On 1 July 2016, the (European) Council prolonged the economic sanctions targeting specific sectors of the Russian economy until 31 January 2017," the 28-nation bloc said in a statement. The EU said in a tweet in Russian that it was rolling over the sanctions because the provisions of the February 2015 Minsk peace deal aimed at ending the Ukraine conflict were "not fully implemented."

(Source: AFP)

### "Standing in the Dust" crew launches campaign to pursue Iranian diplomats' freedom

In an electronic letter available on the website of the film, the crew has asked Iranian Minister of Foreign Affairs Mohammad-Javad Zarif to take serious actions and make every effort to find fresh news about the four Iranian diplomats.

Ahmad Motevasselian along with his colleagues Mohsen Musavi and Taqi Rastegar-Moqaddam and photojournalist Kazem Akhavan were kidnapped by Israelis.

The crew has asked all individuals to join the campaign available at the website <http://www.tele-wall.ir/telegram/tags/free4diplomats>.

"Standing in the Dust", which centers on the life story of Motevasselian, is currently on screen in Iranian theaters.

### Brexit talks will be stunningly complex. Who will provide the statesmanship we need?

#### Social welfare

Do they see roughly the same social welfare and public service system or something radically different? Major de-regulation and if so, where? As the new trading relationships are formed, what is the plan to get us over the pain in the meantime?

The point is: we the British people are going to have so much more information in the time ahead. Instead of looking through a glass darkly as it were, we will be face to face with our new reality.

Throughout, we must intensely engage with Europe, sussing out, smoothing over, spying out the room for maneuver. The role of Parliament is crucial. Above all, Britain should keep all our options open.

This last point is not an argument for another referendum. It is simply a statement of the obvious: the British people have a right to carry on being part of the debate, to consider the facts which will now take the place of the claims and counterclaims, and to discuss the options which will be put before us. Actually the people do have a right to change their mind, but that is not for now.

It is just that though we now know the decision of the referendum, so much about our future is unknown and undecided.

Our nation is in peril. To allow us to come safely through this we need to be adult in our politics, to proceed with calm, maturity and without bitterness; because our future as a nation in the world and as the UK itself is at stake.

(Source: The Telegraph)

### A worthwhile project for Europe: Israeli-Palestinian Peace

The need for progress on the subject is as evident as it has always been—on multiple grounds, including justice, human rights, stability, and the curbing of extremism. The United States is, despite some encouraging evolution of attitudes in recent years, still hamstrung by its internal politics and for that reason unlikely to function effectively as a fair-minded outsider. Looking ahead past the U.S. presidential election does not give basis for hope that the United States will play such a role any better than it is now. With the United States self-crippled on the issue, the European Union is the next best actor to step into the role.

The EU already has been involved in diplomacy about the Israeli-Palestinian issue, including as a member of the so-called quartet along with the United Nations, United States, and Russia. And now with the initiative of France, one of the most important EU members, there is a ready-made current diplomatic vehicle for the EU as a whole to help drive.

So get out of the funk about Brexit and get going on this, Europe; you have an opportunity to do yourself good when you especially need it while also doing good about a problem on another continent that has caused grief for decades.

(Source: The National Interest)

FOOD FOR THOUGHT



We love life, not because we are used to living but because we are used to loving. Friedrich Nietzsche

LEARN ENGLISH People of Different Ages

Gloria: I'm surprised at the variety of people on this tour.  
 Andy: Oh, yeah? I hadn't noticed.  
 Gloria: Well, we'll be spending the next two weeks with these people so I thought I'd get to know some of them.  
 Andy: That's nice.  
 Gloria: Did you see that thirty-something couple with a **toddler** and an **infant**? I'm really surprised they're on this tour.  
 Andy: I'm sure they know what they're doing.  
 Gloria: And how about that group of **seniors**? Some of them look like they're in the **mid-** to **late-** seventies.  
 Andy: They seem pretty spry to me.  
 Gloria: But what really surprises me is that group of **middle-aged** couples with their **tween** and **teenage** children. They'll be a **handful**.  
 Andy: They seemed pretty well behaved to me.  
 Gloria: And did you notice that woman in her **early-forties** and the **forty-ish** man each traveling alone? She seemed nice, but he didn't seem too friendly.  
 Andy: Maybe he's using his time to **size up** everybody like you are.  
 Gloria: Well, I wish there were more **young adults** in this group. I like talking to young people.  
 Andy: I think there will be plenty of people for you to talk to these two weeks when you're not **sightseeing**.  
 Gloria: Sightseeing? Oh yeah, sightseeing.  
 (Source: eslpod.com)

Words & phrases

- toddler:** a very young child who is just learning to walk
- infant:** a baby or very young child
- senior:** someone who is over 60 years old or who is retired
- mid:** among or in the middle of
- late:** near to the end
- spry:** a spry old person has energy and is active
- middle-aged:** between the ages of about 40 and 60
- tween:** short for teenager; a child between the ages of about 10 and 14
- teenage:** aged between 13 and 19
- handful:** someone, especially a child, who is a handful is difficult to control
- early:** in the first part of a period of time
- ish:** approximately
- size up:** to look at or consider a person or situation and make a judgment about them
- young adult:** a person in the age range of 20 to 39
- sightseeing:** when you visit famous or interesting places, especially as tourists

QUIZ OF THE DAY

177) I am sick \_\_\_ their behavior.  
 a) of  
 b) off  
 c) with  
 (Quiz No. 176 answer: b)

PHRASAL VERB

Track down

- Meaning:** find by searching
- For example:** The police finally tracked down the main suspect.

