

TEHRAN TIMES



Shafe'i elected new ICCIMA chairman

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U.S. and its Western allies know Saudi Arabia backs terrorists: Chomsky

Noam Chomsky, a renowned American political activist and philosopher, has accused the United States and its Western allies of knowing about but choosing to turn a blind eye to the House of Saud regime's support for terrorist groups.

In an interview with Lebanese Al-Mayadeen television channel, Chomsky said Riyadh is engaged in spreading extremist outfits, something the U.S. and the West are prepared to ignore.

He said the U.S., Britain, and France are well aware that Saudi Arabia is using money to increase its leverage in the region, apparently referring to financial support by the Riyadh regime for terrorist groups operating in the Middle East.

Saudi Arabia is widely believed to be providing support for terrorist and militant groups operating against legitimate governments in Syria and Iraq as well as for terrorists conducting sporadic attacks in Europe and the U.S.

Most groups radicalizing people in the Middle East as well as the West are believed to be directly affiliated with Wahhabism.

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"The Orangish Tree" named best animation at Iran Cinema Celebration

A R T TEHRAN — Iranian director Amir-Hushang Moin's "The Orangish Tree" won the award for best animation at the 18th Iran Cinema Celebration.

The winners in the animation section were announced during a ceremony at Tehran's Eyvan-e Shams Hall on Saturday.

Moin also won the award for best



graphic designer for the short animation, which is about a girl who lives inside an orange. The award for best screenwriter went to director/writer Ali Hazratpur for "The Switchman" while Ashkan Naeimi received the award for best animation effects designer for "Boogeyman".

Seyyed Moslem Tabatabai received best director award for "Light Sight", which also brought Amir Purkhalaji the best composer award. Behruz Shahamat won the award for best sound engineer for his collaboration on "The Train" by Javad Maturi and "The Switchman".

The Iranian House of Cinema organizes the celebration annually to commemorate Iran's National Day of Cinema, which falls on September 11 this year. Winners in the categories of short films, animations and documentaries are announced annually before the National Day of Cinema.

Iran asks UN to be active in dealing with humanitarian crises

POLITICS TEHRAN — The Iranian interior minister has called on the United Nations to be more active in helping the people in need of humanitarian aid. The call by Abdolreza Rahmani Fazli came

after he met with UN Emergency Relief Coordinator Stephen O'Brien in Tehran on Sunday.

Now the Middle East is caught in its worst humanitarian crisis. Now millions of people in Syria and Yemen are suffering from lack of

food, medical facilities, shelter, etc.

"These are major humanitarian crises that the United Nations should be actively involved in," the interior minister remarked.

→2

UNESCO honors legendary vocalist Shahram Nazeri

A R T TEHRAN — The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization commemorated legendary Iranian vocalist Shahram Nazeri during a ceremony in Tehran on Saturday night.

The event was organized to honor Nazeri for his new musical project in which he has highlighted several cultural heritage sites in the central Iranian city of Isfahan.

A large number of Iranian cultural figures and officials, including Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Organization Director Masud Soltanifar and director of the UNESCO Cluster Office in Tehran Esther Kuisch Laroche, attended the ceremony, which took place in the courtyard of the Sadabad Cultural Historical Complex.

In her short speech, Laroche called Nazeri a singer who presents love and peace to people in his songs. She said that his works typically introduce Iranian culture and literature.

The ceremony went on with a performance by Nazeri for his new album, which has not been released yet.

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Larijani praises Olympic medalists



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© IRNA/Mohammad Babaei

Vietnam shows rich culture at National Day event in Tehran

By Mehdi Sepahvand

Representing the Tehran Times, I was among the invitees of the Vietnamese National Day ceremony at the Southeast Asian country's embassy in Tehran on Saturday evening.

Vietnam's National Day falls on September 2, commemorating the Vietnam Declaration of Independence from France in 1945.

Many diplomats and other representatives were invited to the event which was held in the embassy's courtyard.

