

# TEHRAN TIMES

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Some states not willing to counter Daesh, Iran says 2

## Matthew Bunn: U.S. will be isolated if it violates JCPOA

**EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW**  
By Javad Heirannia

**TEHRAN** — Matthew Bunn, a specialist in nuclear security at Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government, believes that the U.S. will isolate itself if it violates the terms of the international nuclear deal with Iran.

"If the United States leaves the JCPOA unilaterally, it will be isolated," Bunn tells the Tehran Times in an exclusive interview.

Following is the full text of the interview:

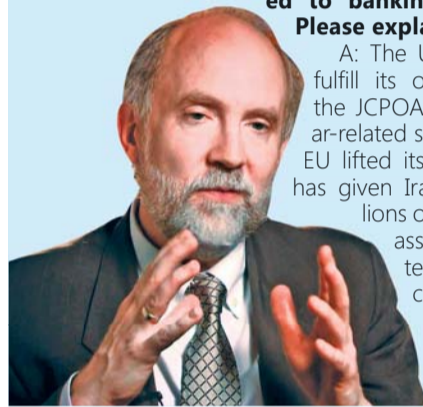
**■ What is your prediction about the future of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)?**

A: I believe the JCPOA serves Iranian national interests, U.S. national interests, and the interests of the other P5+1, and hence the participating states will continue to implement it. The participants have already used the Joint Commission and more informal channels to resolve a number of issues and disagreements.

**■ Iran has been fulfilling its nuclear commitments under the JCPOA, however the other side, particularly the U.S., has not fully respected its obligations in lifting sanctions, especially those related to banking transactions. Please explain?**

A: The United States did fulfill its obligations under the JCPOA by lifting nuclear-related sanctions, and the EU lifted its sanctions. This has given Iran access to billions of dollars in frozen assets and permitted a wide range of commercial deals.

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## Leader calls Intelligence Ministry 'hard shell of the system'

Ayatollah Khamenei calls on Intelligence Ministry to prevent and counter corruption

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei said on Tuesday that the Intelligence Ministry is

the "hard shell" of the Islamic Republic system that must never be vulnerable" to any wrong approach.

Ayatollah Khamenei made the re-

marks during a meeting with Intelligence Minister Mahmoud Alavi and other senior ministry officials.

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## Iran begins shipping Euro 4 compliant oil

The National Iranian Oil Products Distribution Company (NIOPDC) has announced that the country has deployed its first Euro 4-compliant gas oil shipment to global markets.

Mahmoud Taherizadeh, director of the Mahshahr region for NIOPDC, stated: "In the first four months of the current Iranian calendar year, about 184 million liters of diesel fuel with Euro 4 standards have been exported from Mahshahr oil terminal... In addition to diesel oil, approximately 960 million liters of mazut were also deployed to world markets over the span of four months."

He said that for the same period last year, mazut shipments totaled 472 million liters. Taherizadeh said that since no oil gas cargo had been shipped from Mahshahr terminal in the prior year, this is the first time in the current year that exports of Euro 4-compliant diesel oil have been shipped from the terminal.

Taherizadeh said that the Mahshahr terminal has become a "major corridor" for petroleum exports, and that diesel and mazut exports are expected to continue to grow. In the current Iranian year, which began on March 20, the country has exported an average of 9 to 9.5 million liters of gas oil per day. Those numbers show an increase of two times the amount from the same period in the previous year.

India is one of Iran's oil customers. Last month, the country imported 461,000 barrels of oil per day from Iran, which was up 110 percent from July of last year, and 21 percent increase from June. Vehicle sales in India remain on the rise, increasing the country's demand for oil. (Source: oilprice.com)

## Putin meets Erdogan for 1st time since downing of Russian jet

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AP

## Iranian cinema dominates Indian festival

**ART** **TEHRAN** — Iranian films won six awards and an honorable mention during the closing ceremony of the 13th We Care Film Festival in New Delhi, India last Friday.



"Here" directed by Sina Shafiei won first prize for the Up to 1 Minute category while "Hands for Father" by Nasim Madadi won third prize in this section.

"Fish and I" by Babak Habifar received first prize for the Up to 5 Minute category and "The Known Silence" by Mehdi Qorbani won third prize in this part.

"Our Little Circle" by Mohammad-Fazel Purabutaleb and "The Steps of One" by Kiumars Samadi-Tari won first and second prizes in the Up to 60 Minute category.

"When a Ray of Light Shines" by Shahriar Purseyeyedian received an honorable mention in the Up to 30 Minutes category.

This year's festival screened over 900 short films and documentaries from about 100 countries, including Iran, Lebanon, Italy, Myanmar, the United Kingdom and Poland in over 125 venues in India, France, Kuwait, Iran and several other countries.

The We Care Film Festival is held annually from January to May to raise awareness about disability issues, and to dispel misconceptions and prejudices about people with disabilities.

## Iran to use French legal expertise to compensate victims of Hajj crush

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — A delegation from Iran's Foreign Ministry will go to France as part of legal efforts to restore the rights of the Iranian pilgrims who died in a tragic stampede in Saudi Arabia last year, an Iranian official announced, noting Iran is using the French legal expertise to restore the rights of Hajj victims.

Speaking at a television talk show on Monday night, the head of Iran's Hajj and Pilgrimage Organization said the Foreign Ministry has been assigned the task of handling the Mina tragedy case via legal and political channels.

Saeed Ohadi added that a legal committee has been formed to deal with the issue.

Ohadi stated that the Foreign Ministry consular department is going to release the results of its legal campaigns to restore the rights of the "Mina martyrs."

He once again took a swipe at the Saudis for lack of cooperation, saying the families of the victims or those injured in the crush have not yet received any compensation.

Apart from serious efforts to pursue the case legally, Iran is in contact with 24 other countries whose nationals were killed in the incident, he explained. Earlier this month, the Foreign Ministry pledged utmost efforts to restore the rights of the families of the victims. →9

## Names of top scoring students in Iran's university entrance exam released

**SOCIETY** **TEHRAN** — Results for the top students in the Iranian university entrance exam, also known as Konkur, in the three main groups of mathematical sciences, experimental sciences, and human sciences were announced on Tuesday.

The top three students of arts and foreign languages groups are announced as well; the overall results are scheduled to be announced on Wednesday morning, Tasnim news agency reported.

Among the top 36 students, 26 are male and 10 are female. Surprisingly there is no female among the top 10



admitted for the mathematical sciences group while all the top three in arts group are female.

Moreover, 21 one of the top students are from Tehran and the rest are from other provinces of Iran.

According to Sanjesh Organization (a body charged with Konkur adminis-

tration) in general some 430,000 students are admitted for the tuition free public universities.

Depending on how well the students have performed at the exam they have five days to choose the field and university they would like to choose to study and go.

Konkur, is held every year in June or July in Iran and in some other countries as well. The exam is used as one of the means to gain admission to higher education in Iran as the high school graduates take the stringent entrance exam seeking a place in one of the public universities.

## Iran said in talks to sell crude to Trafigura for China teapots

National Iranian Oil Co. may sell more of its heavy crude grade to Trafigura, according to people with knowledge of the matter, who asked not to be identified because the discussions are confidential. The supplies

may then be resold to Chinese independent processors, known as teapots, they said, adding that the talks are ongoing and a deal hasn't been finalized.

A Geneva-based spokeswoman for Trafigura declined to comment while NIOC officials in Tehran weren't available for comment.

The potential sale of oil to teapots would help Iran's drive to expand market share in Asia after international sanctions were removed against the Persian Gulf state.

The Middle East producer sells most of its crude via long-term contracts directly to refiners, and allows existing buyers to purchase additional spot cargoes. But it's now willing to reach Chinese private refiners via Trafigura because the trader would be better suited to supply the processors who typically buy shipments at short notice and in small quantities.

Trafigura bought about 2 million barrels of Iranian heavy crude from NIOC for June loading, with the tanker

carrying the supply currently anchored off South Korea. Previously, the shipment floated for three weeks off the Chinese port of Qingdao, which is used by teapots to receive oil supplies.

Earlier this year, Iran's rival producer Saudi Arabia broke from its usual practice of selling via long-term contracts to supply a cargo to a Chinese teapot refiner, in what Citigroup Inc. then said was a "dramatic" shift in the Middle Eastern kingdom's oil-market strategy.

(Source: Bloomberg)

## 50 GOP national security experts oppose Trump

Fifty prominent Republican foreign policy and national security experts -- many veterans of George W. Bush's administration -- have signed a letter denouncing Donald Trump's presidential candidacy and pledging not to vote for him.

The letter, first reported by The New

York Times, warns: "We are convinced that in the Oval Office, he would be the most reckless President in American history."

Its signatories include former CIA and National Security Agency Director Michael Hayden, former Director of National Intelligence and Deputy Secretary of State John Negroponte and

Eric Edelman, who was Vice President Dick Cheney's national security adviser and has worked closely with Michele Flournoy -- a candidate for secretary of defense in a prospective Clinton administration -- to forge a centrist group of defense experts on key military issues.

→9

The Tehran Times new pocket-sized glossary is now available on the market. The reader-friendly is a rich source of the most common journalistic terminology collected by the daily's retired staff. It can benefit a wide range of tastes from students to professional journalists.

For more information contact:  
**(021) 430 51 603-4**



## ARTICLE

By Jamshid Parchizadeh  
zoology expert

## The need to increase public awareness about preservation of fauna

Nowadays specific symbolic days are celebrated in order to increase the awareness of the public to preserve animal species across the globe. In this article, I am going to describe briefly the importance of these symbolic days for the conservation of fauna.

Let us take the August 10, "World Lion Day," as an example. Lions are found only in Africa, (Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe), and India in Asia. Every year those who are interested in conserving lions celebrate "World Lion Day" to increase awareness about the necessity of conserving the "king of the jungle." Unfortunately, the number of lions is decreasing each minute, and as such they need to be conserved.

The Persian lion (scientific name: Panthera leo persica -- common name: Asiatic lion) has always been a symbol of greatness, strength, and courage for Iranians, and that is why we can see the symbolic Persian lions on the walls of ancient monuments, porcelain, coins, handmade carpets, jewelry, stamps, and even architecture in Iran. This sub-species was first seen in Persia in 1826 by an Austrian zoologist, Johann N. Meyer, and therefore the scientific name of Felis leo persicus was selected. However, the scientific name was changed to Panthera leo persica afterwards.

The Persian lion was once distributed across the edge of the Mediterranean Sea, northern Greece, Turkey, and Iran to the Indian subcontinent, including the present-day Pakistan, India and Bangladesh. →8

**MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS**



**Larijani appoints Bahonar as his advisor**

**TEHRAN** — Iran's Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani on Tuesday appointed Mohammad Reza Bahonar as his advisor, ILNA reported.

The text of the appointment is as follows:

My dear brother Mr. Mohammad Reza Bahonar, Due to your commitment and invaluable experiences, I appoint you as "advisor to the speaker of Majlis". It is hoped that with reliance on God Almighty, you would be successful in your assigned duties.



**Islamic Coalition Party announces commitment to principlist alliance**

**TEHRAN** — The Islamic Coalition Party has announced its faithfulness to the alliance of principlists in anticipation of the next year's presidential and council elections. "We are bound to the convergence of principlists, but will also have candidates as in previous elections," the party's Secretary General Mohammad Nabi Habibi said on Monday, the Resalat newspaper reported.

"If principlists go for coalition for the presidential elections, we will discuss our candidate in the coalition council and abide by whatever the coalition decides," he stated.



**Insulting officials is a crime: Tehran prosecutor**

**TEHRAN** — In an indirect reference to the recent insulting remarks against President Hassan Rouhani, the Tehran prosecutor has said insulting officials is a crime. "Insulting the country's officials or organizations is a crime and legally punishable," Abbas Jafari Dolatabadi told a press conference on Monday, the Iran newspaper reported.

In relevant remarks on the same day, Rouhani's deputy for legal affairs praised the president's self-restraint in the face of insults, saying, "Mr. President's patience has made the insulters more furious."



**Mohsen Rezaee recounts a story about Leader in promoting Iran's political status**

**TEHRAN** — The secretary of the Expediency Council, Mohsen Rezaee, shared a photo of the Supreme Leader on Monday, recounting a story about the role the Leader played in strengthening Iran's political status in the world.

Here's the full account of what he wrote on his Instagram account: "In the final years of Mr. Hashemi's government, the European ambassadors packed their bags and left. Some of us were frightened and were seeking a solution.

In the meantime, with my brothers in the IRGC, we were holding a massive military drill in Bandar Abbas and the Strait of Hormuz. The presence of the Leader of the revolution made the drill much more glorious and sent a powerful message to the world.

A few days later, the ambassadors once again packed their bags and returned to Iran."



**Zarif gives nuclear deal highest grade**

**TEHRAN** — Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said on Tuesday that he gives the highest grade to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), according to ISNA.

"The nuclear deal shows our nation's honor and resistance against countries that are used to bullying others and disrespecting their rights," Zarif said, responding to a question about the implementation of the nuclear deal.

Zarif further said that "no deal in the world is signed if it serves the interests of one side."

"We showed to the West that they must never threaten an Iranian. That's why I give the highest grade to the JCPOA," the Iranian foreign minister added.



**Informal talks underway to impeach some ministers: Aref**

**TEHRAN** — Mohammad Reza Aref, leader of the Hope parliamentary faction, said on Tuesday that some MPs are individually discussing an impeachment of some ministers.

Aref said this issue has not been raised in any official meetings of the Hope faction and the talks in this regard are just personal opinions, Tasnim reported.

He did not mention the names of the ministers who are likely to be impeached. The leader of the reformist faction in parliament also said, "We intend to hold meetings with all executive authorities in order to be informed about the measures."

ILNA

RESALAT

IRANS

NAMENEWS

ISNA

TASNIM

# Building two nuclear plants awaits authorization by Rouhani and Putin: Salehi

## "Nuclear industry will get a new jump by building 2 nuclear plants at a value of 10 billion dollars with the Russian help."

**POLITICAL TEHRAN** — Ali Akbar Salehi, chief of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, promised on Tuesday that the nuclear industry would get a new jump if President Hassan Rouhani and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin give the go-ahead for the construction two more nuclear power plants at the site of the Bushehr nuclear plant with a value of 10 billion dollars.

The remarks by Salehi came after Rouhani and Putin met in Baku, Azerbaijan, on Monday.