ENGLISH PROVERB

Half a loaf is better than none

**Explanation:** you should be grateful for something, even if it is not as much as you wanted



Be kind to me!

# With one human in every 113 affected, forced displacement hits record high

Conflict and persecution caused global forced displacement to escalate sharply in 2015 reaching the highest level ever recorded and representing immense human suffering, according to a report released today by UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency.

UNHCR's annual Global Trends report, which tracks forced displacement worldwide based on data from governments, partners including the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, and the organization's own reporting, said 65.3 million people were displaced as of the end of 2015, compared to 59.5 million just twelve months earlier. This is the first time that the threshold of 60 million has been crossed.

Measured against Earth's 7.349 billion population these numbers mean that 1 in every 113 people globally is now either an asylum-seeker, internally displaced or a refugee – a level of risk for which UNHCR knows no precedent. In all, there are more forcibly displaced people today than the populations of the United Kingdom, France or Italy.<sup>1</sup>

Forced displacement has been on the rise since at least the mid-1990s in most regions, but over the past five years the rate of climb has increased. The reasons are threefold: Situations that cause large refugee outflows are lasting longer (for example, conflicts in Somalia or Afghanistan are now into their third and fourth decades, respectively), dramatic new or reignited situations are occurring frequently (today's largest being Syria, but also in the space of the past five years South Sudan, Yemen, Burundi, Ukraine, Central African Republic etc.), and the rate at which solutions are being found for refugees and internally displaced people has been on a falling trend since the end of the Cold War. As recently as 10 years ago, at the end of 2005, UNHCR recorded an average of 6 people displaced every minute. Today that number is 24 a minute – almost double the typical frequency at which adults breathe.

"More people are being displaced by war and persecution and that's worrying in itself, but the factors that endanger refugees are multiplying too," said UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi.

3 countries produce half the world's refugees

Among countries covered by the Global Trends report several stand out: Syria at 4.9 million, Afghanistan at 2.7 million and Somalia at 1.1 million together accounted for more than half the refugees under UNHCR's mandate worldwide. Colombia at 6.9 million, Syria at 6.6 million, and Iraq at 4.4 million meanwhile had the largest numbers of internally displaced people. Yemen was the biggest producer of new internal displacement in 2015 – 2.5 million people, or 9 per cent of its population.

And they're mostly in the Global South

Europe's struggles to manage the more than one million refugees and migrants who



Refugees of Syria arrive on the shores of the Greek island of Lesbos aboard an inflatable dinghy across the Aegean Sea from Turkey on Sept. 7, 2015.

arrived via the Mediterranean dominated the attentions of many in 2015, nonetheless the report shows that the vast majority of the world's refugees were elsewhere. In all, 86 per cent of refugees under UNHCR's mandate in 2015 were in low and middle income countries close to situations of conflict. This figure rises to over 90 per cent of the world's refugee total if the Palestinian refugees under the responsibility of UNHCR's sister-organization UNRWA are included. Worldwide, Turkey was the biggest host country with 2.5 million refugees. Lebanon, meanwhile hosted more refugees compared to its population than any other country (183 refugees per 1,000 inhabitants). Relative to the size of its economy the Democratic Republic of the Congo hosted most (471 refugees for every dollar of per capita GDP, measured at price purchasing parity).

Asylum claims rise

Among industrialized countries, 2015 was also a record year for new asylum claims, with two million requests (contributing to the 3.2 million cases still pending as of the end of the year). Germany received more asylum requests than any other country (441,900), largely reflecting its readiness to receive people who were fleeing to Europe via the Mediterranean. The United States had the second highest number of asylum claims (172,700), many of these individuals fleeing gang-related violence in Central America. Substantial asylum applications were also seen in Sweden (156,000) and Russia (152,500).

About half the world's refugees are children

Children constituted 51 per cent of the world's refugees in 2015 according to the data UNHCR was able to gather (complete demographic data was not available to the report authors). Worryingly, many were separated from their parents or travelling alone. In all there were 98,400 asylum requests from children who were unaccompanied or separated

from their families. This is the highest total UNHCR has seen – and a tragic reflection of how global forced displacement is disproportionately affecting young lives.