But what dominated the atmosphere was the clean, cheerful Vietnamese music that had filled the atmosphere.

An elderly lady, whose manners instantly at-



tracted one's admiration and aroused the curiosity for starting a talk, and whom I later found to be Ambassador Nguyen Hong Thach's mother, made the event richer for me by taking me around the main hall where Vietnamese an-

tiques and art pieces were showcased.

A most curious of the pieces was a musical drum, which I later found to be called "dong son". "This is four thousand years old," she told me.

"But there is a better one here," she said as she led me into an adjacent room, showing me a big, ornamented plate they call "cong chieng".

With so many engraved pictures with each a story to tell, the piece reminded me of the similar carvings at the Persepolis which at some far point of time, my ancestors had found worthy of presentation and preservation.

"These are history," she told me, as I was telling myself "Yes, and they are us, and we are one in essence."

Sharif University to host 'soot-free Tehran' international workshop

SOCIETY TEHRAN — Tehran's Sharif University of Technology will host an international workshop called 'soot-free Tehran' on September 7, IRNA news agency reported.

The one-day event is organized in associ-

ation with UNESCO Chair in Water and Environment Management for Sustainable Cities in support of black carbon reduction in the cities.

The event is highlighting the importance of black carbon limitation which are usually

generated by internal combustion engines and motorcycle carburetors in the metropolises.

The event will be held with European experts on the matter of the black carbon in attendance and as speakers.

Iran's exclusive expo in Kazakhstan slated for Oct.

ECONOMY TEHRAN — Kazakhstan's city of Shymkent will host an exclusive exhibition of Iranian industries from October 3 to 6, according to the website of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO).

Industrial, mining and constructional equipment and ma-

chinery, heavy vehicles, electrical equipment, household appliances, medical equipment, hygienic and cosmetic products, production and processing lines equipment and machinery, food industries, gardening equipment and machinery, as well as engineering and technical services

are some of the areas in which Iranian companies will showcase their products and achievements in the exhibit.

Kazakhstan is one of the major export destinations of Iran in Central Asia. Their good political relations as well as easy access to the markets of each other through

road, rail, air and sea create a very high potential for the expansion of trade ties between the two countries.

Shymkent is the capital city of South Kazakhstan region and the third most populous city of the country after Almaty and Astana.

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. Persian equivalents have been given for all entries, including idioms and expressions. The glossary also includes example sentences for entries the authors thought it would be a bit difficult to learn.

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



IRGC officer martyred in Syria

POLITICS TEHRAN — The IRGC has lost a military adviser in Syria, Mizan reported on Sunday.

Dariussh Dorosti was martyred by the Jaysh al-Ezzah militant group in the

northern part of the Syrian province of Hama.

The body of the officer was still held by the terrorist group when the report came late Sunday.

Turkey after the purge: Freedom of expression and justice thwarted

By Ismail Sezgin

In the wake of the thwarted coup of 15 July, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan declared a state of emergency, bypassing parliament and enabling rule by presidential decree. The decrees he issues no longer need to comply with the constitution or with the European Convention on Human Rights, to which Turkey is a signatory.

Following the declaration the administration moved swiftly to curtail freedom of expression by shutting down almost all opposition media outlets. The few media outlets that remain are pro-government or need to prove their loyalty to Erdogan's definition of democracy as presidential rule combined with a populism permitting no dissent.

Immediately after the failed coup, the administration published lists of people that Erdogan claimed had participated in the coup. The lists included people from all professions, and journalists were no exception.

The speed with which these lists appeared indicated that they had been prepared before the coup. Dogu Perincek, the leader of the nationalist Vatan Partisi, and who is now an ally of the ruling party, explained on live TV that there were indeed pre-prepared lists and that it was he who had handed over those lists.