"During the visit of Mr. Rouhani to Azerbaijan and his talks with Mr. Putin on the sidelines of the trilateral summit negotiations were held on breaking the ground for two new (nuclear power) plants. And if an authorization is given for breaking the ground by the presidents we will have a project at a value of 10 billion dollars which will create a new reform in the country's nuclear industry," Salehi stated.



Elsewhere in his remarks, Salehi said that the major European banks are not cooperating with Iran, fearing a penalty by the U.S.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Salehi said that the major European banks are not cooperating with Iran, fearing a penalty by the U.S.

Salehi, a nuclear physicist, also said that Iran has not stopped producing heavy water, adding the extra amount of

the product will be exported.

He also called on the critics of the nuclear deal to make a "fair" judgment and focus on the national interests.

Iran and the 5+1 group - the United States, Britain, France, China and Russia plus Germany - finalized the text of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) in Vienna on July 2015. The nuclear agreement went into effect in January 2016.

### 'Islamic Revolution's message'

Salehi also said that Western countries have no problem with Iran's science, technology, business, but they are concerned about the "Islamic Revolution's message" to the world.

"We presented to the world ideology, political philosophy and new method of ruling through our revolution," he remarked.

It is proven that this "new philosophy" can be efficient in resisting against difficulties, he said.

## Some states not willing to counter Daesh, Iran says

### Barham Salih calls Iran a 'strategic' partner

**POLITICAL TEHRAN** — Iranian Supreme National Security Council Secretary Ali Shamkhani said on Tuesday that some countries in the region and beyond are not willing to fight Daesh.

Shamkhani made the remarks during a meeting in Tehran with Barham Salih, former prime minister of the Kurdistan Regional Government and former deputy Iraqi prime minister.

The top security official also highlighted the importance of unity among the various Iraqi ethnic and political groups.

"Strategic interests of Iraq and its regional power can be recognized only through strengthening a united and integrated Iraq," Shamkhani noted.

He also said that "deep friendship" between Iran and the Iraqi Kurds is a result of cooperation during difficult

times. Elsewhere, Shamkhani said that a country's capability to counter security threats is the "most important sign of a government's efficiency".

He also praised the Iraqi capability created through the efforts of religious scholars, people, military forces, and the government's prudence.

Shamkhani also said that dialogue is the only way to settle disputes.

For his part, Salih praised Iran's supports and "valuable actions" in fighting terrorism.

Salehi also said "expansion of ties and cooperation with Iran is very important for Iraqi Kurdistan" and described Iran as a "strategic" partner.

He also highlighted the importance of raising awareness about the terrorist moves and Takfiri ideology.



## Rouhani, Putin highlight necessity of nuclear cooperation

**POLITICAL TEHRAN** — In their bilateral meeting in Baku on Monday Iranian President Hassan Rouhani and Russian President Vladimir Putin said it is necessary to expand nuclear cooperation and implement the JCPOA precisely.

Rouhani said Iran "welcomes expansion of ties" with Moscow and called for investment in Iranian energy projects by Russian and other international corporations.

The meeting between Putin and Rouhani took place on the sidelines of a trilateral summit between Russia, the Republic of Azerbaijan, and Iran.

"The Baku summit lays the ground to boost regional cooperation and that would help strengthen stability and security in the region," Rouhani said.

Elsewhere, Rouhani said that Russia has played a "constructive" and "positive" role in implementing the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

He also praised the "constructive" role of

Russia during two years of nuclear talks which involved Iran and the five permanent members of the UN Security Council plus Germany.

Commenting on fighting terrorism, Rouhani said there is a "good cooperation" between Iran and Russia in this respect which should be continued until restoration of peace and stability to Syria.

The Russian president, for his part, called for expanding relations.

Putin said the Iranian officials' "seriousness" has led to expansion of ties during

past months. In his speech to the trilateral summit on Monday, the Iranian president said, "Since the three neighboring countries, for various reasons, particularly their geostrategic situation, share a wide range of concerns, opportunities, challenges, and face some common threats in political, economic, cultural, technological, and environmental domains, interaction and cooperation between them becomes a necessity felt more than any time else."

## Russia delivers half of S-300 air defense systems to Iran

Russia has already delivered half of S-300 air defense systems to Iran under the existing contract, Russian Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Rogozin told reporters following Russia-Iran-Azerbaijan summit in Baku on Monday.

Head of Russia's Rostec corporation, Sergei Chemezov, said in July that Russia was planning to complete the deliveries of the S-300 air defense systems to Iran by the end of 2016.

The \$800-million Moscow-Tehran contract to deliver Russian S-300 systems to Iran was signed in 2007. It was suspended after the adoption of UN Security Council sanctions on Iran in

mid-2010. In 2011, Iran sued Russia in the Geneva Arbitration Court after Moscow suspended the contract in 2010, citing a UN Security Council resolution that placed an arms embargo on Tehran.

Russian President Vladimir Putin lifted the S-300 delivery ban in April 2015, shortly after the P5+1 group of international negotiators and Iran reached a framework nuclear agreement to remove all economic sanctions against Tehran in exchange for its pledge to ensure that all nuclear research in the country will be for peaceful purposes.

(Source: Sputnik)

## Former CIA official: We need to make the Iranians pay a price in Syria

**POLITICAL TEHRAN** — Michael Morell, former deputy director of the CIA, suggested on Monday that the United States should support more aggressive action by Syrian rebels in the war.

"When we were in Iraq, the Iranians were giving weapons to the Shi'a militia, who were killing American soldiers," Morell told "CBS This Morning" co-host Charlie Rose.

"The Iranians were making us pay a price. We need to make the Iranians pay a price in Syria. We need to make the Russians pay a price."

Making them "pay the price" would



mean killing Russians and Iranians, he said, adding he wants to make Syrian President Bashar al-Assad uncomfortable.

"I want to go after those things that Assad sees as his personal power base. I want to scare Assad."

## Leader calls Intelligence Ministry 'hard shell of the system'

The Intelligence Ministry is a "very important and sensitive stronghold" and "sharp eye of the Islamic system," the Leader noted.

The Leader also highlighted the need to strengthen "spiritual aspects" in the Intelligence Ministry.

He also said any action that weakens the people's

faith is considered as a "treason".

"Failure of the global arrogance in countering the Islamic system in spite of various plots and methods being applied since the very first day after the Islamic Revolution was not possible without support of faith," he explained.

The Leader also said that the Intelligence Ministry should protect the principles of the Islamic Revolution,

adding that distancing from the U.S. is one of the most important principles of the Islamic Revolution.

Elsewhere, the Leader said that implementation of resistance economy is the way forward to counter economic problems.

He also highlighted the importance of the Intelligence Ministry's role in preventing and countering corruption.

## Matthew Bunn: U.S. will be isolated if it violates JCPOA

The JCPOA, however, did not address the U.S. sanctions imposed in the past for non-nuclear reasons...

The United States is continuing to implement these, and that is having an effect on the willingness of banks to finance deals with Iran. Many companies are also reluctant to make long-term investments in Iran when Iran has opaque and difficult to understand business rules, is arresting visiting Iranian-Americans and Iranian-Europeans,

continues to... and also remains under some sanctions. Action by both the United States (to clarify to banks and companies what they can do without having a problem under current sanctions) and by Iran (to improve the atmosphere for investment and business deals) will be needed for Iran to get the full economic benefit of the JCPOA.

Do you think the next president of the United States will honor the JCPOA?

A: Hillary Clinton has strongly supported the JCPOA, and I think would continue to implement it. Donald Trump has pledged to pull out of the JCPOA, but may possibly take a different view if elected.

Will the allies back Washington if the next U.S. president violates the JCPOA?

A: No. If the United States leaves the JCPOA unilaterally, it will be isolated. U.S. allies participated in sanctions against

Iran as part of a broader effort to negotiate a deal that would reduce the risks they felt were posed by Iran's nuclear program, and would not support a unilateral U.S. effort to renege on the JCPOA and demand more. If, however, it were Iran that were seen to be violating the JCPOA, I believe there would be strong support for reimposing substantial sanctions. That is one reason implementing the JCPOA faithfully continues to be in Iran's national interests.

# Putin meets Erdogan for 1st time since downing of Russian jet

## Erdogan says new chapter emerging in relations with Russia

Turkish president Recep Tayyip Erdogan met with "his friend" Vladimir Putin in hopes of turning a fresh page in the two countries' relations. It is their first meeting since Turkey downed a Russian bomber over Syria last November, RT reported.

"Your visit, which comes amid a very complicated situation in Turkey, indicates that all of us want to revive our dialogue and restore relations for the sake of the Turkish and Russian peoples," President Putin said, greeting Erdogan in St. Petersburg.

Putin added he was "one of the first [heads of state] who called President [Erdogan] and reaffirmed support for overcoming the domestic political crisis related to the [military] coup."

In turn, Erdogan stressed he appreciates President Putin's willingness to meet him in person. "I once again express my gratitude to you for this opportunity to be with you and meet with you," the Turkish leader said.

Ankara appears to expect much from the meeting.

"This will be a historic visit, a fresh start. I believe that a new page will be opened [during]... the negotiations with my friend Vladimir [Putin]," President



Erdogan told TASS news agency in an exclusive interview ahead of the visit, adding that "there is yet much for our countries to do together."

### ■ New chapter emerging in relations

Erdogan said on Tuesday that Turkey was entering a "very different pe-

riod" in relations with Russia, and that solidarity between the two countries would help the resolution of regional problems.

Speaking in St. Petersburg ahead of a meeting with Vladimir Putin, Erdogan thanked his Russian counterpart for his

telephone call after a failed military coup on July 15, saying it "brought our people great happiness," Reuters reported.

Erdogan's trip to Russia comes as Turkey's relations with Europe and the United States are strained by what Ankara sees as Western concern over the abortive coup, in which more than 240 people were killed.

While Ankara is obviously eager to improve ties with Moscow, which have seen a dramatic downturn as of late, Russia has maintained a more reserved and pragmatic approach.

"The Syrian crisis will be discussed in depth and we hope that Turkey's position will become more constructive," Yuri Ushakov, Vladimir Putin's foreign policy aide, told reporters on Friday.

Moscow and Ankara still largely disagree on Syria, as Turkey wants President Bashar Assad to be ousted, while Russia supports him and the Syrian army in their fight against terrorists. Russia's Defense Ministry has accused Turkey of aiding ISIL terrorist group, citing data indicating that the militants are being re-supplied and re-armed from Turkey.

(Source: agencies)

## Pictures appear to show British Special Forces on Syrian frontline

The first images of what appear to be British special forces operating on the ground in Syria have emerged, showing vehicles patrolling near the scene of an attack by ISIL terrorist group.

The pictures were taken in June and were first published by the BBC.

It is believed to be the first time British forces have been photographed operating inside Syria, where they are engaged in relatively small numbers in wide-ranging roles that include surveillance, advisory and combat.

The images depict British special forces sitting on Thalab long-range patrol vehicles as they move around the perimeter of a rebel base close to the Syria-Iraq border.

The Thalab (Fox) vehicles are essentially modified, militarized and upgraded Toyota 4x4s used for long distance reconnaissance and surveillance missions, which were developed jointly in the middle of the last decade by a state-backed defense company in Jordan and the UK company Jankel.

The vehicle, which has mounted weaponry and is often used for border patrols, has been primarily used by Jordanian special forces.

Al-Tanf, where the vehicles were reportedly photographed, is a border crossing between Syria and Iraq that had been under ISIL control, and is also not far from the Jordanian border. It is unclear how many Nato countries have deployed the modified trucks, though Belgium ordered a shipment of modified Fox vehicles earlier this year.

The images seem to show British forces securing the perimeter of the rebel base following an attack by ISIL terrorist group, according to the BBC. The soldiers can be seen carrying anti-tank missiles, sniper rifles and other heavy artillery.

The BBC reported the soldiers were working at the base in a defensive role and a spokesman for the New Syrian Army acknowledged that British special forces had provided training, weapons and other equipment.

The Ministry of Defense, as is standard with special forces, declined to comment on the photographs. But

an independent source confirmed they were UK special forces, which are operating against ISIL in Syria, Iraq and Libya.

They prefer to operate in secrecy, at least until sufficient time has passed for the publication of memoirs. But, with cameras commonplace and the forces they operate alongside not feeling bound to respect that secrecy, it is becoming increasingly more difficult.

The UK has about 300 conventional forces operating in Iraq mainly in and around Baghdad, restricted to training and advisory roles, operating from behind the relative safety of secure bases. Britain has also promised to provide between 800-1,200 troops to an Italian-led international force to support the Libyan government, though there is little sign of these being deployed.

The special forces have a free-ranging role, operating in the border areas between the ISIL stronghold of Raqqa in Syria and the towns and villages linking it to its northern Iraqi bastion, Mosul. The U.S. special forces established a base in the Syrian desert between Raqqa and the Iraqi border aimed both at achieving this and in support of Syrian rebel forces trying to squeeze Raqqa.

The UK parliament approved an air campaign against ISIL in Syria but not ground troops. Special forces, though, have always been treated differently. The government mantra is that special forces can be deployed wherever there is judged to be a threat to the UK.

The convention is that special forces are never mentioned on the floor of the British parliament but they are subject to oversight through the parliamentary intelligence committee.

Defense ministers argue that it is illogical to expect special forces engaged against ISIL to stop at the Iraqi border, given that the terror group does not recognize any border between Iraq and Syria.

The New Syrian Army was established with American backing in 2015 as a moderate rebel force to primarily fight against ISIL in Deir ez-Zor province, which is almost entirely under the control of the militants.

The American training programs for rebel forces have been widely seen as failures, primarily because few



rebel fighters are willing to exclusively fight ISIL while ignoring the regime of Bashar al-Assad.

The U.S. has had more success when it closely coordinated with fighters on the ground and backed them up with airstrikes, the modus operandi it has adopted with the mostly Kurdish fighters in northern Syria known as the Syrian Democratic Forces, who are on the verge of taking back the city of Manbij in northern Aleppo from ISIL, and have conquered vast tracts of land over the past few months. The U.S. also has special forces troops operating on the ground with the Kurds.

The New Syrian Army has had a halting and uninspiring track record. Their most significant operation occurred in June this year, when the group launched an attack on Al-Bukamal, a town on the Iraqi border that has long been a crossing point for foreign terrorists during the American occupation, and which is now held by ISIL. The attack failed, apparently due to the lack of sufficient air power backing by its western allies.