Unable to go home

While global displacement totals were higher than ever, the number of people able to return to their home or find another solution (local integration in a country of first refuge or resettlement elsewhere) was low. 201,400 refugees were able to return to their countries of origin in 2015 (mainly Afghanistan, Sudan and Somalia). This was higher than the total in 2014 (126,800), but still substantially down compared with the peaks of the early 1990s. Some 107,100 refugees were admitted for resettlement in 30 countries in 2015 – representing just 0.66 per cent of the refugees under UNHCR's mandate (by comparison, 26 countries admitted 105,200 refugees for resettlement in 2014, representing 0.73 per cent of the refugee population under UNHCR care). At least 32,000 refugees became naturalized over the course of the year, the majority in Canada and with smaller numbers in France, Belgium, Austria and elsewhere.

Displacement in 2015, by region (from highest to lowest)

- Middle East and North Africa  
 Syria's war remained the world's leading cause of displacement and associated suffering. By the end of 2015 it had driven at least 4.9 million people into exile as refugees and displaced 6.6 million internally – amounting to around half Syria's pre-war population. Iraq's conflict had by year's end displaced 4.4 million people internally and created more than a quarter of a million refugees. Yemen's civil war, which began in 2015, had by the end of December displaced 2.5 million people – more new displacement than any other conflict globally. Including the 5.2 million Palestinian refugees under the mandate of UNRWA, the almost half a million Libyans forced to flee

their homes and remaining in the country, plus a number of smaller situations, the Middle East and North Africa region accounted for more displacement than any other.

Sub-Saharan Africa

Sub-Saharan Africa had the largest displacement totals in 2015 after the Middle East and North Africa. Continuing bitter conflict in South Sudan in 2015, as well as in Central African Republic and Somalia, plus new or continuing mass displacement in or from countries including Nigeria, Burundi, Sudan, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mozambique and elsewhere together produced 18.4 million refugees and internally displaced people as of year's end. Sub-Saharan Africa meanwhile hosted some 4.4 million refugees in all – more than any other region. Five of the world's top-10 hosting nations were African countries, led by Ethiopia, and followed by Kenya, Uganda, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Chad.

Asia and Pacific

The Asia and Pacific region accounted for almost a sixth of the world's refugees and internally displaced people in 2015, making it the third largest region for displacement overall. One in six of the refugees under UNHCR's mandate were from Afghanistan (2.7 million people) where almost 1.2 million people were internally displaced. Myanmar was the region's second largest producer of both refugees and internally displaced people (451,800 and 451,000 respectively). Pakistan (1.5 million) and Islamic Republic of Iran (979,000) remain among the world's leading refugee hosting countries.

Americas

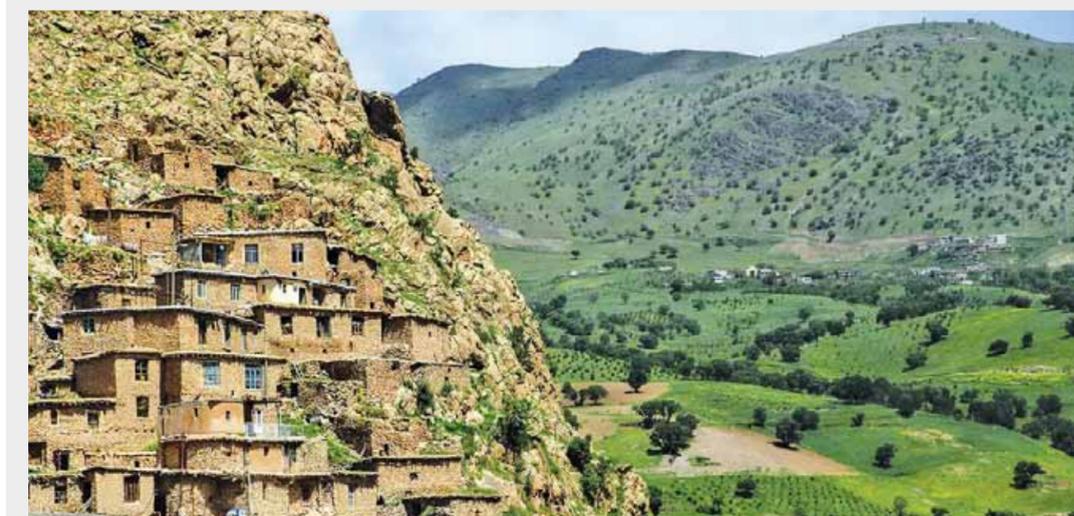
Rising numbers of people fleeing gang and other violence in Central America contributed to a 17 per cent rise in displacement across the wider region. Refugees and asylum seekers from El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras together reached 109,800, most coming to Mexico and the United States and representing a more than five-fold increase over three years. Colombia, a longstanding situation, remained the world's biggest country for internal displacement (6.9 million).