Mass closures and mass arrests

In a single week, the administration closed down 16 TV channels, 23 radio stations, 15 journals, 29 publishing houses, three news agencies and 73 media organizations; it rendered thousands of media workers unemployed, and arrested dozens. Approximately 150 journalists are under arrest.

Turkey now leads the group of countries with the highest number of imprisoned journalists, with three times the number of journalists jailed in Iran and China. Twitter has censored over 23 accounts of journalists, at least 12 of them verified accounts.

According to Reporters Without Borders, Turkey is ranked 151st position out of 180 countries in terms of media freedom.

Journalists were taken into custody without due process (no grounds given) and en masse. They include top intellectuals and writers such as Asli Erdogan, shortlisted by respected

French literary magazine Lire in 2005 as one of the "50 most promising authors of tomorrow". Experienced writers, such as Ahmet Turan Alkan, Ali Bulac, and 72-year-old Nazli Ilıcak, as well as young reporters like Busra Erdal and local journalists have been detained. Many have also been barred from seeing their lawyers and families while in custody.

Some of the targeted journalists were not in their homes when police arrived. The wife of Bulent Korucu, former chief editor of political weekly Aksiyon, was taken into custody in his stead. Hacer Korucu told her lawyer: "The police officers said to my children, 'The noose is tightening. If your dad doesn't come in, we will take you next time.' That destroyed me."

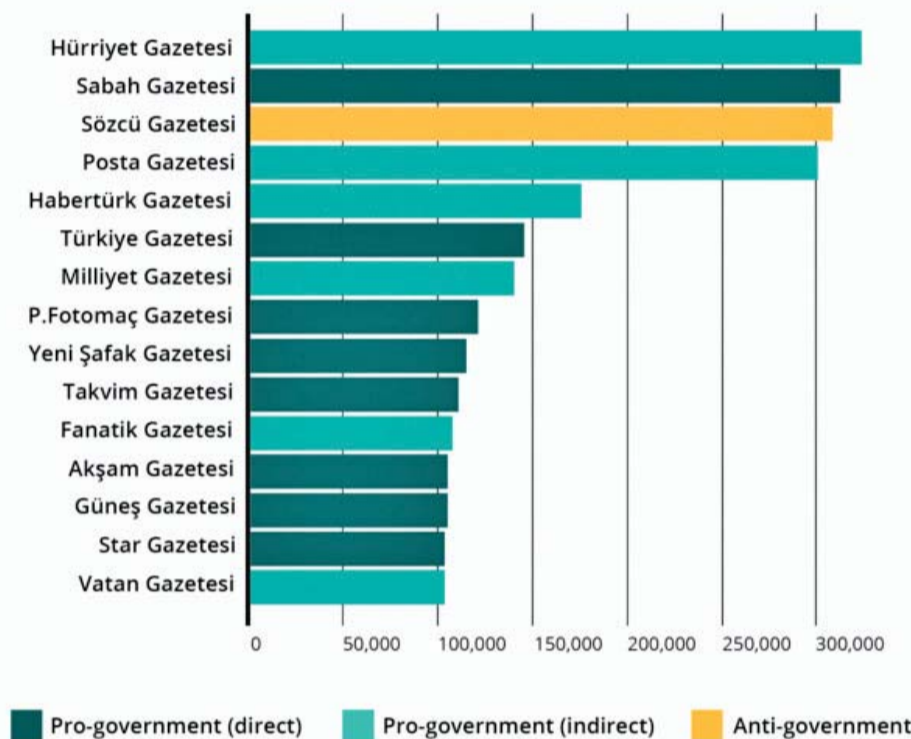
The teacher brother of journalist Bulent Kenes was also detained, as was the father of Merve Reyhan Kavıkcı.

A total of 124 journalists are listed as arrested. However, their families and lawyers cannot reach many of them. The State of Emergency prolongs to 30 days the permitted duration of stay in custody before charges have to be placed, and the prosecutors' offices and police have not responded to applications by families who cannot contact their relatives. The police and prosecutors have even failed to disclose the names of some of the detainees. Of 19 journalists from TRT (Turkish National TV and Radio Channel) who were arrested in the second week of August, only the names of Ahmet



According to Reporters Without Borders, Turkey is ranked 151st position out of 180 countries in terms of media freedom.