One report in the Washington Post suggested American warplanes that were supposed to assist in the battle had to be diverted to Falluja, where they bombed a convoy of ISIL vehicles fleeing the city.

(Source: The Guardian)

## Saudi air raids claim 33 civilian lives in Yemen

### Yemen facing irreversible humanitarian catastrophe: NRC

At least 30 civilians have been killed as Saudi fighter jets pounded several Yemeni provinces in a blatant violation of a UN-brokered ceasefire between the warring sides there.

On Tuesday, Saudi fighter jets bombed several targets in the capital, Sana'a, including a food factory. At least 14 people, including three employees of the factory, have lost their lives in the attack, said Yemen's al-Masirah television.

Saudi warplanes also bombed an area in the Kushar district of the northwestern Hajjah Province, killing three people and injuring several others.

Elsewhere, the Saudi air raids hit the al-Sama' military base in the Arhab district of Sana'a Province as well as the military base of Hamza in the province of Ibb.

Two civilians lost their lives in an air-strike on a fuel station in Ibb.

Saudi military aircraft also carried out five raids on the Ta'izz airport. Later in the day, they targeted Wazaiyah District in the province, leaving seven people dead.

Riyadh's jets further launched over

a dozen attacks against the districts of Saqayn and Sahar in the northern province of Sa'ada and the headquarters of the 310th Armored Brigade in Amran Province.

At least six civilians died in similar Saudi raids in the Qatabir region of Sa'ada.

The airstrikes come in violation of the truce agreement that came into effect in April before the start of UN-backed negotiations between Yemen's Ansarullah movement and the Saudi-backed government of former president, Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi.

The talks to end Yemen's conflict once again broke down over the weekend, with pro-Hadi militants announcing a new Riyadh-backed military operation near Sana'a.

On Sunday, residents of towns near Sana'a said the Saudi strikes, which came as air cover for the ground offensive by Riyadh's mercenaries, killed nearly 10 civilians there.

Saudi Arabia has been engaged in a military campaign against Yem-

en for more than a year in support of Hadi, who has resigned as Yemen's president but seeks to forcefully grab power.

Nearly 10,000 people have been killed and over 17,000 injured since the onset of the Saudi aggression began. Yemenis say most of the victims are civilians.

On Monday, the Norwegian Refugee Council warned that Yemen is facing an irreversible humanitarian catastrophe some 500 days into the deadly Saudi military campaign.

### ■ Humanitarian catastrophe

A prominent refugee agency has warned that Yemen is facing an irreversible humanitarian catastrophe after over 500 days of Saudi Arabian airstrikes.

Twenty one million people -- about 80 percent of the Yemeni population -- are in dire need of some manner of aid, said the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) in a Monday report.

The Oslo-based humanitarian group noted that some 20 million Yemenis do not have access to clean water and that

over 14 million lack access to healthcare.

It added that seven million people in the country are "severely food insecure" and that sanctions imposed on the country by Saudi Arabia have "crippled" Yemen's economy.

About 10,000 people have been killed since the Saudi aggression began in late March 2015. Yemenis say most of the victims in the Saudi airstrikes are civilians. The attacks by Riyadh are meant to reinstate the resigned president, Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi.

"Time is running out before the catastrophe will be irreversible," said NRC secretary general Jan Egeland.

The group's Yemen director, Syma Jamil, noted that "the situation for Yemenis keeps deteriorating and it is now untenable. Yemenis won't be able to cope for much longer."

"Despite the staggering figures of ordinary Yemenis suffering because of the raging conflict, the outside world has kept its eyes shut to this crisis," she added.

(Source: agencies)

## Market blast kills two, wounds 15 in north Afghanistan

A bomb in a crowded market in the north Afghanistan city of Mazar-i-Sharif on Tuesday killed at least two people and wounded 15, police officials said.

Mazar-i-Sharif, an important commercial center near the border with Uzbekistan, has generally been spared the violence unleashed by insurgent groups battling the NATO-backed government in Kabul.

The attack on Tuesday was carried out by a suicide bomber, said police commander Baba Jan.

"The bomber detonated his explosives in the main market and all the victims are civilians," he said.

The Ministry of Interior, however, reported that a bomb had been hidden in a cart.

In February, three people were killed in an attack on a bus carrying military personnel not far from Mazar-i-Sharif, and in January, militants attacked the Indian consulate in the city.

(Source: Reuters)

## Benghazi victims' parents sue Clinton for 'negligence'

The parents of two Americans killed in a 2012 attack on a U.S. mission in Libya have filed a lawsuit against Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton, alleging her use of a private email server contributed to their sons' deaths.

Larry Klayman, the founder of the political advocacy group Freedom Watch USA, filed the lawsuit on behalf of Patricia Smith, the mother of U.S. State Department employee Sean Smith, and Charles Woods, the father of NAVY SEAL Tyrone Woods.

The two Americans, along with a third staffer and U.S. Ambassador to Libya Christopher Stevens, were killed in September 2012 when an armed mob attacked and set fire to the U.S. diplomatic compound in Benghazi during a protest against an amateur film deemed offensive to the Prophet Muhammad.

The lawsuit blames Clinton, then U.S. Secretary of State, for the deaths as well as for defamation and intentional and negligent infliction of emotional distress.

The lawsuit says that fighters were able to "obtain the whereabouts of Ambassador Christopher Stevens and thus the U.S. State Department and covert and other government operations in Benghazi, Libya, and subsequently orchestrate, plan, and execute the now infamous September 11, 2012 attack."

In addition to the wrongful death and negligence charges named in the lawsuit, the parents also claim that Clinton defamed them in statements to the media, according to the court statement.

"During her campaign for President, Defendant Clinton has negligently, recklessly, and/or maliciously defamed Plaintiffs by either directly calling them liars, or by strongly implying that they are liars, in order to protect and enhance her public image and intimidate and emotionally harm and silence them to not speak up about the Benghazi attack on at least four separate occasions," it added.

Patricia Smith, one of the plaintiffs, has repeatedly spoken out against Clinton.

At the Republican National Convention on July 18 she said she "personally" blamed Clinton for her son's death.

(Source: Al Jazeera)



## Turkey has formally arrested over 16,000 over failed coup

Turkey says it has formally placed upwards of 16,000 people under arrest on the suspicion that they played a role in the failed coup in the country last month.

Turkish Justice Minister Bekir Bozdog announced the figure in an interview with state-run Anadolu Agency, which was broadcast live on Turkish television channels, on Tuesday.

The cases of another 6,000 detainees, he said, were still being processed. Another 7,668 people were under investigation but were not currently in detention.

At least 246 people were killed and more than 2,100 others sustained injuries during the botched putsch. It saw a faction of the military clashing with government troops and people on the streets of the capital, Ankara, and the city of Istanbul, using hijacked helicopters and tanks.

Thousands have also been suspended or fired in the aftermath.

The government has alleged that renegade officers in Turkey's military, who had links to Fethullah Gulen, a US-based opposition cleric, staged the coup on his orders.

Gulen has denied any involvement and warned that the blame game could be a ploy by the ruling Justice and Development Party to cement its grip on power.

Ankara has, however, convicted Gulen in absentia and been threatening to revisit bilateral ties with the US should Washington fail to extradite the cleric.

(Source: Hurriyet)

SNIPPETS



**Iran soon to be main provider of industrial machinery to Afghanistan**

**ECONOMY TEHRAN** — Iran will be the main provider of Afghanistan's industrial machinery, Fars news agency reported on Monday.

According to the report, Alireza Sadrzadeh, the director of Iran's First Exhibition of Small Industries and Production Line Machinery in Afghanistan, believed that the event was a launch pad for Iranian machinery exports to the region.

Afghans were eager to cooperate with Iranian companies in various spheres such as home appliances, packing, steel, dairy and food products and some basic agreements were reached during the exhibition, Sadrzadeh said.



**Over 1,100 companies to attend Iran's intl. construction exhibition**

**ECONOMY TEHRAN** — The 16th edition of Iran's International Exhibition of Building and Construction Industry will be held in Tehran from August 12 to 15, IRNA reported on Tuesday.

More than 300 companies from 23 countries and about 800 domestic exhibitors will attend this year's event, IRNA quoted Seyed Mohammad Karimi, a board member of Iran Chamber of Cooperatives (ICC), as saying.

Belgium, China, Sweden, Switzerland, Austria, Denmark, Japan, the Netherlands, Finland and the United States are among the countries which will showcase their products and services at the exhibition.

Managed by ICC, The event will kick off at Tehran Permanent International Fairgrounds on August 12.



**LNG projects still lucrative for Iran, region: official**

**ECONOMY TEHRAN** — Conducting liquefied natural gas (LNG) projects in Iran and other countries in the region could still be profitable, Shana quoted Secretary General of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF) Mohammad Hossein Adeli as saying on Tuesday.

Estimates show that the demand for LNG will grow faster than overall demand for gas in near future, thus gas-producing countries are moving toward development of this industry, Adeli said.

In recent months, several Asian and European companies have been negotiating with Iran to participate in the completion and commissioning of LNG projects.



**Iran, Indonesia, China to embark tripartite oil investment**

**ECONOMY TEHRAN** — To be the biggest Iran-Indonesia joint oil investment, an \$8.4 billion-worth oil refinery project will be established in a trilateral cooperation between Iran, Indonesia and China, Mehr news agency reported on Tuesday.

According to the report, Hassan Khosrojerdi, the head of Iran's Petrochemical, Gas and Oil Exporters Union, said that all measures have been taken and the 300,000-barrel oil refinery will be constructed in Indonesia in about 4.5-5 years.

Iran and Indonesia will own 30 percent and 20 percent of the refinery's shares, respectively, and the remaining will be owned by the Chinese side, the official said.

# India's JSPL dispatches first lot of rail to Iran

Jindal Steel and Power Limited (JSPL) dispatched the first lot of rail to Iran on Sunday from its Raigarh facility.

The steel major had bagged a contract to supply 150,000 tons of rail to Iran for developing rail infrastructure. Of the order, 130,000 tons would be normal rail and 20,000 tons specialized head hardened rail that is produced only by the JSPL in the country.

"The rail supply to Iran is a major contribution of JSPL in Make-in-India concept," company's Executive Director (projects and operations) Pankaj Gautam said while flagging off the first rake of consignment. In the first lot, 1700 tons of 18-meter normal rail



has been dispatched to the Ganga-varam port in Andhra Pradesh for shipping.

A JSPL spokesperson said that the specialized head hardened rail was also ready for dispatch in Raigarh mill. "Once we get requisition from Iran, the consignment would be shipped," he said, adding that the Raigarh mill had over 10,000 tons of rail ready for dispatch to Iran.

Gautam said the Raigarh facility of JSPL in Chhattisgarh was equipped with World-class technology to meet the rail requirement for different corridors across India and abroad.

(Source: Business Standard)

## Iran to dispatch trade delegation to Hungary in mid-Sept.

**ECONOMY TEHRAN** — Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) in cooperation with its commercial attaché in Budapest plans to send a trade-marketing delegation to Hungary on September 14-18 aiming to boost trade relations with the European country.

Based on the announcement released by the TPO, led by the head of the organization, the delegation will

explore the potentials of the target market, meet the business key players, get acquainted with Hungary's trade rules and regulations, take part in B2B meetings and attend the conference of Iran-Hungary business opportunities and joint ventures.

Business activists and companies from various spheres such as nano technology, construction industry, oil, gas and petrochemicals, food industries, agri-

culture, banking and insurance, IT and handcrafts are welcomed to join the delegation.

TPO promotion, facilitation, information, and administration provide support for the business community. The three core functions of trade policy, trade promotion, and trade facilitation will provide support to build productive capacities, upgrade industrial and agro technologies, and expand exports and markets.

## OPEC still faces the same obstacles to agreeing oil-output limit

An informal OPEC meeting next month is unlikely to deliver any agreement to limit production because several members including Iran are still pumping below capacity.

Members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries are planning to hold talks next month on the sidelines of the International Energy Forum in Algeria, the group's president Mohammed Al Sada said Monday. But the same obstacles that prevented an agreement on proposals to freeze output in April or fix a new production target in June are still there, according to UBS Group AG.

"We still haven't reached the moment when OPEC members will agree

to a production agreement, as Iran has not yet recovered its pre-sanction production levels," Giovanni Staunovo, an analyst at UBS, said by e-mail. "Nigerian and Libyan oil output are also currently below capacity."

Oil tumbled into a bear market last week, ending a recovery that saw prices almost double from a 12-year low in February. That increased the pressure on many OPEC member countries that are still unable to balance their budgets. Al Sada's comments indicate the group is concerned by the renewed slide in prices, according to Robin Mills, chief executive officer of consultant Qamar Energy.

### Iranian opposition

Oil extended gains after closing at

a two-week high, rising 8 cents, or 0.2 percent, to \$43.10 a barrel at 5:08 p.m. in Dubai. OPEC shifted to targeting market share over price in 2014, adopting a Saudi-led strategy to keep pumping in the face of oversupply. Efforts by some OPEC members over the past two years to limit the group's output have come to nothing.

In Doha in April, talks with other producers including Russia to freeze output ended in failure after Saudi Arabia decided it wouldn't back the accord as long as Iran refused to join. At the group's June meeting, another proposal for production targets went nowhere. Before both gatherings, Iran had ruled out any limits on its output as it ramped up pro-

duction after the easing of international sanctions in January.

Iran's position on any freeze accord hasn't changed, with the country seeking to reclaim its pre-sanctions share of OPEC's total production before agreeing to cap output, according to an OPEC delegate who asked not to be identified.

Iran's crude production increased by about a quarter since the start of the year to 3.6 million barrels a day in July, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. However, it has yet to fully recover the levels pumped before sanctions were imposed four years ago, according to the country's Deputy Oil Minister Amir Hossein Zamaninia.

(Source: Bloomberg)

PICTURE OF THE DAY © IRNA/Mehdi Qorbani



The 16th edition of Iran's international exhibition of automobiles and related industries kicked off on Monday at Mashhad International Fairgrounds. In addition to the Iranian exhibitors, companies from Germany, Japan, South Korea, Britain and China are showcasing their products in the five-day event.

## Korea vulnerable to Japan-style recession: IMF director

South Korea may face a protracted recession like that in Japan partly due to demographics, a Korea-born economist with the International Monetary Fund warned Tuesday.