Europe

The situation in Ukraine, Europe's proximity to Syria and Iraq, plus the arrival of more than a million refugees and migrants via the Mediterranean mostly from the world's top ten refugee-producing countries, together dominated the region's displacement picture in 2015. European countries together produced some 593,000 refugees – most from Ukraine; and hosted 4.4 million – 2.5 million of these in Turkey. Figures provided by the Government of Ukraine list 1.6 million Ukrainians as being displaced there. The Global Trends report lists 441,900 asylum claims in Germany, where the refugee population increased by 46 per cent from its 2014 level to 316,000.

(Source: UNHCR)

IN FOCUS IRNA/ Mosleh Pirkhazaeian



Palangan is an ancient Kurdish village in western Iran stepping up the mountainside. Houses in the village are built in a steep gorge which allows for the rooftop of one house to serve as the yard for the house above.

## Germany: Man finds \$166,000 in old cupboard, hands it back

BERLIN (AP) — Police in the German town of Minden say a 25-year-old man who arrived last year as a refugee is their "hero of the day" after he found some 150,000 euros (\$166,095) — and handed it to authorities.

The unidentified Syrian man discovered the money in a cupboard he had been given by a charitable organization.

Minden police said Tuesday that he found about 50,000 euros in cash and savings books containing more than 100,000 euros hidden under a board while assembling the furniture.

Police said in a statement that while small amounts of money are regularly handed in to authorities, "such a large sum is the absolute exception."

The man arrived in Germany last October as a refugee.

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

### Iranian Space Agency to launch environmental monitoring satellites

The Iranian Space Agency (ISA) signed a memorandum of understanding with the Department of Environment (DoE) on Tuesday setting out on launching three environmental monitoring satellites. To enhance the environmental safety in the country the MOU was signed between ISA director Mohsen Bahrami and DoE deputy director Farhad Dabiri.

The three satellites are designed for detecting forest fires, observing the Earth's vegetation, and monitoring riversides etc., said an official with ISA.

Homayoun Sadr noted that "we have already cooperated with agriculture, energy, and communication and information technology ministers and we are entering into cooperation with the Department of Environment as well."

### راه اندازی سه سامانه ماهواره ای پایش محیط زیست توسط سازمان فضایی ایران

سازمان فضایی ایران و سازمان محیط زیست با هدف راه اندازی سه سامانه ماهواره ای پایش محیط زیست روز سه شنبه تفاهمنامه همکاری امضا کردند.

این تفاهمنامه در جهت افزایش حفاظت از محیط زیست بین محسن بهرامی رئیس سازمان فضایی ایران و فرهاد دبیری معاون سازمان حفاظت محیط زیست امضا شد.

به گفته ی یکی از مسوولین سازمان فضایی ایران این سه سامانه ی ماهواره ای برای پایش آتش سوزی در جنگل ها، پایش پوشش گیاهی جنگل ها و مراتع و پایش حریم رودخانه ها و غیره راه اندازی می شود.

همایون صدر خاطر نشان کرد: همکاری هایی با وزارت جهاد کشاورزی، وزارت نیرو و وزارت ارتباطات و فناوری اطلاعات داشته ایم و اکنون نیز این همکاری با سازمان محیط زیست به مرحله تازه ای وارد شده است.

# Iranian-Dutch goalkeeper joins Sanat Naft

**SPORTS** Newly promoted club desk Sanat Naft Abadan has announced the signing of Iranian-Dutch keeper Agil Etemadi on a one-year contract on Thursday.

Etemadi who is going to experience his second spell at the Iran Professional League has previously played for Tractor Sazi 2012-13 season.

"I'm happy to be here in Iran, I had great memories of playing for Tractor Sazi but this time I'm going to make a surprise with Sanat Naft. I'll do my best for the team to make passionate Abadan fans happy," Etemadi said.

Etemadi who has been invited to Netherlands national under-21 football team before has stated that he wishes to play for Iran national football team.

The 29-year old had a fantastic season with Almere City as managed to save 10 penalties and 8 clean sheets in 42 games.

Etemadi has previously played for Heerenveen, Emmen, Veendam, Groningen and Almere City in Netherlands.



## Iran's Makani Joins Norwegian Team Mjondalen IF



Soshia Makani joined Norwegian football team Mjondalen IF on Thursday but he has to wait for his work permit.

The 29-year-old goalie has joined Mjondalen IF for a two-year contract.

Makani was a member of Persepolis football team in the last two seasons.

"We strongly believe that Makani will strengthen our squad. He is an ambitious player with good attitudes and we

think he is a good option for Mjondalen IF," says MIF's sports director Kenneth Karlsen said.

The shot-stopper has made three appearances for the Iranian national team (also known as Team Melli) as well.

Makani has been suspended from playing football for six months in Iran for 'inappropriate conduct'.

(Source: Tasnim)

## Mohammad Khakpour linked with Naft Tehran job



**SPORTS** Former Team Melli defender and U-23 head coach Mohammad Khakpour has been linked with Iran Professional League side Naft Tehran according to the local media.

Naft Tehran has taken over by Behnam Pishro Kish and now the club's new owner is looking for a head coach to replace Alireza Mansourian who left at the end of last season.