The most circulated newspapers that are on the market and their stance on government violations



Source: Gazete Tirajları



Boken and Hakan Aksel are known. The remaining 17 journalists have not been identified. Who and where are they all?

The number of journalists arrested to date whose names can be established is 120. When the 17 unnamed journalists from TRT are added, the number rises to 137. There are still journalists whose condition and whereabouts are unknown.

While Erdogan claims the coup was staged by Gulenists (but can produce no proof to support demands for his extradition from the US), the independent journalist Mahir Zeynalov has pointed out that it is "not enough to be against the coup in Turkey. You have to say it is a Gulen-driven coup. Otherwise you either lose your job or your freedom".

Leading journalist Can Dundar - who has been sentenced to five years in jail for leaking state secrets but left the country in August while on appeal - has resigned from his post as editor of secularist Cumhuriyet and says that he will stay outside Turkey as he fears the government will attempt to link him to the putsch attempt. Now, critical journalists must ask permission to leave the country; some have had their passports seized.

Erdogan tightens his grip

Even prior to the coup attempt, Erdogan was increasing his personal control of the state in Turkey. The AKP, at his instigation, had already conducted purges in the state bureaucracy, media and academia, the judiciary, civil society, education and the charity sector. He also had a number of private companies and

a bank seized.

Although the AKP failed to make its promised changes to the constitution of Turkey, the president altered his role from that of a neutral, unifying head of state (as the constitution requires) to a de facto executive president in which he has claimed full control of the government. The prime minister's role now seems no more than an aide-de-camp to the president. To achieve this, Erdogan summarily replaced the man who had been believed to be his "hand-picked" successor, Prime Minister Ahmed Davutoglu, with another long-term friend, Binali Yildirim, who has proved more amenable to the reduced role.

It was correct and desirable for putschist officers to be arrested. However, disturbingly at this delicate point, the subsequent purges have also extended to the judiciary - almost 3,000 judges and prosecutors have been removed; some of them have been arrested and their private property confiscated. But while Erdogan claims that the putschists were Gulenists, he had also carried out very extensive purges of the police and judiciary well before 15 July and already claimed to have removed all Gulenists.

The post-15 July purges, therefore, can only be intended to remove any remaining members of the judiciary with the faintest pretensions to independence from the executive. This means that from that long list of arrested journalists, no one has the slightest chance of a fair trial. Erdogan's stranglehold on Turkey is complete. (Middle East Eye)

West Asia in transition: Opportunities for India

By Mohammad Taghi Amrollahi

After 9/11 in 2001 the world has entered into a new phase and the post-cold war period had been changed dramatically. The main focus of new militarism of USA regarded the attacks to American homeland security was Afghanistan to repel the danger of Taliban, then in 2003 a new war against Saddam's regime to disarm it from the so called WMDs. From a wider point of view the whole region was the destination that has been affected by these projects. Moreover, Islamic awakening (or Arab spring) happened years after; consequently, states face new challenges in their security and solidarity by sectarian conflicts.

Those have been mentioned earlier changed the situation fast and in a hurrying way and resulted in instability, vacuum of power, emerging of terrorist groups, changing in the equilibrium of region and actors and exacerbate the West Asia and North Africa's status.

On the other side, in the last decade of 20th century India

has started its own changes and reforms mainly in the area of economy. The economy, as the essential tool for the development, has facilitated for India to be emerged as a great power and to specify its interests over the seas, especially South East Asia and West Asia.

India considers WANA as one of the immediate aims in its "look at west" policy. Not only the increasingly needs of energy which was Indian main preoccupation for the late decades but also the integration of oil and gas as economic interests with the security area which should be guaranteed between the two unwanted neighbors; China and Pakistan.