"There is a possibility that South Korea will be exposed to a lengthy (economic) slump, just as Japan (did), for structural problems in population," Rhee Chang-yong, director of the IMF's Asia and Pacific department, told reporters after a forum hosted by the Korean Economic Association.

He pointed to the decline in the population of Asia's fourth-largest economy, mostly in working age. He voiced concern about the likelihood of rapid growth in the number of poverty-stricken elderly people.

Rhee's view echoes a host of similar worries raised by local think tanks and media.

On South Korea's growth potential, he said the country needs to regard 3-percent growth as decent.

It's not a poor accomplishment for the size of the South Korean economy, of which per capita income is nearing 30,000, said Rhee who formerly served as Asia Development Bank's senior economist and South Korea's financial regulator. (Source: Yonhap)

NEWS

## China stocks rise to 2-week high as economy seen stabilizing

Chinese stocks climbed to a two-week high, led by consumer and industrial companies, on signs of stabilization in the world's second-largest economy.

The Shanghai Composite Index climbed 0.7 percent to its highest close since July 26. Dongxu Optoelectronic Technology Co. led gains by manufacturers after China's factory-gate deflation eased in July for a seventh month in a row. China Film Co., the nation's largest movie distributor, jumped by the 44 percent first-day limit in its Shanghai debut. The Hang Seng Index dropped from an eight-month high in Hong Kong.

China's producer-price index fell 1.7 percent in July from a year earlier, the statistics bureau said Tuesday, the smallest decline in almost two years, while passenger-vehicle sales accelerated the most in 17 months. Data in coming days are projected to confirm the stabilization in growth achieved in the first half of this year continued into July. (Source: Bloomberg)

NEWS IN BRIEF



**Alibaba cloud computing arm to help foreign tech firms enter China**

Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba Group Holding Ltd is offering to help international technology firms such as SAP SE to enter China, a market where foreign tech companies face increased government scrutiny.

Alibaba Cloud, the cloud computing arm of Alibaba Group, said in a statement on Tuesday it aims to assist technology firms overcoming business obstacles in China. It said it's offering foreign firms joint ventures and partnerships through its cloud computing programs.



**Credit Suisse CEO says bank does not need to raise capital: Bloomberg**

Swiss bank Credit Suisse AG does not need to raise capital "in most foreseeable scenarios", Chief Executive Tidjane Thiam said in an interview with Bloomberg.

Thiam said there was no need for consolidation with other European banks as it would be difficult in "this new environment".

Credit Suisse posted an unexpected second-quarter net profit on July 28, boosting Thiam's efforts to restructure Switzerland's second-biggest bank.



**Wal-Mart buying Jet.com to lift online sales, battle Amazon**

Wal-Mart Stores Inc, vying to better challenge Amazon.com Inc, will pay about \$3 billion for internet retailer Jet.com and its innovative pricing software in the largest-ever deal for an e-commerce startup.

The deal disclosed on Monday follows a five-year e-commerce acquisition spree in which Wal-Mart, the world's biggest traditional retailer, has already bought 15 startups, seeking the talent and technology to make it a dominant player online and narrow the massive gap with market leader Amazon.

# Miraculous desert in the heart of Iran

## Ice cold in the desert



In the Zard-Kuh, a 4,200m-high mountain range bordering the western flank of Iran's vast central deserts, hides one of the Islamic Republic's most unexpected geographical finds: on the edge of the hot desert is a series of sub-tropical glaciers.

"Most of the foreign tourists in Iran come from Europe where there are lots of tall mountains, so I have a hard time convincing them to see the Zard-Kuh," said Farshid Zandi of Zandi Tours. "I have only taken three groups of foreigners there so far, but each time they told me it was the highlight of their holiday in Iran." (Credit: Ian Lloyd Neubauer)

## Nomadic dress up



One particularly entrepreneurial family at Chama Qar Yakhi has concocted a novel business idea: a makeshift studio where tourists can dress up in traditional Bakhtiari dress and pose for portraits. When I asked the family patriarch how often foreign tourists come here, he told me next to never, that I was the first to visit this year. (Credit: Ian Lloyd Neubauer)

## Into the hills



We left at 8 am the next day. The first half of the journey cut through the semi-arid desert encircling Istafan. But soon colossal snow-capped promontories shot into the sky and patches of green – the first I'd seen in Iran outside of oases – riddled the landscape.

When we passed the city of Shar-e-Kord, the so-called "Roof of Iran" at 2,070m above sea level, I saw a series of signposts bearing black-and-white portraits of men and boys. Zandi explained that they were martyrs who died in the bloody 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq War. Half a million people were killed in the conflict, including 95,000 child soldiers, some as young as 12 years old. (Credit: Ian Lloyd Neubauer)

## The last resort



Most people don't know that Iran has lots of snow and world-class pistes. Although the most popular places to ski are in the Alborz Mountains north of Tehran, the village of Chelgre, the last population center before the glaciers, morphs into a low-key alpine resort from November through April.

The graffiti sprayed on this boulder on Chelgre's outskirts reads "Baba Haje Restaurant. Kebab from baby sheep, chicken kebab, dizi [an Iranian casserole], milk, yogurt, hot water. We welcome you, dear tourists." (Credit: Ian Lloyd Neubauer)

## Surreal waterfalls



Sheikh Khan Waterfall, 9km after Chelgre, is one of countless cascades found in the Zard-Kuh. Although we were no longer in the desert, the high-altitude plateau still bore great swaths of mustard-coloured soil. When contrasted against the waterfall, the visual effect was surreal, as though a vertical spring had miraculously burst from a precipice in the desert. After filling our water bottles with crystal-clear water, we continued on our way. (Credit: Ian Lloyd Neubauer)

## Goat herders



A short distance from the waterfall, we passed a family of Bakhtiari nomads herding goats along the road. Historically, the Bakhtiari were both pastoralists and hunters who shot ibex, wolf, fox, jackal, hyena and leopard, all once found in considerable numbers in the Zard-Kuh. But as the Bakhtiari and others in western Iran gained access to modern weaponry, the wildlife population began to dwindle. In 1973, this part of the Zard-Kuh, known as Tang-e-Sayyad or Hunters Valley, was proclaimed a protected zone and hunting was outlawed. (Credit: Ian Lloyd Neubauer)

(Source: bbc.com)

## NEWS

### Spain enjoys tourism boom as terror fears stifle rival regions

"As many steps and bumps as possible, please," she tells the guide from Madseg, one of several companies offering tours around Madrid on the battery-powered upright scooters. "Let's make this interesting."

In terms of her choice of holiday destination, however, Matthews is playing it safe. As resorts in countries such as Turkey, Egypt and now even France, lose tourists due to the threat of terrorism or domestic strife, Spain has seen a surge in holidaymakers.

Egypt has reported a 60 per cent drop in visitor numbers so far this year, along with falls in other Middle Eastern and North African destinations after several years of instability. Hotel bookings in France's southern Riviera region also dropped by as much as 30 per cent in the weeks after last month's terrorist attack in Nice, according to France's economy ministry.

By contrast, in the first six months of this year, the number of foreign visitors to Spain was up 12 per cent on the first half of 2015. Tourist spending was also up 12.7 per cent in June, compared with the same month last year. Tourism offices in many destinations, especially the popular package resorts on the Costas, are reporting that hotels are packed.

"I first came to Spain 1996 and fell for the place," says Matthews. "I would love to visit the likes of Egypt but frankly the upheaval there puts me off. Why would I go at the moment? I'd like to visit France too, but look what happened in Nice — that also seems to be a problem. Spain is fine for me."

Despite a spate of arrests of suspected jihadis across the country, and a warning from Isis and other groups that the Iberian Peninsula is a target for attacks, Spain has so far been spared the violence seen elsewhere in recent months. Memories of the 2004 bombings by a local al-Qaeda cell at Madrid's Atocha railway station are fading in the minds of tourists, say security experts.

Spain has come to rely ever more on tourism as it has emerged from recession, having been battered by a sharp downturn at the start of the decade. Tourism makes up 14 per cent of gross domestic product, according to the most recent central bank data in January.

Spain's economy is expected to grow 2.9 per cent this year, overtaking previous estimates of 2.7 per cent. The country's high unemployment rate — which at 20 per cent is second only to Greece among EU members — is also falling, partly thanks to tourism. On August 2, the registered jobless rate dropped to its lowest level in seven years, with the service sector accounting for more than 50,000 of the 84,000 jobs created in July.

(Source: Financial Times)



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# This campaign could get worse — a lot worse. Here's why.

By Eugene Robinson

It may be hard to imagine, but I fear this election campaign is going to get worse — maybe a lot worse — before it gets better. By the time it's done, the whole nation may feel like it needs a shower.

I base this depressing prediction on three assumptions: Polls showing the Obama coalition coming together behind Hillary Clinton are correct; Donald Trump does not want to be embarrassed as a massive loser; and the Republican Party cares more about keeping its majority in the House than about Trump's tender feelings. Any of these premises can be wrong, but I think they're sound.

The logical result is not pretty. Those who believed this campaign hit rock bottom long ago should keep in mind one of Sen. John McCain's (R-Ariz.) favorite sayings: "It's always darkest before it's totally black."

## The polls

First the polls: After the two conventions, Clinton has taken a clear lead over Trump. The Real Clear Politics average of recent national polls has her at 47.3 percent and Trump at 40.1 percent, by any measure a healthy advantage. Moreover, in the swing states that will decide the election, Clinton leads Trump by decisive margins in Pennsylvania, Michigan, Virginia and New Hampshire; and by a smaller but significant margin in Florida.

Ohio and North Carolina are seen as essentially tied. But a recent Atlanta Journal-Constitution poll had Clinton leading Trump by four points in Georgia, a red state that Democrats haven't won since 1992. And a recent CBS News/YouGov poll showed Clinton within two points of Trump in Arizona, which has voted for a Democrat only once since 1948.

In other words, if the election were held today it would be what is technically called a butt-kicking. Closer examination of the polls suggests the coalition that twice elected Barack Obama as president — led by women and minorities — is reassembling for Clinton; and that college-educated whites, who narrowly favored Mitt Romney, are moving into Clinton's column as well.

It seems to me that there are two things Trump can do. One is to raise questions in voters' minds about Clinton. Having already called her "Crooked Hillary" and questioned her mental competence, it's hard to imagine how the attacks could get much nastier. But I'm afraid they will.

Trump can also try to bring non-college-educated



whites — his strongest demographic — out to vote in unprecedented numbers. Theoretically this might allow him to pick off a Rust Belt state or two, although it's a long shot. "I love the poorly educated," he said in February. He needs even more of them to love him back.

So I expect Trump to double down not just on his attacks against Clinton but also on the two issues that won him his white working-class following: immigration and trade. That means more bigotry, more xenophobia and more totally unrealistic promises about the miracles that he and his team of rich-guy economic advisers will magically perform.

It doesn't help him that the Clinton campaign has bought time during the Olympics broadcasts for an ad in which Trump acknowledges that his Trump-branded shirts are made in Bangladesh and his neckties in China.

**If Clinton defeats Trump soundly, Republicans probably will lose their majority in the Senate. But if she wins in a landslide, the party could lose control of the House as well.**

Does it even occur to Trump that anyone might ever expect him to practice what he preaches? Sorry, that was a rhetorical question.

Meanwhile, the implications of the recent polls are not lost on the GOP leadership. If Clinton defeats Trump soundly, Republicans probably will lose their majority in the Senate. But if she wins in a landslide, the party could lose control of the House as well.

"If we fail to protect our majority in Congress, we could be handing President Hillary Clinton a blank check," House Speaker Paul D. Ryan wrote in an urgent fundraising appeal Thursday. Coming after a disastrous week in which Trump had attacked the parents of a Muslim U.S. Army captain killed in Iraq, Ryan's words were seen by many who follow politics as a recognition that the time may have arrived for damage control.

Some Republicans will be under increasing pressure, either from their constituents or their consciences, to distance themselves from Trump and perhaps even rescind their endorsements. How will Trump react to such betrayal? Surely by lashing out, which is how he deals with any perceived slight.

This ought to be a debate about the nation's future. Thanks to Trump, it promises instead to be an unedifying brawl with kicking, biting and gouging allowed.

(Source: Washington Post)

## COMMENT

### Time to get serious with South Sudan

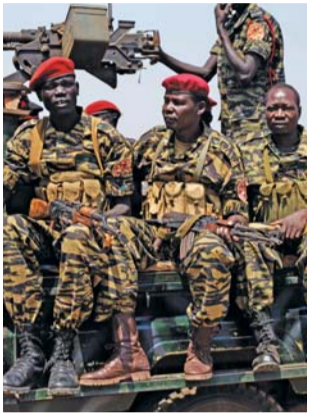
Since the founding of the nation of South Sudan five years ago, its citizens have gone from a brief moment of exhilaration and promise to the cruel reality of tribal violence, depredation and despair. Their leaders have failed them, and so has the United Nations Security Council, which is once again scrambling for a solution to end rampant killing and other abuses. One move the Council could make immediately is to impose a long-overdue embargo on arms shipments, especially to the government forces that have been largely responsible for the bloodshed.

The present crisis, in which at least 73 civilians have died, began last month when fighting broke out in Juba, the capital, ending the latest in a series of brief cease-fires in a civil war between troops loyal to President Salva Kiir and those backing Riek Machar, the former vice president. The war first erupted in December 2013.

Last week, an investigation by the United Nations high commissioner for human rights, Zeid Ra'ad al-Hussein, placed most of the blame for the violence, which it said included mass rapes, on Kiir's forces. Hussein said that while some civilians were killed in the crossfire, others were summarily executed by government forces who appear to have singled out members of the Nuer, an ethnic group loyal to Machar.

The 13,000 United Nations peacekeeping troops and police officers in South Sudan have been ineffectual, unable even to protect civilians in United Nations-run refugee areas, called protection-of-civilian sites. During an attack in February on one of those sites in the northern city of Malakal, peacekeepers made major tactical errors that contributed to a massacre that claimed an estimated 30 lives and was planned or at least supported by government forces. Some of the peacekeepers at Malakal were found to have retreated from their posts or waited for written instructions from headquarters before acting to protect the civilians.

The Malakal episode was only the most recent evidence that the peacekeeping operation, dogged by failures in Rwanda in 1994 and Srebrenica in 1995 during the Bosnian war, is dysfunctional and in need of an overhaul, especially when it comes to protecting civilians. Even on an ordinary day in South Sudan, women who need to leave the camps to get food for their families at the market cannot do so without the risk of being raped.