Khakpour has previously managed Steel Azin and Iran U-23 national team. He led the U-23 team to the 2015 WAFF U-23 title. Mansour Ebrahimzadeh is another candidate for Naft Tehran coaching role. He has led the team to a fifth place finish in 2012-13 season. Naft finished in fifth place last season but their key players left due to the club's financial problems.

## Germany desperate to snap out of Italy nightmare

Title contenders Germany will come face to face with their ultimate tournament nightmare when they take on Italy in their Euro 2016 quarter-final in Bordeaux on Saturday.

The world champions have lost every single tournament knockout game to the Italians going back almost half a century but are confident they can end a streak that includes one World Cup final and two semi-finals and the Euro 2012 last four.

There are signs that it be Germany's turn to smile on Saturday, with the 2014 World Cup winners having yet to concede a goal in the tournament.

After topping Group C with two wins and a draw, they quickly disposed of Slovakia 3-0 in the round of 16 with an impressive performance in which their frontline burst into life after three below-par performances.

Forward Mario Gomez, initially left on the bench, has now struck once in each of their last two matches and looks set to spearhead their attack again.

"We know that everything will be demanded from us," said team manager Oliver Bierhoff. "This is a new game,



maybe the Italians are even stronger than in 2012 and we have been warned. But the game will start from zero for both teams and the past does not interest us."

Coach Joachim Loew will have a full squad to choose from with Jonas Hector having recovered from the flu and captain Bastian Schweinsteiger fully fit after playing only a minor role so far following a long-term injury.

"I feel Bastian is ready now. He belongs to the players that Loew can now count on 100 percent," Bierhoff said.

Antonio Conte's Italy lack the big names of the past but were among four teams unbeaten in qualifying for the tournament and have kept their momentum going in France, conceding just one goal in their four matches.

Their so-called three-man BBC defence, led by Giorgio Chiellini playing alongside Juventus teammates Andrea Barzagli and Leonardo Bonucci, has been key to their success.

"We have the Juve trio who guide us, they've not been winning for five years for nothing," said fellow defender Mattia De Sciglio. Conte will likely be without midfielder Daniele De Rossi, who picked up a thigh injury in Monday's 2-0 win over holders Spain. Thiago Motta, his usual replacement, is missing through suspension.

That is unlikely to deter the Italians, according to De Sciglio. "Conte would be on the pitch with us if he could be," he said. "He has taught us to fight for every inch. Fighting for every ball is our strength as we do not possess superstars."

(Source: Reuters)

## Iran's Beiralvand wins bronze at IWF Junior World Championships



Reza Beiralvand claimed a bronze medal at the 2016 International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) Junior World Championships in Tbilisi, Georgia on Thursday. The Iranian lifted 161kg in snatch, and 201kg in clean and jerk, winning the bronze medal for a total of 362kg in the 94kg weight category.

Farkhodbek Sobirov from Uzbekistan claimed the gold medal. He lifted 170kg in snatch and 203kg in clean and jerk and won the gold medal for a total lift of 373kg.

Colombian Lesman Paredes Montano, who lifted a total of 372 (172kg+200kg), took the silver medal.

(Source: Tasnim)

## Persepolis to Hold Training Camp in Ukraine



Iranian popular football team Persepolis will hold a training camp in Ukraine.

The Reds will travel to Ukrainian capital Kiev on Friday.

Persepolis will arrange some friendly matches with the Ukrainian teams in its two-week training camp.

The last season's runner-up will test its new players in the training camp.

The 16th edition of the Iran Professional League will kick off on July 25.

Persepolis, led by Branko Ivankovic, will seek its third title in the new season of IPL.

(Source: Tasnim)

## FOOTBALL

### Moments and Milestones: Ali Daei's 23 minute masterclass

Join us as we continue our Moments and Milestones series with a look back to the 1996 AFC Asian Cup, a tournament that will long be remembered for Ali Daei's stunning quarter-final performance.

**What:** Korea Republic 2 Iran 6 (AFC Asian Cup Quarter-final)

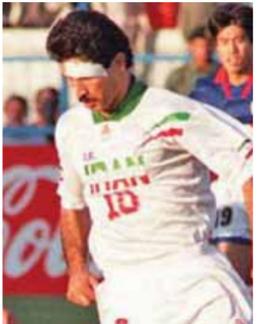
**When:** December 16, 1996

**Where:** Al Maktoum Stadium, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

When Iran's Ali Daei retired in 2007, he did so as the most prolific striker in the history of international football, but it didn't happen overnight.

Midway through 1996 Daei, already 27-years-old, had only scored seven of his eventual 109 goals for Iran, but the next six months would produce 22 international goals, culminating in one of the greatest individual performances in the history of Asian football.