When India started the reforms in its economy, what seems to be in a high importance were the fuels to supply the inevitable needs for factories and firms which convert raw materials to the finalized products. The question came to the mind is that India is the first country in the world for resources in coal how come it needs more and more energy? It is not the whole story since in one hand it wanted to compete a powerful competitor like china which is overwhelmingly the provider of world goods with the cheapest prices all over the world, on the other side there are serious steps to limit the usage of fossil fuels in international communities India committed to follow both for its will and credit.

Now, in the third decade of Indian new face in economy, it is vital to continue the economic growth to enable it to secure its progressive movement to become a developed country, to gain enough credits for the political stance such as the unbelievable achievement of permanent seat in the UNSC.

India has changed types of its energy from oil to gas meaningfully but at the same time both of them have increased, noteworthy it tests the non-fossilized resources such as the wind and nuclear capabilities to secure especially the whole country needs for electricity.

West Asia including Persian Gulf is a very eye-catching region in the bliss of natural resources namely gas and oil. India is trying to verify its partners to reduce the risk of probable challenges especially regarding the coalitions in the region receives its fuels from the region states such as Saudi Arabia, Iran, UAE,... and for this its benefit is stability in the region especially between the two regional powers in region whom both are important for India; Iran and Saudi Arabia.

Indian stance is defined in two main policies here. The first one is its relationship with the US so that it is a relatively dependent state to US foreign policy in the region, knowing that their two important allies; Saudi Arabia and Israel are not satisfied with the nuclear deal with Iran make the situation a little complicated for India. By knowing that the US was on one side of that deal beside other powers and also it gave India the allowance to import specific capacity of fuels from Iran even under the sanctions, it would be more obvious that the bigger



The Indian work force in Saudi Arabia and UAE is another factor to affect the regional relations. Despite the fact that at the moment it faces to a new recession in Arab markets which has unemployed thousands of Indians in Saudi Arabia, they can reach to the high rank jobs which happens mainly in UAE regarding the multinational corporations.

brother has a determinative position in their interactions and it perceives the crucial Indian fuel needs.

The second one is Indian Gandhi-Nehruism inheritance of noninterference, it would be the reason that we do not observe any stance even in the Islamic awakening by Indian government or historic events like the Gulf War. The answer for the inactivity is the imperceptible threat to their fuel interests which have not been interrupted.

The potentiality of the region as an actual market for Indian goods and services, the importance of sea route and strategically place of Indian Ocean and the completions of extra regional powers to gain more out of this game make the match for India hot and hotter. There is also a dense population in Asian western side which should be considered mainly as the young generation in developing countries so that their involvement in the daily affairs and the different favors of those people is the complement to Indian production machine whether in necessary needs or in optional non necessary favors.

Even though terrorism seems to be an alarm for India, which has been attacked by radicalism as well as terrorism,

paid much to the instability and to the harsh criticism of journalists about security agencies as a multinational, secular country, by the rising of Taliban, ISIS, Al Qaeda etc. India cannot stay aside and see the catastrophe, it should deal with it in a comprehensive plan to minimize the possibility of the threat to the country. Also, it can take it in use to breach the Pakistani support for terrorism or what Indian want to be comprehended by the global society to gain more credits especially in their stance toward Kashmir to make it an internal conflict toward rebellion instead of breaching human rights basic principles.

The Indian work force in Saudi Arabia and UAE is another factor to affect the regional relations. Despite the fact that at the moment it faces to a new recession in Arab markets which has unemployed thousands of Indians in Saudi Arabia, they can reach to the high rank jobs which happens mainly in UAE regarding the multinational corporations. It would be an influential group for Indian to impose priority in their goods and services to be spread out there as well as political pros or cons toward the issues by dispatching skilled forces like what once happened in USA and Canada, helped in the recovery of relationship with the mentioned countries.