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## NEWS

**Iran stands atop kidney transplantation list in Asia**

**MEDICAL** TEHRAN — Iran ranks first among countries in Asia and fourth in the world in renal transplantation, the head of the Kidney Foundation of Iran announced on Monday.

In 430 dialysis centers across Iran, some 1,800 to 2,000 kidney transplantation are performed annually, IRNA quoted Hashem Qasemi as saying.

Despite measures taken to add to dialysis machines, "We still face shortage of over 1,000 dialysis machines in the country," Qasemi regretted. He added that Iranian researchers have been able to manufacture medical equipment, including dialysis machines, domestically, so that not only the country's needs are met but also some of the equipment can be exported.

To prevent kidney diseases, Qasemi recommended that everyone get tested for the disease and watch its risk factors such as diabetes, high blood pressure, a family history of kidney failure and those at the age of 60 or older.

The Kidney Foundation has 170 branches and representatives in Iran and currently runs with over 65,000 members.

Kidney disease often has no symptoms, and it can go undetected until very advanced. But a simple urine test or a blood test can tell you if you have kidney disease.

Remember, it's important to get tested because early detection and treatment can slow or prevent the progression of kidney disease.

**Study links global warming to rise in waterborne illnesses**

Rising global temperatures are clearly linked to increasing waterborne food poisoning, particularly from eating raw oysters, along with other nasty infections, a new study shows.

About a dozen species of vibrio bacteria make people sick from eating raw or undercooked seafood or drinking or swimming in tainted water. It also causes cholera, although that was not the focus of the research.

Lab-confirmed vibrio infections in the United States have increased from an average of about 390 a year from the late 1990s to an average of 1,030 in recent years, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. But most cases aren't confirmed by tests and reported.

"It's a remarkable increase on an annual basis," said study lead author Rita Colwell of the University of Maryland, a top microbiologist who used to head the National Science Foundation.

The study examined Europe and North America, but the most consistent tracking of vibrio illnesses were in the United States. The CDC blames about 100 deaths a year on vibrio on average.

Even Alaska, where such outbreaks used to be unheard of because the bacteria needs warm water, is getting cases from people eating vibrio-infected oysters, Colwell said.

(Source: AP)

**High blood pressure now more common in poorer countries**

A new study estimates that over a billion adults worldwide now have high blood pressure, and that the problem is only getting worse in countries that have the fewest resources to combat it.

To come up with their global estimate, researchers analyzed data from more than 100 earlier population studies taken from 90 countries from 1995 to 2014. They calculated that 1.39 billion adults, or just under one-third of the adult population worldwide, had hypertension in 2010. Unexpectedly, they also found that adults living in low- or middle-income countries were more likely to have high blood pressure than were adults living in wealthier countries -- a first. Overall, 28.5 percent of adults in high-income countries, or 349 million, had high blood pressure, compared to 31.5 percent, or 1.04 billion, of adults living in poorer areas.

"Aging populations and urbanization, which is often accompanied by unhealthy lifestyle factors, such as high sodium, fat and calorie diets and lack of physical activity, may play an important role in the epidemic of hypertension in low- and middle-income countries," said senior author Dr. Jiang He, a researcher at Tulane University's School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine in New Orleans, in a statement.

**■ Wealthier countries**

A large part of the disparity was tied to the fact that wealthier countries have gotten better at treating and preventing high blood pressure. From 2000 to 2010, the percentage of adults with the condition living in high-income countries decreased 2.6 percent, but increased 7.7 percent among adults in low- and middle-income countries. And whereas 67 percent of adults in high-income countries received treatment in 2010, a nearly 10 percent increase from 2000, only 29 percent of adults elsewhere did so the same year, with a more meager 4 percent increase since 2000. The same trend could be seen with regards to awareness and blood pressure control.

(Source: medicaldaily.com)

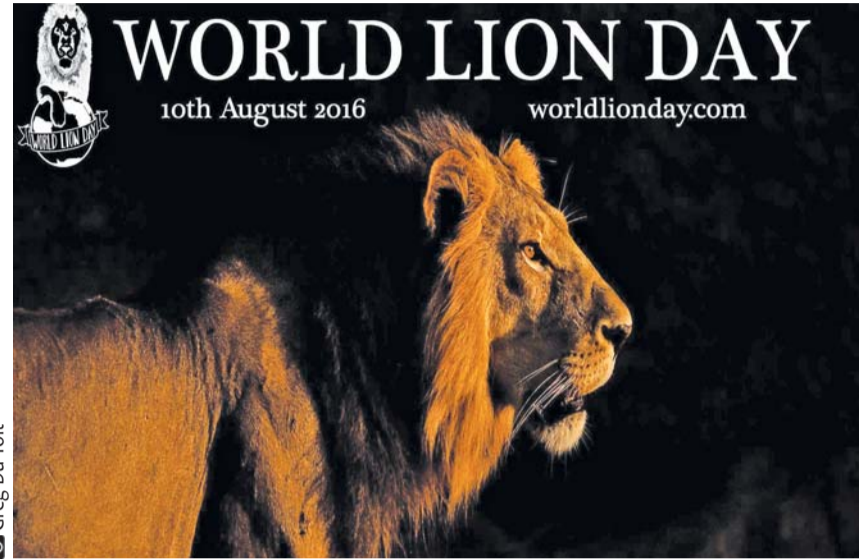
**The need to increase public awareness about preservation of fauna**

1 →

In Iran, the Persian lion was distributed across the forests around the Karkheh, the Dez, and the Karoon Rivers as well as Masjed Soleyman and Ramhormoz in Khuzestan, Bushehr, and Kazeroon and Dasht-e Arzhan in Fars.

The Persian lion's habitat in Iran used to be grasslands, marshlands, brush, woodlands, and plains close to the waters. Deer, wild boar, Persian zebra and Persian fallow deer were the main prey of the Persian lion. Most unfortunately, this subspecies became extinct in Iran in 1942 due to habitat loss, prey loss, poaching, and human-wildlife conflict. It turned into an eternal myth in Iran. Today, there are only 523 individuals in the Gir Forest National Park, Gujarat State, India.

It is vital to increase the awareness of the public in order to conserve the animal species of our planet. Most unfortunately, not only the Persian lion is being



forgotten in Iran, but also the attention towards other animal species is decreasing every day. Most Iranians do not care

for fauna, and the Department of the Environment (DoE), which is in charge of preserving Iran's flora and fauna, has

focused only on the conservation of the Asiatic cheetahs. However, the DoE has been even unsuccessful in conserving cheetahs as they get killed repeatedly by poachers or in car accidents, etc.

It is indeed necessary to pay attention to all animal species instead of paying attention to only one. No one wishes that brown bears, Asiatic black bears, Persian leopards, Asiatic cheetahs, etc. go extinct in Iran. Thus, celebrating symbolic days such as "World Lion Day," which is missing from Iran's calendar, could be a great boost to increase public awareness about the conservation of Iran's fauna. That is the task that falls to the DoE.

Hence, I would like to bring this important issue to the attention of the authorities in charge. Please use the public's power to preserve Iran's fauna. Fauna do not only belong to the current generation. They also belong to the future generations, and as such they are to be preserved at any cost.

**'Alarming' bleaching of Maldives corals: conservationists**

Coral reefs in the Maldives are under severe stress after suffering mass bleaching this year as sea temperatures soared, a top conservationist body warned Monday.

Around 60 percent of Maldives' coral colonies have been bleached, with the figure reaching 90 percent in some areas, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) said in a statement.

It cited data from a survey it carried out with the Maldives Marine Research Center (MRC) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

"Preliminary findings of the extent of the bleaching are alarming, with initial coral mortality already observed," said Ameer Abdulla, the research team leader and senior advisor to IUCN on marine biodiversity and conservation science.

"We are expecting this mortality to increase if bleached corals are unable to recover."

Bleaching occurs when abnormal conditions, such as warmer sea temperatures, cause corals to expel tiny photosynthetic algae and thus become drained of color.

Bleached corals risk dying if conditions do not return



to normal.

Land and ocean surface temperatures rose to record highs in 2015 and at the beginning of this year, according to scientists.

**■ Cyclical phenomenon**

The surge has coincided with an exceptionally strong El Nino -- a cyclical phenomenon that disrupts weather

around the Pacific and is driven by sea temperature.

"Bleaching events are becoming more frequent and more severe due to global climate change," Abdulla said.

Coral reef and bleaching experts from 11 countries and international institutions and universities helped conduct the survey at the height of the 2016 El Nino event, the statement said.

The Maldives, a nation of 1,192 tiny coral islands, contain around three percent of global coral reefs.

It is one of the most vulnerable countries to the impact of climate change since its average land height is only 1.5 meters (4.9 feet) above sea level.

The Maldives is not the only place where coral reefs are threatened. Reefs worldwide have been facing widespread bleaching since mid-2014, according to the US National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

And this year, Australia's 2,300-kilometer (1,429-mile) long Great Barrier Reef the world's biggest coral ecosystem -- is suffering from its worst bleaching in recorded history.

(Source: AFP)

**New drug can kill parasites that cause tropical diseases affecting millions**

The so-called neglected tropical diseases, which are mostly caused by parasites, kill thousands of people per year but they have few available treatments because they get relatively little funding to support research and drug development.

Findings of a new research, however, may eventually pave way for an effective treatment that can cure these diseases.

Researchers have identified a new drug capable of treating these parasitic infections. Researchers reported a new class of drug that can treat Chagas disease, leishmaniasis and sleeping sickness.

Chagas disease is contracted through the kissing bug that bites people on the face. Leishmaniasis is transmitted by sand flies and is characterized by skin sores, while sleeping sickness, also known as trypanosomiasis, is spread by the tsetse fly and could potentially lead to serious neurological conditions.

**■ Debilitating diseases**

These debilitating diseases, which affect 20 million around the globe and kill no fewer than 50,000 people per year, are all caused by parasites known as kintoplastids. Although these diseases have different symptoms, the parasites that cause them have similar biology and genomic sequence, which suggests that these three diseases could be treated using a single class of drugs.

"We found that these parasites harbor a common weakness. We hope to exploit this weakness to discover and develop a single class of drugs for all three diseases," said study researcher Frantisek Suppek, from the Genomics Institute of the Novartis Research Foundation. The researchers tested 3 million compounds on parasites and eventually identified a compound called GNF6702 that worked against all the parasites. The chemical binds to its target and prevents it from functioning. The researchers then refined it to become more potent before they proceeded to conducting tests on mice.

"It's a breakthrough in our understanding of the parasites that cause the three diseases, potentially allowing them to be cured," said Jeremy Mottram, from the University of York.

"This early phase drug discovery project will now move towards toxicity testing prior to human trials."

The compound cleared parasites from the animals and did not appear to have adverse effects in mice suggesting it may have fewer side effects compared with existing drugs. The drug, however, still needs to be tested in human studies.

(Source: Tech Times)



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It also includes two Homeland Security secretaries under Bush, Tom Ridge and Michael Chertoff, and Robert Zoellick, a former World Bank president, U.S. trade representative and deputy secretary of state.

Trump's campaign responded with a statement from Trump denouncing the signatories as people who deserve the "blame for making the world such a dangerous place."

Many of the same leaders wrote an open letter in March during the Republican primaries condemning Trump and pledging to oppose his candidacy, at a time when other GOP candidates remained in the race.

The letter acknowledges that many Americans "have doubts about Hillary Clinton, as do many of us."

"But Donald Trump is not the answer to America's daunting challenges and to this crucial election," it says.

In the new letter, the group warns Trump "lacks the temperament to be President."

"He is unable or unwilling to separate truth from falsehood. He does not encourage conflicting views. He lacks self-control and acts impetuously. He cannot tolerate personal criticism. He has alarmed our closest allies with his erratic behavior," the letter claims. "All of these are dangerous qualities in an individual who aspires to be President and Commander-in-Chief, with command of the U.S. nuclear arsenal."

The idea of writing such a letter had been discussed by GOP national security officials for a while, but gained momentum when Trump called on Russia to share Clinton emails it potentially hacked and when he took a position many saw as legitimizing Russia's claim to Ukraine's Crimea region.

"We thought it was important to make the point that even for longtime Clinton critics, Trump poses too big a risk to short- and long-term national security," one person involved with the letter said.



It was drafted by John Bellinger, a former State Department legal adviser to then-Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, with edits from Bob Blackwill, a former George H.W. Bush White House adviser, and Eliot Cohen, also a former adviser to Rice.

Bellinger told CNN the letter was circulated five days ago with very few changes. "People were in different places about whether they want to endorse Clinton and their doubts about her, but we settled on a statement that recognizes many people have concerns about Clinton," he said. "Some people will clearly endorse

her, others will never endorse her, but everyone was united in their belief that Donald Trump is not qualified."

Bellinger said he wanted to focus on gathering signatures from very high-level people -- several cabinet secretaries, numerous deputies and many dozen assistant secretaries and White House staff that worked directly with the president.

"We wanted to get the most senior people we could: household names, of people who have worked in the Situation Room and know what is required of the president," he said. "I wanted almost every name to be familiar to those who follow the issues and who could speak with first-hand knowledge of what requires to be president."

Another official who signed the letter

told CNN that most signatories travel abroad and interact with current and former world leaders. Many were alarmed at how many world leaders said they were concerned that Trump's "recklessness" would invite America's enemies to be even more reckless.

This official said he was stunned by how "enthusiastic" everyone was to sign.

Trump has met with other GOP foreign policy bigwigs, including former secretaries of state Henry Kissinger and James Baker. Neither signed the letter.

"The names on this letter are the ones the American people should look to for answers on why the world is a mess, and we thank them for coming forward so everyone in the country knows who deserves the blame for making the world such a dangerous place. They are nothing more than the failed Washington elite looking to hold onto their power, and it's time they are held accountable for their actions," Trump said in a statement.

"These insiders -- along with Hillary Clinton -- are the owners of the disastrous decisions to invade Iraq, allow Americans to die at Benghazi, and they are the ones who allowed the rise of ISIS. Yet despite these failures, they think they are entitled to use their favor trading to land taxpayer-funded government contracts and speaking fees."

A senior Trump adviser sought to tie the letter's signatories to Clinton, saying: "Crooked Hillary and the rest of the Washington insiders are going to try to stop this grassroots effort at every turn."