Team Melli arrived at the 1996 AFC Asian Cup with a strong squad, featuring Daei, who bagged 12 goals in qualifying, and the precocious talents of Khodadad Azizi, Karim Bagheri and future star Mehdi Mahdavi. Despite a shaky start to the tournament, losing 2-1 to neighbours Iraq in their first match, Iran hit back with commanding wins over Thailand (3-1) and Saudi Arabia (3-0), with Daei scoring in all three matches in



in Group A, and chasing their first AFC Asian Cup since 1960, Korea Republic were having a tougher time.

After earning a 1-1 draw against hosts United Arab Emirates in the tournament opener, the Taeguk Warriors raced to a 4-0 lead before eventually winning 4-2 over Indonesia. In the final group match the Koreans suffered a 2-0 loss to a semi-final bound Kuwait, and only qualified for the knockout stage as one of the two highest ranked third-placed teams.

In the quarter-finals, two of Asian football's major powers met under the beaming Emirati sun and with many fans still making their way into the Al Maktoum Stadium.

Iran were the team in form and nearly went ahead when a superb Daei effort forced a smart near post save from Kim Byung-ji after ten minutes.

But less than a minute later Team Melli found themselves defensively exposed, and a goal behind after Kim Do-hoon finished off a move that saw the ball go from one end of the pitch to the other within twenty seconds. 1-0 Korea Republic.

Iran equalised on the stroke of the half-hour, when a lofted corner kick found an unmarked Bagheri, whose powerful 18-yard header clipped a Korean foot, and deflected into the net.

Iran's hard work was undone in three minutes when a simple, speculative cross wasn't properly dealt with, presenting future AFC Champions League winning coach Shin Tae-yong with the opportunity to volley home from 12 yards, which he duly accepted.

Korea had the better chances in the latter stages of the first half, but went to the dressing room with a 2-1 lead, representing a marked improvement from the performance against Kuwait.

When the teams emerged for the second half, with the floodlights now beaming and the stadium filled, it looked like a totally different game to the one that had started an hour earlier and as far as the action on the pitch was concerned, it was.

Iran were immediately on the front foot; Azizi had a shot blocked on the goal line in less than three minutes, and Bagheri should have doubled his tally two minutes later.

Such was Team Melli's pressure that it came as no surprise when 1996 Asian Footballer of the Year Azizi finally equalised in the 52nd minute after latching on to Daei's measured pass.

At 2-2, and with elimination looming for the loser, the game was already a dramatic, high-quality affair between two of Asia's powers, but Ali Daei was about to turn the contest from entertaining to unforgettable with 23 minutes of magic.

In the 66th minute, with Iran's talented playmakers growing in confidence after repeated raids at the Korean penalty area, the Daei show began. Daei received the ball 35 yards from goal, brushed off a defender, dribbled into the penalty area and hammered the ball into the far corner from 15 yards, before wheeling away in delight and being mobbed by teammates and coaching staff. Daei had scored for the fourth consecutive match in the tournament and put his country in front for the first time in the quarter final, but he was just getting started.

Ten minutes later Daei scored one of the greatest goals in the history of AFC competition, when he was able to perfectly control a 30 yard cross with the inside of his right foot, before instantly shifting his body into a position where he could hammer a half volley into the top right-hand corner from just outside the box.

It was a remarkable, unstoppable goal, and one that realistically took the game away from Korea Republic.

Daei's hat-trick was complete in the 83rd minute when the Koreans, desperate to close the two goal gap and stay in the tournament, pushed men forward, leaving the outstanding Azizi far too much room to set up Daei for a simple eight-yard tap in.

Azizi was at it again just before full time when he was brought down by goalkeeper Kim, and it was left to Daei to stroke home his fourth goal in just 23 minutes from the penalty spot.

Remarkably, after trailing at half-time, Iran won the match 6-2, marking an historic and memorable win on Asia's biggest stage. For Korea Republic, the AFC Asian Cup silverware drought dating back to 1960 continued.

Iran's tournament would also end in disappointment, losing painfully in the semi final on penalties after a 0-0 draw with the same Saudi side they had convincingly beaten in the group stage, with Daei missing in the shootout. But despite its bitter postscript, Daei's performance stands out as one of historic greatness.

He isn't the only player to have scored four goals in one AFC Asian Cup match (Behtash Fariba, Ismael Abdullatif and Hamza Al-Dardour are the others), but the stage of the competition and level of the opponent and the sheer quality of the goals puts his display, arguably, in a league of its own.

Daei would go on to score 78 more international goals, and achieve countless records throughout his sparkling 149-cap career, but few performances stick in the memory like that amazing night in Dubai.

(Source: AFC)



### Poem of the day

Except thy road through affliction pass,  
None may reach the halting-station of mirth  
God's treaty: Am I not Lord of the earth?  
Man sealed with a sigh: Ah yes, alas!