Two-Stages open tender

Refah Chain Stores Co. invites all interested qualified and eligible companies to participate in a two-stages open tender for implementation of SAP Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) solution.

Summary: Refine requirements, design, supply, install, implement, and deploy SAP ERP solution and provide related support and training.

Type and cost of bid security: Unconditional bank guarantee or bank draft of IRR. 6,000,000,000 or € 150,000.00

Cost of Tender Documents: A complete set of bidding documents (Request for Proposal -RFP) in Farsi and English can be obtained upon presenting proof of payment of a non-refundable fee of IRR. 6,000,000 or € 150 to the bank account 5432498510 in mellat bank, Keyvan branch (sort code 63180), IBAN IR67012002000005432498510, in favor of "Refah Chain Stores Company".

Address to Purchase the Tender Documents: Tender documents may be purchased during working hours from the address below and on submission of a written application from 10 Sep. 2016 to 21 Sep. 2016. Refah trading commission, No. 69, Sarparast St., West Taleghani St. Tehran, Iran

Bidders' Qualification:
 - Successfully completion of at least three (3) ERP implementation projects within the last six (6) years. At least two (2) of these three (3) contracts must include implementing SAP ERP solution (covering all key business activities) for big retail companies.
 - Average annual business turnover of at least € one (1) million (or equivalent) within the last four (4) years
 - Valid accredited certification in ICT industry and Project Management
 - Experienced managerial and technical staff
 Tender applicants can ask questions by contacting +98-21-66412657 or sending emails to erp.tender@refah.ir.

Jupiter's wild north pole, southern auroras photographed for 1st time

NASA's Juno spacecraft has beamed home the first-ever photos of Jupiter's north pole, and scientists can hardly believe their eyes.

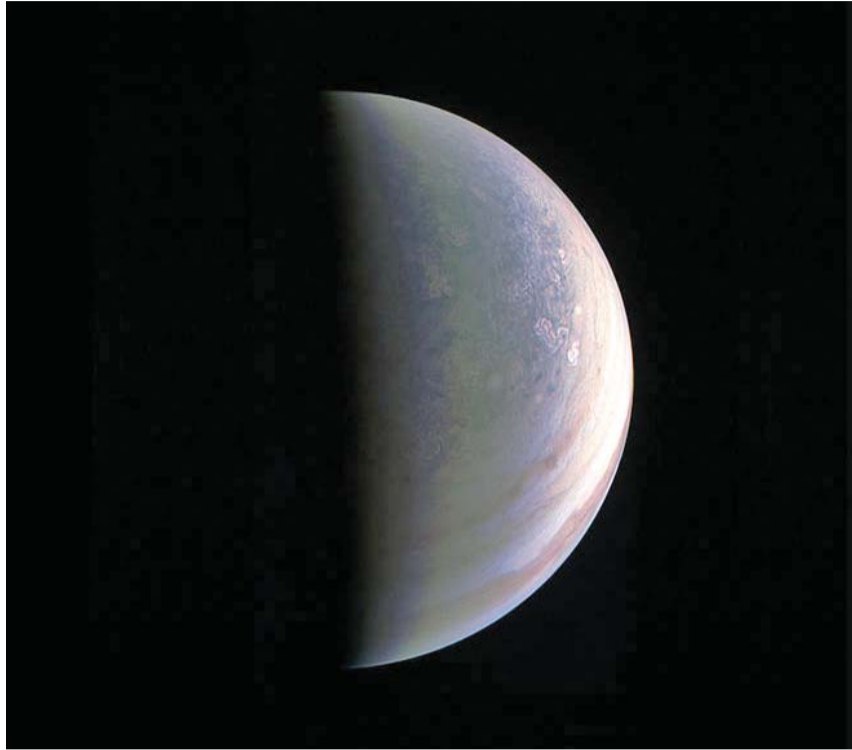
Juno captured the images on Aug. 27, when the probe skimmed just 2,600 miles (4,200 kilometers) above Jupiter's cloud tops during the first of three dozen close flybys of the Solar System's largest planet.