"They're on the wrong side of history," the adviser said. "They're the ones launching a political attack ... and they have to own up to their role in putting the world in the place that it's in right now."

(Source: CNN)

## 50 GOP national security experts oppose Trump

## Pakistani lawyers go on strike after dozens killed in attack

Pakistani lawyers staged a nationwide strike on Tuesday after dozens of colleagues were slain in a suicide bombing that killed 74 people at a hospital in the southwestern city of Quetta.

Medical staff said up to 60 of those killed in Monday's bombing at a government hospital were lawyers who had gathered to mourn the assassination earlier that day of the president of the Baluchistan Bar Association, Bilal Anwar Kasi.

On Tuesday morning, four of over one hundred people wounded, including two more lawyers, died in hospital, taking the toll to 74, said Abdul Rehman, the medical superintendent at the Civil Hospital Quetta.

Shops, businesses, schools and universities in the city and several other towns in the southern province of Baluchistan remained closed as the government announced three days of mourning.

ISIL terrorist group was one of two extremist militant groups to claim responsibility for the atrocity, although officials and analysts said they had doubts over whether the Middle East-based movement was behind the blast.

It was the deadliest militant attack in Pakistan this year and the latest in a string of strikes on lawyers, seen by some militants as an extension of the state and so legitimate targets.

"How weak and pathetic are these people who target hospitals, where women and children, where patients, go to get treatment?" Ashtar Ausaf Ali, Pakistan's attorney general, said on Tuesday at a protest outside the Supreme Court in the capital Islamabad.

Supreme Court Bar President Ali Zafar called for the government to do more to protect lawyers.

"Lawyers are relatively more vocal against militancy and they are fighting cases against people accused of



terrorism, so it would make sense that they are being targeted," said Ali Malik, a Lahore-based lawyer.

"An attack on lawyers makes a mockery of the law enforcement agencies, it undermines the promises of the state against terrorists and breeds fear among vulnerable citizens."

### ■ Doubts over claims

The bombing in Quetta, the provincial capital of Baluchistan province, was initially claimed by Jamaat-ur-Ahrar, a faction of the Pakistani Taliban that is fighting to overthrow the government and impose strict law.

Later, however, ISIL said one of its fighters carried out the attack, in what would mark an escalation in the ability of the group, or its regional offshoots, to strike in Pakistan.

"A martyr from the ISIL detonated his explosive belt at a gathering of justice ministry employees and Pakistani policemen in the city of Quetta," ISIL's Amaq news agency reported.

Some Pakistani analysts were skeptical.

"The ISIL claim seems very unconvincing," said Imti-

az Gul, director of the Center for Research and Security Studies in Islamabad.

"The claim of responsibility by Jamaat-ur-Ahrar is more credible," said Muhammad Amir Rana, head of the Pakistan Institute for Peace Studies.

He noted that Jamaat had sworn loyalty to ISIL's Middle East leadership in 2014, but later switched back to the Taliban.

"Every time they have carried out an attack, they have taken responsibility independently (of ISIL)," Rana said.

It remains unclear what ties, if any, Jamaat has to ISIL, whose leadership is a rival to both the Taliban and al Qaeda over claims to represent the true Caliphate.

In September 2014, Jamaat-ur-Ahrar rejected the Pakistani Taliban during a leadership struggle and swore allegiance to ISIL, also known as Daesh.

By March 2015, the group was again swearing loyalty to the main Pakistani Taliban. The reason for its return to the fold remains murky, but Jamaat also never specifically disavowed ISIL.

Only last week, Jamaat was added to the United States' list of global terrorists, triggering sanctions.

Baluchistan, which borders Afghanistan, is home to many militant groups, most notably sectarian outfits who have launched a campaign of suicide bombings and assassinations of ethnic Hazaras - Persian-speaking Shi'ites who mostly emigrated from Afghanistan and are a small minority of the Shi'ite population in Sunni-majority Pakistan.

"Many groups based in Baluchistan have an anti-Shia agenda, so they find ideological linkages with ISIL," said a military official who was based in Quetta until 2015.

"But is ISIL present there to a degree that they can carry out this kind of well-planned, pre-meditated attack? I don't think that is possible." (Source: Reuters)

## Israel plans to build 2,500 illegal settler units in West Bank

### Israeli demolitions leave Palestinians homeless

The Israeli regime has drawn up a plan to build 2,500 illegal settler units in the occupied West Bank in defiance of widespread calls to halt such unauthorized construction activities in the Palestinian lands.

Israeli media reported on Monday that the settler units will be erected in the neighborhood of Gilu situated in East al-Quds (Jerusalem) southwest.

The project dubbed "olive trees district" covers an area of some 200 dunams (50 acres) in the occupied territories.

Most of the ground allocated for the illegal settler units is under private ownership, and some 30 percent belongs to Palestinians who live abroad.

The project contractors recently held a meeting with local authorities, during which they called for the "immediate execution" of the initiative.

On Tuesday, the Palestinian Ministry of Foreign Affairs condemned the construction project, saying Tel Aviv continues to disrespect international calls to end its illegal settlement activities in the occupied lands.

The ministry further called on the international community to hold Israel responsible for the grave consequences of its obstruction of the so-called two-state solution.

Last week, the Tel Aviv regime approved plans to construct 770 out of 1,200 settlement units near the Palestinian town of Beit Jala.

Israel also opened tenders for 323 units in the illegal settlements of Gilu, Neve Yaakov, Pisgat Ze'ev and Har Homa.

In response, a senior member of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) denounced the unlawful moves, noting, "It is time to end Israel's dangerous lawlessness."

"In the past few months, Israel has intensified its deliberate breach of international law and conventions and has employed a series of dangerous and violent policies and racist laws and legislation against the Palestinian people aimed to systematically destroy their homes and rob them of their land, resources and rights," Hanan Ashrawi said.

The presence and continued expansion of Israeli settlements in occupied Palestine has created a major obstacle for the efforts to establish peace in the Middle East.

Over half a million Israelis live in more than 230 illegal settlements built since the 1967 Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories of the West Bank including East Jerusalem al-Quds.

All Israeli settlements are illegal under the international law. Tel Aviv has defied calls to stop the settlement expansions in the occupied Palestinian territories.

■ Israeli demolitions leave 27 Palestinians homeless

Elsewhere, Israel has demolished five homes in the occupied West Bank and left 27 Palestinians homeless, more than half of them children, residents and an Israeli rights group said.

Israeli bulldozers flattened the prefabricated shelters in the village of Um Al-Kheir, some of them built with European Union funding, early on Tuesday, said the B'Tselem non-governmental organization (NGO).

Israeli police forcibly evacuated residents who attempted to prevent the demolitions, said the group, which campaigns against Israel's occupation of the West Bank and regularly criticizes abuses in the Palestinian territories.

B'Tselem said the demolitions had left 16 children homeless.

The structures had been built with European Union aid after houses in the village, on the southern tip of the West Bank, were demolished at least eight times, Palestinian Prime Minister Rami Hamdallah said in a statement.

"Israel is relentlessly destroying Palestinians' homes and livelihoods in order to make way for more illegal settlements," he said.

Ramy Abdu, chairman of the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Monitor, explained that Israeli authorities have "taken harsh measures against these

kinds of [EU] projects".

In the first three months of 2016, Israeli forces demolished 120 EU-funded structures in the West Bank, according to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

In a report published in June, the Euro-Mediterranean Human Rights Monitor estimates that Israeli demolitions and attacks have resulted in the EU wasting 65 million euros (\$72 million) in aid for humanitarian and development projects.

About 600,000 Israelis live in Jewish-only settlements - considered illegal under international law - in the occupied West Bank, including East al-Quds (Jerusalem), Palestinian territories under Israeli military control since 1967.

The international community sees the settlements as a major obstacle to the creation of a Palestinian state and therefore to peace between the two sides.

Settlement construction has gone hand-in-hand with demolitions of Palestinian homes.

Um Al-Kheir, where Israeli forces carried out demolitions on Tuesday, lies near the Israeli settlement of Carmel.

Israeli forces have demolished more than 48,000 Palestinian homes and buildings since 1967, according to the Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions. (Source: agencies)

## JUMP

### Iran to use French legal expertise to compensate victims of Hajj crush

Ministry spokesman Bahram Qassemi said on August 4 that not only have the Iranian diplomatic representatives put forward the case in many international organizations, but the country is also in consultation with renowned local and foreign jurists to officially hold Saudi Arabia accountable for the tragic incident.

More than 460 Iranians were among the thousands of pilgrims who died in the September 24 stampede in Mina, near Mecca, during the Hajj ritual.

The incident marked the worst ever tragedy during the Hajj. Saudi authorities have come under fire for their inability to ensure the safety of hundreds of thousands of pilgrims who converge on Mecca every year.

### Time to get serious with South Sudan

On Sunday, the United States proposed in a draft resolution that the Security Council authorize an additional 4,000 peacekeepers to secure Juba, the airport and other key facilities. The resolution also calls for an arms embargo, but only if the government does not cooperate with the expanded peacekeeping force. The Security Council has threatened several times in the last 18 months to block arms shipments without making good on the threat.

And the Obama administration, apparently fearful of losing leverage with Kiir, has refused to cut off the arms flow. While such a ban would affect both sides, experts believe it would have more impact on the government, the only side with heavy weapons, including helicopter gunships from Ukraine.

Severing that supply chain, as well as the trade in tanks and artillery, could actually get Kiir's attention.

(Source: The NYT)

### MH370 plunged into ocean at high speed: report

MH370 flight plunged into the ocean at high speed -- up to 20,000 feet a minute -- reinforcing analysis that the missing Malaysia Airlines jet crashed in the current search zone, a report said on Tuesday.

The Boeing 777 disappeared on March 8, 2014 en route from Malaysian capital Kuala Lumpur to Beijing with 239 people onboard.

An extensive underwater hunt in the southern Indian Ocean has not yet found the crash site, fuelling speculation it may be outside the current search zone, particularly if someone was at the controls at the end of the flight.

A manned plane could have been glided down, allowing it to enter the water outside the 120,000 square kilometer (46,000 square mile) area being searched, some experts have suggested. But extensive testing by aircraft manufacturer Boeing and new Australian defense department data analysis both suggest that -- regardless of the possible actions of one or both of the pilots -- the jet dived into the ocean at high speed. The Australian defense department data analysis reported. Once MH370 ran out of fuel and the engines flamed, it slowed before plunging down towards the water in a series of swoops -- dropping from 35,000 feet at a rate of between 12,000 feet a minute and 20,000 feet a minute, Boeing said, according to the report.

The sharp dive was confirmed by a new data analysis by Australia's defense department involving signals sent automatically between the plane and a satellite, the head of the agency leading the MH370 hunt said. Australian Transport and Safety Bureau Chief Greg Hood said this supported the view MH370 "was likely to have crashed in the 120,000 square kilometer (46,000 square mile) area now being searched," the paper said.

The area was defined under the ATSB's "most likely" scenario that no-one was at the controls and the plane ran out of fuel.

"The Australians leading the search do not doubt that the pilot may well have been responsible for the jet's disappearance but they say critics of the search strategy are wrong to assume that means they are looking in the wrong place," the report added.

Malaysian officials said last week that one of the pilots used a home-made flight simulator to plot a very similar course to MH370's presumed final route, but warned this did not prove he deliberately crashed the plane. (Source: AFP)

### France sells military helicopters to Kuwait in a €1 billion deal

France will supply 30 military helicopters to Kuwait in a deal worth over one billion euros (\$1.1 billion) that French Defense Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian signed in the Persian Gulf state on Tuesday.

The agreement to buy the versatile Airbus Caracal helicopters is part of a 2.5 billion euro package of deals that the two countries agreed in October 2015.

France has given Kuwait military support since the 1990 invasion of the country by longtime dictator Saddam Hussein's Iraqi forces. The two countries are also fighting together in the international coalition against the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Daesh) terrorist group.

"With this deal, Kuwait further strengthens the strategic partnership which has bound together our two countries for several decades, while we are currently engaged side-by-side in the fight against Daesh (ISIL) in Iraq and Syria," Le Drian said in a statement.

Kuwait's army will use 24 of the helicopters mainly for search and rescue missions and for transport purposes, but they are also fitted with machine guns allowing them to offer ground troops cover from the air.

The Kuwait National Guard will operate the remaining six helicopters. (Source: AP)

NEWS

## Idaho man finds mammoth tusk while digging on his property

An Idaho man stumbled upon a rare find while using a backhoe to dig in a gravel pit on his property.

"It came to the point where I seen something weird or different inside the hill so I just stopped, kind of brushed off some of it," Kasey Keller of Preston told KIFI-TV.

Upon closer inspection, the object Keller first thought was a plastic pipe or petrified wood appeared to be bone. He decided to call in the experts.

The object, according to Utah State University, was a 3½-foot tusk of a Columbian mammoth. It could be anywhere from 12,000 to 15,000 years old.

Both Utah State University and Brigham Young University took a piece of the tusk for carbon dating.

Columbian mammoths were 12 feet to 15 feet tall and likely roamed the grasslands of Lake Bonneville, according to the university. The type of sediment the tusk was found in indicates that it washed up after flooding, the school said.

Keller said paleontologists from BYU said they will return the tusk after preserving the mammoth remains.

"From what I was told, the odds of finding that in this area are rarer than finding a needle in a haystack," said Keller. "And according to USU, they said they haven't found any other mammoth remains in Cache Valley."

He said the discovery inspired his twin boys, who recovered pieces of the tusk that broke off when Keller was digging with the backhoe.

"It's kind of cool to think what actually was here on your property or you know, by your house," Keller said. "I'm definitely going to be digging with a lot more gracefulness because who knows what I might find."

(Source: CTV News)

## LEARN ENGLISH Having Bad Credit

Alisha: This is the second time I've been **turned down** for a credit card in a month. I don't know what I'm doing wrong. James: Have you checked your **credit report** recently? Maybe you have a bad **credit rating**.

Alisha: I have a full-time job with a good **income**, which they can easily **verify**, and I don't have any **outstanding debt**, so what could be the problem?

James: Have you had a credit card before?

Alisha: Yes.

James: Did you always make your **payments on time**?

Alisha: Well, no.

James: Then that may be your answer. Your **payment history** makes a big difference with the **credit bureau**. If you've **missed** payments or been late, that's a big **strike against you**.