Hafez

### Prayer Times

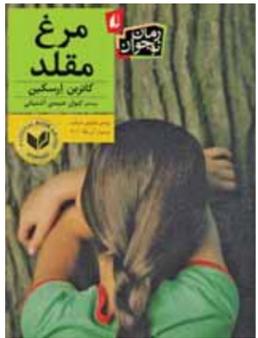
Noon:13:08 Evening: 20:45 Dawn: 4:07 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 5:53 (tomorrow)

■ Managing Director: Ali Asgari  
■ Editor-in-Chief: Hassan Lasjerdi  
■ Editorial Dept.: Fax: (+98(21) 88808214 editor@tehrantimes.com  
■ Switchboard Operator: Tel: (+98 21) 43051000  
■ Advertisements Dept.: Tel: (+98 21) 43051450 ads@tehrantimes.com  
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## NEWS

### “Mockingbird” comes to Iranian bookstores

**CULTURE TEHRAN** — Netherlands-born desk American writer Kathryn Erskine’s “Mockingbird” has recently been released in Persian by Ofoq Publications.



An author of young adults’ books, Erskine was presented with the U.S. National Book Award for Young People’s Literature in 2010.

The book translated into Persian by Keyvan Abdi Ashtiani recounts the story of Caitlin Smith who has Asperger syndrome and is preoccupied with drawing and dictionaries. The world according to her is black and white; anything in between is confusing.

When things became confusing a couple of days before, Caitlin went to her older brother, Devon, for help. But Devon was killed in a school shooting, and Caitlin’s father is so distraught that he is completely incapable of helping.

### Abbas Kiarostami among new members of Academy

**ART TEHRAN** — The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences has picked Iranian filmmaker Abbas Kiarostami to join the organization as the Academy issued a record new membership of 683 on June 29.

The new members range from rising stars like John Boyega of “Star Wars” and Emma Watson of “Harry Potter” to musicians like Mary J. Blige and Will.i.am to internationally recognized directors like Great Britain’s Ken Loach, the academy has announced on its website.

Abbas Kiarostami left Iran last week to receive additional treatment at a hospital in Paris by an air ambulance owned by MK2, the producer of Kiarostami’s latest film.

Kiarostami, 76, was hospitalized in mid-March at Tehran’s Jam Hospital and underwent several operations. Although he didn’t recover fully, he left the hospital late in April.

He has been suffering repercussions from several operations for his severe gastrointestinal disease.

The filmmaker is famous as an artist who stayed in Iran after the Islamic Revolution of 1979, while others chose to live abroad. Kiarostami achieved international recognition for Iranian cinema after his “Taste of Cherry” won the Palme d’Or at Cannes in 1997.

Almost half the people invited to join the organization that bestows the Oscars this year are women and almost as many people of color, the body announced on Wednesday in a bid to honor its vow to push for greater diversity.

The class of 2016 includes 28 Oscar winners and 98 nominees, who collectively represent 109 nominations. Of the new invitees, 283 are considered international members, representing 59 countries.

## WHAT’S IN ART GALLERIES

### Photo



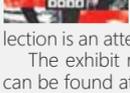
■ An exhibition of photos by Ali Babaizadeh, which spotlight the inner world of the human beings, is currently underway at No. 26 Gallery.



The exhibit runs until July 14 at the gallery located at 26 Salmanpur-Zahir St., in the Farmanieh Sharqi neighborhood.



■ Photos from Puyan Jalilvand’s latest collection “Situation 1” are on display in exhibition at Tarrahan-e Azad Gallery.



According to Jalilvand, his collection is an attempt to represent an obscure status. The exhibit runs until July 12 at the gallery that can be found at 41 Salmas Square, off Fatemi St.

### Painting



■ Iranian Art Gallery is playing host to a group exhibition of paintings and calligraphic works by members of Reflect Art, including Amir Asgharzadeh, Pantea Mesbah and Mojgan Bakhshi.



The exhibit named “The Forth Reflection” runs until July 7 at the gallery, which can be found at 19 Khark St., on the eastern side of Vahdat Hall.

### Installation



■ Sets of installation art by Hiva Alizadeh are currently on show in an exhibition at Shirin Gallery.

The exhibit will be running until July 13 at the gallery located at No. 5, 13th St., Karim Khan Zand Ave.

# “The Daughter” scoops top awards at Moscow Intl. Film Festival

**ART TEHRAN** — Iranian director and desk producer Reza Mirkarimi’s drama “The Daughter” has scooped awards for best film and best actor, won by Farhad Aslani, at the 38th Moscow International Film Festival, the organizers announced on Thursday.

Mirkarimi received the Golden George for best film at the closing ceremony on Thursday.

In addition, Aslani was not able to attend the ceremony, so Mirkarimi accepted the award on his behalf.

The film is set in the southwestern Iranian city of Abadan, where Mr. Azizi, an engineer for the Abadan Oil Refining Company, is making arrangements for an engagement party for one of his daughters while his other daughter, Setareh, plans to leave Abadan to attend her friend’s goodbye party in Tehran.

A Silver George for the best director went to Danish filmmaker Puk Grasten for her “37” while Therese Malvar from the Philippines was presented with a Silver George for the best actress for her role in “Haze” by Ralston Jover.