"First glimpse of Jupiter's north pole, and it looks like nothing we have seen or imagined before," Juno principal investigator Scott Bolton, of the Southwest Research Institute in San Antonio, said in a statement.

This view of Jupiter's north pole — captured by NASA's Juno probe on Aug. 27, 2016, from a distance of 48,000 miles (78,000 kilometers) — shows storms and weather systems unlike any seen elsewhere in the Solar System.

"It's bluer in color up there than other parts of the planet, and there are a lot of storms," Bolton added. "There is no sign of the latitudinal bands or zone and belts that we are used to; this image is hardly recognizable as Jupiter. We're seeing signs that the clouds have shadows, possibly indicating that the clouds are at a higher altitude than other features."

-----Hexagonal storm swirling
Saturn has a huge hexagonal storm swirling at its north pole. But Jupiter lacks such a vortex, the new photos show.



"There is nothing on Jupiter that anywhere near resembles that," Bolton said. The "largest planet in our Solar System is truly unique. We have 36 more flybys to study just how unique it really is."

The \$1.1 billion Juno mission launched

in August 2011 and reached Jupiter nearly five years later, on July 4 of this year. But Juno's instruments were turned off on this latter date, because mission team members wanted to focus on executing the make-or-break, 35-minute orbit-insertion

burn. NASA's Juno probe took this image of Jupiter's south pole on Aug. 27, 2016, from a distance of 58,700 miles (94,500 kilometers).

NASA's Juno probe took this image of Jupiter's south pole on Aug. 27, 2016, from a distance of 58,700 miles (94,500 kilometers).

So the Aug. 27 approach marked the first opportunity for the Juno team to photograph Jupiter up close and make detailed measurements with its suite of eight science instruments.

One of these instruments, the Jovian Infrared Auroral Mapper (JIRAM), captured views of Jupiter's north and south poles in infrared light, revealing hot spots that had never been seen before, mission scientists said.

Like Earth, Jupiter has auroras — dramatic light displays that dance above the planet's north and south polar regions. JIRAM got unprecedented looks at the powerful Jovian southern aurora, Juno team members said.

"We were amazed to see it for the first time," JIRAM co-investigator Alberto Adriani, of the Istituto di Astrofisica e Planetologia Spaziali (Institute of Astrophysics and Space Planetology) in Rome, said in the same statement.

(Source: space.com)

Experts warn booming seaweed industry

A rising number of valuable uses being found for seaweed -- from food and fertilizer to pharmaceuticals and industrial gels -- is driving the rapid growth of an industry that could easily and needlessly drop into some of the same pitfalls previously experienced in both agriculture and fish farming.

Drawing on the expertise of 21 institutions worldwide, UN University's Canadian-based Institute for Water, Environment and Health, and the Scottish Association for Marine Science, a UNU associate institute, published policy advice to the burgeoning, multi-billion dollar industry to help it avoid expensive mistakes and pursue best practices, backed by relevant case studies involving crops like bananas and shrimp.

The authors note that seaweed farms now produce more than 25 million metric tons annually. The global value of the crop, US\$6.4 billion (2014), exceeds that of the world's lemons and limes.

Seaweed farming has grown from the late 1950s into an industry offering sustainable employment in developing and emerging economies, notably China (which produces over half of the global total of seaweed -- 12.8 million tons) and Indonesia (27% of global production -- 6.5 million tons). Other major producers include the Republic of Korea and the Philippines.

With fisheries stagnating, cultivating seaweed helps fill a gap and "is widely perceived as one of the most environmentally benign types of aquaculture activity, as it does not require additional feed or fertilizers," the authors say. Consequently, it has been actively promoted by government initiatives, particularly in many developing countries where communities have reduced access to alternative livelihoods or are involved in destructive fishing methods like dynamite fishing.