Alisha: You mean if I were late a few times, I wouldn't be able to get another credit card?

James: A few times? How many times?

Alisha: Well, maybe a lot of times.

James: And why do you need another credit card if you already have one?

Alisha: Had one, **past tense**. The credit card company **cancelled** it.

James: Ah ha, I think we've just found the **crux** of the problem. (Source: eslpod.com)

### Words & phrases

**turn down**: to not accept an offer or request

**credit report**: a document that contains a person's or company's record of debt and payment of debt over a period of time

**credit rating**: an estimate of the ability of a person or organization to fulfil their financial commitments, based on previous dealings

**income**: the money that you earn from your work or that you receive from investments, the government etc.

**verify**: to state that something is true; confirm

**outstanding**: not yet done, solved, or paid

**debt**: a sum of money that a person or organization owes

**payment**: an amount of money that has been or must be paid

**on time**: at the correct time or the time that was arranged

**payment history**: an indication for lenders and creditors whether an individual is a lending risk due to a history of late or missed payments

**credit bureau**: an agency that researches and collects individual credit information and sells it for a fee to creditors so they can make a decision on granting loans

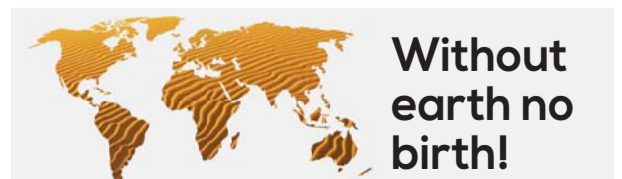
**miss**: to be too late for something

**strike against**: something that makes someone or something less likely to be accepted, approved, successful, etc.

**past tense**: a form of a verb that shows that something happened or existed before the present time

**cancel**: to say officially that a document can no longer be used or no longer has any legal effect

**crux**: the most important part of a problem, question, argument etc.



# DoE planning to promote environmental awareness at schools, universities

**SOCIETY TEHRAN** — Iran's **desk** Department of Environment (DoE) is planning on fostering environmental consciousness among students at schools and universities, ISNA quoted DoE chief Masoumeh Ebtekar as saying on Tuesday.

### Curriculum becoming environment-oriented

There are 60 textbooks in school curriculums with environmental issues highlighted in them and a book titled "Human and the Environment" with environmental content is now finished and available for the upcoming school year starting from September 22, 2016, Ebtekar explained.

### Initiating green management

Mentioning the Education Ministry's active cooperation with the DoE, Ebtekar pointed that all the schools nationwide are required to initiate green management and encourage students' participation in environmental fields as well as raise awareness



among teachers.

16 environmental schools which facilitate children's better appreciation of the environment are also operating in the country and the private sector and the public are backing them up willingly, she added.

She also commented on the Science Ministry and the DoE joint activities, noting that universities will also be required to take up the green management soon, adding, currently some of the universities have taken action on the green management and formed some eco-friendly NGOs so far.

### Each school, one ranger

The DoE chief also explained a new plan proposed to the Education Ministry based on which each school located in rural districts adjacent to the protected areas will be given a ranger who will introduce the rangers' job description and their role (in protecting the environment) to the students.

## For his birthday, boy gives shoes to kids in need

Gunner Robinson's 11th birthday is August 15, but instead of asking for things, he's giving them.

For the past three years, Gunner has requested shoes for his birthday. They actually are for children who might not be able to afford new ones.

"I've always got shoes, like new shoes for school and I want other kids to get them, too," he told CNN affiliate WWAY.

So he started "Gunner's Runners", an organization that collects shoes for children in his Wilmington, North Carolina community.

Just this past Saturday the boy purchased 30 new pairs at a shoe store with donation money from a local high school's reunion.

His "small idea" turned into something big. Gunner has already given nearly 600 sets of shoes.

"Words can't even describe how proud we are of him because it was his



idea," his mother, Kristi Robinson, told CNN affiliate WWAY.

"It just makes me feel better for other kids because they're getting new shoes for the new school year," Gunner said.

Donation boxes are at local businesses and the shoes collected will be given to a social worker to distribute to kids before the school year starts.

Happy birthday, Gunner.

(Source: CNN)

## Indiana group helps turtles trying to cross Indiana highway

**TERRE HAUTE, Ind. (AP)** — Wildlife enthusiasts are helping migrating turtles cross an Indiana highway by collecting them in buckets.

The effort, organized through Facebook, also collects data for researchers in Indiana State University's biology department, the (Terre Haute) Tribune Star reported.

Amber Slaughterbeck, naturalist for the Vigo County Parks and Recreation Department, said this time of year is a busy migration period for the turtles, which typically move northward from the south side of the Wabashki Fish and Wildlife Area.

According to the group, Wabashki Turtle Research and Rescue, fewer turtles and other creatures have been killed on U.S. 40 since the Indiana Department of Transportation installed a fence this summer.

When the group arrived at the location Saturday evening, 46 live turtles were rescued along the fence. Another team rescued 11 more Sunday morning.



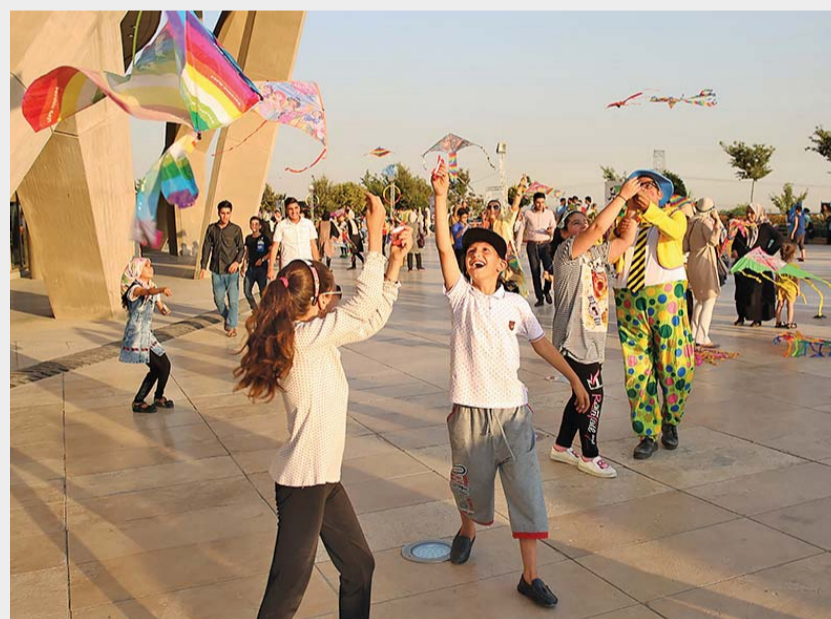
"The majority of those, if we hadn't had the fence, probably would have been smashed on the road," said Leah Dresdow, a member of the group.

Dresdow said five turtles were found dead.

"Once you start saving those little turtles, it's kind of addictive," Dresdow said.

The average turtle collected from the area is 5 inches long, but some are as large as 10 inches.

### IN FOCUS IRIB/ Mohammad-Ali Golkhah



A mid-summer kite festival at Tehran's Milad Tower on Monday attracted dozens of kids as well as adults.



## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

A ← → ع

### \$8,500 contribution to help save quadrupeds

Environment lovers contributed some 300 million rials (nearly \$8,500) to help save quadrupeds in southern Hormozgan province from dying of dehydration, the wildlife fund director of the province has said.

The money is contributed to build ten watering places for the drought stricken animals, Hassan Pishvaie-Jome said, IRNA reported on Friday.

Last year some 20 rams and ewes died due to water scarcity in the region but by building these watering places this year the fatalities diminished to zero, he noted.

17 years of persistent drought in Hormozgan have caused natural watering places to completely dry up.

### کمک ۳۰۰ میلیونی نجات چهارپایان وحشی

مدیر صندوق حیات وحش هرمزگان گفت: دوستداران محیط زیست این استان، به منظور نجات چهارپایان وحشی منطقه از بی آبی، ۳۰۰ میلیون ریال کمک کردند.

به گزارش روز جمعه ی ایرنا، حسن پیشوایی جمعه اظهار داشت: با توجه به کم آبی حاکم بر هرمزگان، این پول صرف احداث ۱۰ آبشخور برای نجات جان حیات وحش شد.

وی خاطرنشان کرد: پارسال بیش از ۲۰ قوچ و میش وحشی بر اثر نبود منابع آبی در این منطقه تلف شدند که با ساخت آبشخور امسال این تلفات به صفر رسیده است.

هفته سال خشکسالی سبب خشک شدن آبشخورهای طبیعی حیات وحش در هرمزگان شده است.

### ENGLISH PROVERB

#### Kindle not a fire you cannot put out

■ **Explanation**: do not start something that you cannot control; you may fail or cause damage

■ **For example**: Lucy should not get back with her ex-husband again, I think she should not kindle a fire she cannot put out.

### PHRASAL VERB

#### Ache for

■ **Meaning**: want something or someone a lot

■ **For example**: I'm aching for sleep.

### ENGLISH IDIOM

#### Much ado about nothing

■ **Explanation**: a lot of trouble or excitement about something that is not important

■ **For example**: There was a meeting to discuss the name for the new playground. "Much ado about nothing" said my Dad!

# Iranian striker Azmoun linked with Bundesliga move

**S P O R T S** After selling Leroy Sane to Manchester City, Bundesliga side Schalke 04 is looking for his replacement and has set its sights on signing of FC Rostov Iranian striker Sardar Azmoun, according to several reports in German media.

Last week he scored to help the Russian side beat Anderlecht in the UEFA Champions League play-offs.

The 21-year old striker is a great talent as he has scored 17 goals in 64 appearances since he moved to Russian Premier League in 2013. He has been impressive for Iran national team as he has scored 22 goals in 30 appearances.

The Iranian youngster could bring fresh air to Schalke's offensive power. Klaas-Jan Huntelaar is nearing the end of his career while Franco Di Santo has not met expectations. Azmoun could increase the pressure on both of them.

However there is a competition for the Royal Blues to sign Azmoun not only from Bundesliga side Bayer Leverkusen but abroad from Liverpool, Everton and Marseille.

The departure of head coach Kurban Berdyev who build up Azmoun's career from Rostov has fueled the potential move of Iranian striker to big European clubs.



## Set for his final Olympics, Usain Bolt still a rock, and samba, star

RIO DE JANEIRO — Perhaps only Usain Bolt, the biggest star at these Olympic Games, could lead a credentialed member of the media at a news conference here to stand out of his chair, pledge his love and perform an impromptu number.

The reporter was from Norway, he said, though he didn't give a name.



"I don't have a question," he said. "I just want to say I love you, man."

Then he sang.  
I hope you win  
I hope it's your day  
I hope you win even though

Only at the Olympics, and only for Usain Bolt. There are dozens of stars here in Brazil, many of them Americans: Michael Phelps, the most decorated swimmer of all time; Simone Biles, the sublime young gymnast; and Kevin Durant, Carmelo Anthony and the rest of the men's basketball team, heavy favorites to again claim the gold.

Yet there's only one Bolt, with his swaggering sense of self-confidence burnished by an international record unequalled in his sport's history. These Games, his last, hand Bolt the opportunity to cement a legacy already written into Olympic lore — a fact acknowledged nearly universally save the USA, which hasn't completely embraced the 29-year-old Jamaican at the same level as the rest of the world.

"He's just wants to compete," said teammate Asafa Powell. "He wants to get it over with and go home and enjoy himself. I think he's prepared. He realizes that he's getting old, so he knows what to expect."

So begins the final victory lap of an Olympic career that began in 2004, when a 17-year-old Bolt, hampered by a hamstring injury, failed to advance out of the first round of the men's 200 meters.

There has been nothing but unmatched success since. He's claimed 11 world championships. Six Olympic gold medals, highlighted by back-to-back wins in the 100 and 200 meters. The only other sprinter to notch successive golds in the 100 was Carl Lewis, who achieved the feat under somewhat dubious standards: He took the gold in 1984, which featured a USSR boycott, and again in 1988, after Canadian Ben Johnson was disqualified for a doping offense.

While that medal haul pales in comparison to Michael Phelps' collection — now at 19 golds, 23 overall after Sunday's 4x100 freestyle relay — there is something to be said for perfection. Bolt has raced in four Olympic individual finals; he's won four individual gold medals.

And unlike Phelps, whose reputation was damaged by arrests on DUI charges in both 2004 and 2014, Bolt has become nearly as internationally adored for his personality beyond the track — or for his much-imitated, post-event celebratory poses — as for his professional success.

"I like to entertain," he said. "Definitely a sprinter first, but I like to entertain. That's what people come out to see. That's what I do. I try to entertain and make it different. That's why people love me so much."

And he is loved by fans and sponsors alike: In terms of his endorsements, which have made Bolt \$30 million in 2016, according to Forbes, he is closer to megawatt stars such as LeBron James and Lionel Messi than any track and field peer. Bolt is ranked 91st in the world this year in total earnings among celebrities, per Forbes, sandwiched between the Dave Matthews Band and NBA star Dwyane Wade.

This despite what he admits "hasn't been a perfect season." He coasted to victory in the 100 at the Jamaica Racer's Grand Prix in June, his first competitive race in more than nine months, but then withdrew from his country's qualifying trials with a hamstring injury. Jamaica's regulations nonetheless allowed him to race in Rio.

"I was really unhappy about not competing at my trials because I needed those races," he said, adding, "But everything is going smooth."

Smooth enough, he said, that his sights are set on a record: Bolt hopes to run the 200 in under 19 seconds — a feat never achieved in track and field history, and one that would break his own world record (19.19).

"I really want it," he said. "I really, really, really want that one. I always wanted to run sub-19 (seconds). But you never know."

A record time in the 200 might be the only fitting conclusion to an incomparable career. As his Olympic history comes to a close — and as he stands poised to capitalize even more on his international reputation — there is that one last chapter: Bolt has races left to run and gold medals still to win before turning his full attention to life off the track.

"As a young kid, you grow up looking forward to the big games," Bolt said. "I just think over the years I've really gotten into it. Championships are what matter. So I always come out here and give 150 percent. This is what I do. I enjoy it."

(Source: USA Today)

## Croatian keeper Radosevic arrives for Persepolis medical



Croat goalkeeper Bozidar Radosevic arrived in Tehran, capital of Iran, to undergo medical exam in Persepolis.