Iranian director Reza Mirkarimi holds the awards that his film “The Daughter” won at the 38th Moscow International Film Festival on June 30, 2016. (MIFF)

## Rouhani denounces snubbing Iranian artists’ intl. success

**CULTURE TEHRAN** — President Hassan desk Rouhani has criticized certain people in the country for snubbing Iranian artists over their achievements at international events.

Speaking at a meeting with a number of cineastes, artists and writers, he said, “It’s a great honor for Iran and every Iranian when works by Iranian musicians are heard in major concert halls around the world and Iranian films are enthusiastically welcomed around the world.”

“It’s not clear why some people feel unhappy about these achievements,” he added.

He also said that some countries are trying to develop a phobia about Iran and Iranians, and called Iranian artists “the soft power that is able to foil the plot and to show the true image of the civilized Iran.”

Veteran actor and filmmaker Mehdi Fakhimzadeh, director Mohammad-Hossein Mahdavian, author Tahereh Ibad, musician Fereidun Shabbazian and stage actress Nasim Adabi also delivered



President Hassan Rouhani greets Iranian artists during a meeting in Tehran on June 30, 2016. Left to right in the front row, calligrapher Mohammad Salahshur, director Masud Kimia, and actor Ali Nasirian are seen in the photo. (President.ir)

short speeches about the problems facing their colleagues.

Mahdavian, the director of “Standing in the Dust”, the acclaimed biopic on Ahmad Motevasselian, an IRGC commander who was kidnapped by the Zionist regime in 1982 in Lebanon, challenged the official history in the country.

He said that when Iran’s official institutes for historical research release something, such as books, films or TV series, that is not compatible with historical truths then there is no atmosphere conducive to the production of independent narratives of history.”

He called the issue “a terrible problem” and said “The youths of every country form their attachment to their country by reviewing the history of their own country and finding their own heroes.

“If they lose faith in the official media and the official history, an irreparable breakup will occur.”

He also stated that the youths’ enthusiasm for foreign media and satellite TV channels is partly the outcome of their distrust of the official version of history.

### PICTURE OF THE DAY © Mehr/Babak Borzuyeh



A member of Prometheus, an Iranian troupe led by director Farzad Amini, acts in a scene from Euripides’ “Hippolytus” at Tehran’s Hafez Hall on June 29, 2016. The play, which is an ancient Greek tragedy based on the myth of Hippolytus whose stepmother Phaedra falls in love with him, will run until July 8.

## Film studio Lionsgate to buy Starz for \$4.4 billion

**NEW YORK (Reuters)** — Lions Gate Entertainment Corp (LGF.N), the film studio behind the Hunger Games movies, said Thursday it would buy premium television network Starz (STRZA.O) for \$4.4 billion in cash and stock, in a deal that would unite two media companies with ties to cable mogul John Malone.

Both companies held on and off talks for some time. The long-anticipated deal will help diversify Lionsgate’s business and make its financials less dependent on whether it can deliver a hit movie, according to Jefferies analyst John Janedis.

Lionsgate Chief Executive Jon Feltheimer said on a conference call that the deal creates a “global content powerhouse that invests nearly \$2 billion a year in new content.”

Starz, which competes with HBO and Showtime, also develops original program such as the fantasy series “Outlander”.

Lionsgate’s bet on a cable network comes with risks, however, as more viewers watch television online and buy fewer cable subscriptions.

## Bologna hosts Iranian cultural festival

**ART TEHRAN** — Centers desk in the Italian city of Bologna is currently playing host to an Iranian cultural festival titled “Heart of Persia”.

Art exhibitions, film screenings and theatrical performances have been arranged for the festival, which opened on June 29.

Movies by Iranian filmmakers, including “Lanturi” directed by Reza Dormishian, “Fish and Cat” by Shahram Mokri, “Modest Reception” by Mani Haqiqi and “The Last Step” by Ali Mosafa, are scheduled to be screened at the event, which will run until July 10.

“The Lady” by Arash Abbasi,



A poster for “Heart of Persia”

“Macbeth” by Reza Servati, “Count to One” by Zahra Sabri and several other plays have also been selected to go on stage at the festival.

“All About Me, Nicknamed

Crown Giver” is an exhibition that photographer Tahmineh Monzavi is organizing during the event.

In addition, photos of Iranian cultural attractions by Italian photographers

David Palmisano and Manuela Marchetti are on display at exhibitions entitled “Timeless Persia” and “Sokut”.

Also among the highlights of the festival are some Persian literary workshops introducing books about Iran, and a reading performance workshop of Persian fairy tales to be directed by Italian actress Anna Amadori.

Teatri di Vita, an international center for theater and contemporary arts in Bologna, is the main organizer of “Heart of Persia”.

The festival is a part of Well Bolognaestate, a program that Bologna officials organize every year during summer to entertain visitors to the city.