The 27-year-old goalie has reached an initial agreement with Iranian popular football team.

A product of Hajduk Split academy, Radosevic had several loan spells between 2007 and 2010 at lower level Croatian sides and at Zeljeznicar

in Bosnia and Herzegovina, before having his league debut for Hajduk in the 2010-11 season on 24 July 2010 against Istra 1961.

Uzbek keeper Alexander Lobanov left Persepolis at the first day of the Iran Professional League to join Pakhtakor.

Persepolis sits top of the IPL table with seven points from three games.

(Source: Tasnim)

## Iran's Alireza Faghani to officiate Brazil, Denmark clash



Iranian referee Alireza Faghani has been chosen to officiate Brazil, Denmark match in the 2016 Olympic Games on Wednesday.

The international referee, 38, will be joined by compatriots Reza Sokhandan and Mohammadreza Mansouri as his assistants, with Ghanaian Joseph Lamptey the fourth official for the host's clash in Salvador against Denmark.

Brazil needs to beat group leader Denmark on Wednesday to win to avoid a stunning exit, just two years after their devastating 7-1 World Cup defeat by Germany.

Faghani, whose name has been on the international list since 2008, was appointed as the AFC Asian Cup final where host Australia defeated South Korea 2-1.

(Source: Tasnim)

## Five Iranian weightlifters have chance to win medal: coach Anoushirvani

**S P O R T S** Iran weightlifting coach Sajjad Anoushirvani says that all five lifters have chance to win medal at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games.

Behdad Salimi, Mohammad Reza Barari, Sohrab Moradi, Ali Hashemi and Kianoush Rostami will represent Team Iran at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games.

Salimi will compete in the men's +105kg at the Olympics.

Barari is Iran's representative in the men's -105kg.

In the men's 94kg, Moradi and Hashemi will represent Iran in the prestigious event.



Rostami will take part in the men's 85kg in the 2016 Rio Olympics.

"Mentally and physically, our weightlifters are in good condition. All five Iranian weightlifters can win medal at Rio. We are going to repeat our good days at London 2012," Anoushirvani said.

"Kianoush will start our competition on Friday and we hope we can make happy the Iranian people with winning a medal," the London silver medal winner concluded.

The weightlifting competition at Rio will be held from August 6.

## Gymnast selfie briefly unites North and South Korea



A couple of gymnasts at Rio 2016 have taken to heart one of the founding principles of Olympism -- "placing sport at the service of the harmonious development of humankind" -- in a very modern way.

Gymnasts Lee Eun-ju of South Korea and Hong Un-Jong of North Korea posed for a charming selfie, an impromptu photograph that's a rare occurrence by members of the two Koreas.

Relations have been frosty between the North and South since its division following the end of World War II.

Technically the two Koreas remain at war with one another -- and have been for decades -- though an armistice is in place. This doesn't stop tensions flaring up around the world's most fortified border.

But geopolitics were put to one side for one moment in Brazil as the two Olympians came together to capture a shared moment of joy while representing their two nations during Sunday's Gymnastics training at the Rio Olympic Arena.

While this is Lee's first Olympics, Hong is a veteran gymnast. She became the first North Korean gymnast to win a medal at an Olympic Games when she took home the gold medal in vault at the 2008 Games in Beijing.

(Source: CNN)

## Ferdinand backs Pogba to handle record transfer fee



Rio Ferdinand is confident Paul Pogba will cope with the pressure of his world record transfer fee after completing his move to Manchester United on Tuesday.

United spent 89 million pounds to bring the France midfielder back to the club from Juventus, and his former team mate Ferdinand believes the France international can handle the pressure.

"Paul is a huge talent and someone with the personality to handle that price tag," Ferdinand told the BBC.

"Paul's character means he will deal with being such a big investment, so that won't be a problem.

"He will relish the responsibility on his

shoulders of bringing medals and trophies to the club," he added. "That won't faze him at all."

United have paid for allowing Pogba to leave for Juve in 2012, but Ferdinand is confident the 23-year-old can make up for lost time.

"It was a mistake to let him leave but bringing him back is a statement of intent," added the former England central defender who joined United for a then British record fee of 29.1 million pounds in 2002.

"He is going to be a top player for years to come and he will make a big difference to United's title chances."

(Source: Goal)



### Poem of the day

Balm to mine eyes the dust, my head I bow  
Upon thy stair.  
Where shall I go, where from thy presence? thou  
Art everywhere.

Hafez

### Prayer Times

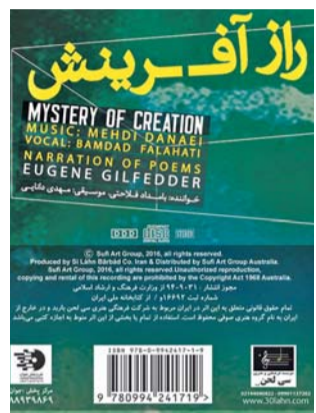
Noon:13:10 Evening: 20:19 Dawn: 4:47 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:20 (tomorrow)

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## NEWS

### New album features fusion of Persian and Western music

**T A R T TEHRAN** — “Mystery of Creation”, which mingles poems by Rumi with a fusion of Persian and Western music, has recently been released by Iranian and Australian musicians.



Composer Mehdi Danaei and vocalist Bamdad Falahati from Iran have contributed to the album in which Australian artist Eugene Gilfedder narrates poems by Rumi in English.

A number of Iranian musicians, artists and literati came together at the Iranian Artists Forum in Tehran last Friday to review the album.

The 12-track album is distributed by the Australian-based Sufi Art Group.

“Mystery of Creation” was recorded on the Iranian label Si Lahne Barbad.

# Winners of Parvin Etesami Literary Awards honored

**T A R T TEHRAN** — The winners of the 7th Parvin Etesami Literary Awards, which are presented to works by female literati with outstanding achievements in Persian literature, were announced during a ceremony at the Institute of Culture, Art and Architecture in Tehran on Monday evening.

The ceremony was attended by Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Ali Jannati, Iranian Poetry and Fiction Foundation Director Mehdi Qezeli, and Deputy Culture Minister for Cultural Affairs Seyyed Abbas Salehi and number of cultural officials.

The award for best literary research was presented to “History of Women’s Poetry” by Ruhangiz Karachi, while the book “Ab-o-Tab” by Saeideh Musavizadeh won the award in the children’s literature section.

The award for best classical poetry went to “The Circle” by Maryam Jafari Azarmani.

“Bruise” by Elham Fallah won the award for the best story.

The organizers also honored Farahanaz Jabbari for her lifetime studies on Parvin Etesami, and Beatriz De Salas from Venezuelan for her endeavors to translate Persian poet Ferdowsi’s Shahanmeh into Spanish.

In addition “Out of My Mind” (Sharon M. Draper) by Anita Yarmohammadi, and “A Concise Chinese-English Dictionary for Lovers” (Xiaolu Guo) by Reyhaneh Vadirvar received the honorable mention.

The prize has been named after Persian poet Parvin Etesami (1907-1940), one of the most prominent Persian poets of the 20th century. Her poetry is based upon themes of social, humanitarian and mystical concepts, and contains no allusions to romantic love or feminine sentiment.

Addressing the attendees, Culture Minister Jannati



Beatriz De Salas from Venezuelan receives award from Iranian Culture Minister Ali Jannati for her endeavors to translate the Shahanmeh into Spanish during the 7th Parvin Etesami Literary Awards in Tehran on August 8, 2016. (IRNA/Amir-Hossein Bandi)

called Parvin the rare poet of the time, “She used to understand the issues related to women very well and her poetry embraced the characteristics of ancient poetry. She was much more worried about the society rather than

herself.

“Alas, she did not live long to enrich Persian language, that is why we can consider Parvin the greatest poet of her time in the history of ancient Persian poetry,” he added.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

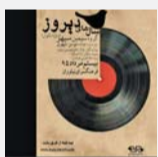


### Iranian premiere of “Salesman” set for August 31

**T A R T TEHRAN** — Filmiran, the Iranian distributor of Asghar Farhadi’s acclaimed drama “The Salesman”, said on Tuesday that the movie will have its countrywide premiere on August 31.

The movie is about Emad (Hosseini) and Rana (Taraneh Alidusti) who move into a new flat in the center of Tehran. An incident linked to the previous tenant dramatically changes the young couple’s life.

“The Salesman” brought Farhadi the best screenplay award and its star, Shahab Hosseini, the Palme d’or for best actor at the 69th Cannes Film Festival in May.



### Simin Sepehri ensemble to perform in Tehran

**T I CULTURE TEHRAN** — Simin Sepehri, an all-female traditional Iranian music ensemble, is scheduled to give a concert at Tehran’s Niavaran Cultural Center tonight.

The band led by vocalist Susan Sepehri plans to perform a repertoire of 20 songs during the concert. The ensemble features Gazal Naserfasihi on piano, Vida Mollahosseini on cello and Sepideh Shayanrad on Tompak.

Only an audience of females is allowed for the performance.

### A minute with Robert Redford on magical childhood stories

**LOS ANGELES (Reuters)** — Hollywood veteran Robert Redford returns to his childhood love of fantasy stories in “Pete’s Dragon”, a new Disney film about an orphaned boy living in a forest and his friendship with one such creature.

The fantasy adventure is a remake of the 1977 movie of the same name and this time movie features a realistic green-furred computer-generated creation of the dragon named Elliot.

Redford, 79, known for films such as “Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid” and “Out of Africa”, plays Meacham, the father of forest ranger Grace (Bryce Dallas Howard) and the only one other than Pete (Oakes Fegley) to encounter the dragon.

**Q: You’re seen as this champion of independent cinema, so what was it that made you decide to go into this?**

A: This was about a chance to return to my own childhood experience and remember times when I was a kid... I loved stories that had magic in them. Then you grow out of that as you get older and you miss it. So this was a chance to play a role in a film that allowed me to step back into that time.

**Q: How did you imagine the dragon? Did anyone give you any cues?**

A: No, you really had to imagine the dragon because all you got when you were working was a pole with a tennis ball at the end and that was the dragon... You had to imagine what the dragon would look like because it hadn’t been developed yet.

**Q: What do you think this film says about the environment?**

A: If we keep cutting down trees, if we keep cutting things away and taking things away, pretty soon there will be nothing left to take away. There will be no planet... I think the film illustrates the value of something like a forest, the storytelling values something like an animal in the forest that no one believes exists. I think those are very important things in this day and age because we become pretty cynical.

## Iran Cinema Celebration packs jury to improve decisions

By Afshin Majlesi

**TEHRAN** — The 18th Iran Cinema Celebration is dramatically increasing the number of its jurors to counter widespread criticism of decisions made in the previous edition of the movie gala, which the Iranian House of Cinema holds annually in September.

The decision was announced by the secretary of the celebration, Kamal Tabrizi, who is also a veteran filmmaker, during a press conference on Monday evening.

He also elaborated on the structure of the team assigned to enhance the performance of the celebration. 300 top experts—from cineastes to graphic designers,



The secretary of the 18th Iran Cinema Celebration, Kamal Tabrizi, attends a press conference in Tehran on August 8, 2016 to brief the media about the gala. (Mehr/Hossein Razaqnejad)

painters and writers—will first select nominees in 12 categories, Tabrizi said.

Next, 170 artists will join the jurors to select the winners, he added.

Tabrizi claimed he had not been influenced by any famous film galas put on by other countries in his decision to form the selecting board and jury panel.

He also said that cinema in Iran differs from what is in the world and added that Iranian cinema mainly relies on indigenous innovations and experimental approaches within the country.

The Iranian House of Cinema organizes the celebration annually to commemorate Iran’s National Day of Cinema, which falls on September 11 this year.

### PICTURE OF THE DAY Honaronline/Reza Javidi



Hannaneh Jafarnejad of the Exit theater troupe acts in a scene from “Acting Hamlet in the Village of Mrdusa Donja” by Croatian playwright Ivo Bresan at the Ezzatollah Entezami Museum in Tehran on August 8, 2016. Mehrdad Khamenei is the director of the play, which runs until August 26.

## Pop singer Fereidun Aserai denies cancer diagnosis

**T A R T TEHRAN** — Iranian pop singer Fereidun Aserai has denied a report that he was diagnosed with laryngeal cancer.

“Based on interviews that some media conducted with me a few weeks ago, they reported that I had been diagnosed with laryngeal cancer,” Aserai, 60, told the Persian service of MNA on Tuesday.

“I denied the report; the media had exaggerated about my illness,” he added.

“Some time ago, due to some problems with my larynx, my doctor told me to take better care of my health, but the media was misinformed about the issue,” stated Aserai who shot to fame with hits “Hello” and “The Stranger” over ten years ago.

Late July, Honaronline published an report, quoting Aserai that he was diagnosed with laryngeal cancer.

In August 5, he released a single song titled “Say That You’re in Love with Me” to celebrate his 60th birthday.

He is scheduled to perform concerts in Salmanshahr on August 11 and in Tehran on August 12.

## “Game of Thrones” author’s “Wild Cards” to become sci-fi TV series

**New York (Reuters)** — As HBO’s hit “Game of Thrones” heads towards its concluding seasons, George R. R. Martin, the author behind the medieval fantasy series, has already lined up his next TV project, a new anthology series called “Wild Cards”.

The new sci-fi series was announced by Martin over the weekend and will be based on the “Wild Cards” novels and stories written by numerous authors

and curated by Martin and Melinda Snodgrass.

The “Wild Cards”, first released in 1987, refer to a small percentage of the population that survived an alien attack and obtained super powers, with characters such as Croyd Crenson, Jetboy, the Four Aces and Dr. Tachyon.

Universal Cable Productions, the network behind shows such as cyber hacking drama “Mr. Robot”, confirmed

that it is working to develop a prospective series on “Wild Cards”. No further details were given.

Martin said he won’t be working on the series himself as he has an exclusive development deal with HBO, and is writing “The Winds of Winter”, the highly anticipated sixth book in his “A Song of Ice and Fire” novels that “Game of Thrones” is based on.

“Of course, Hollywood is Hollywood,

and nothing is ever certain in development... but I think I hope I cross my fingers that the Wild Cards will be coming to your home screens in the next year or two,” Martin said on his website.

“Game of Thrones”, nominated for a leading 23 Emmy awards this year, follows the epic fantasy tale of a multi-generational struggle for control of the Iron Throne and rule over the Seven Kingdoms.