Seaweed cultivation

Increasingly, seaweed cultivation is also being integrated with intensive fish farming to provide nursery grounds for



juvenile commercial fish and crustaceans, and to filter undesired nutrients, improve the marine environment and reduce eutrophication.

Indirectly, seaweed farming has reduced over-fishing in many regions, providing coastal communities with an alternative livelihood. In some places, women have become economically active for the first time. Most of the seaweed produced is used for human consumption with much of the remainder used largely as a nutritious additive to animal feed or as a fertilizer.

In the last decade, seaweed cultivation has been rapidly expanding thanks to growing demand for its use in pharmaceuticals, nutraceuticals and antimicrobial products, as well as biotechnological applications.

Seaweed today is used in some toothpastes, skin care products and cosmetics, paints and several industrial products, including adhesives, dyes and gels. Seaweed is also used in landscaping or to combat beach erosion.

Communities that come to depend on a single crop for their livelihood become highly vulnerable to a disease outbreak, as happened in the Philippines between 2011 and 2013 when a bacteria that whitens the branches of a valuable seaweed species caused a devastating loss to the communities involved, estimated at over US\$ 310 million.

(Source: EurekAlert)

Bank Sarmayeh Volleyball Team Crowns Champion in 1st Establishment Year

ECONOMY Iran's Bank Sarmayeh d e s k earned its fifth victory in a row at the 2016 Asian Men's Club Volleyball Championship on Sunday.

Iranian Bank Sarmayeh volleyball squad claimed championship in final 2016 Asian Men's Club Volleyball Championship with a 3-1 win victory over Al-Arabia of Qatar.

It should be noted that final round of 2016 Asian Men's Club Volleyball Championship was held on Wednesday August 31 in Myanmar.

The Iranian representative swept past Taiwan Power 3-0 (25-21, 26-24, 25-20) in Myanmar.

The awards presentation and closing ceremony will take place shortly after the final showdown.



The 2016 Asian Men's Club Volleyball Championship is the 17th staging of the AVC Club Championships.

The Public Relations Department of Bank Sarmayeh expressed its heartfelt congratulation to the bank's volleyball team squad.

SpaceX to shift Florida launches to new pad after explosion

SpaceX said on Friday it would shift Florida flights to a nearly completed second site after damage to its launch pad on Thursday from the explosion of a rocket.

The Federal Aviation Administration has sent seven people to Florida to supervise investigation of the disaster, said FAA spokesman Hank Price. The agency, which oversees U.S. commercial rocket launches, requires that SpaceX's flights be suspended pending results of the probe.

Any sign of rocket malfunction could require changes throughout the SpaceX fleet. After a SpaceX rocket exploded in June 2015, the program was paused for six months while defective brackets were replaced in Falcon 9 launch vehicles.

Damage to SpaceX's Launch Complex 40 at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station is still being assessed.

The "pad clearly incurred damage, but the scope has yet to be fully determined," SpaceX said in a statement late Friday.

Pictures of the launch site after the explosion showed the top portion of a launch pad tower, which is used to raise the rocket and support it vertically, had canted over.

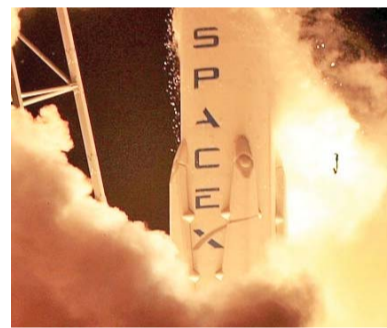
The U.S. Air Force said in a statement that damage appeared to be contained within SpaceX's launch complex.

The cause of the accident, which destroyed a \$200 million communications satellite, is under investigation. Meanwhile, more than 70 missions aboard Falcon rockets, worth more than \$10 billion, are on hold.

Space shuttle missions

With its launch pad likely facing major repairs, SpaceX said it would use a second Florida site, called 39A, which is located a few miles north at NASA's Kennedy Space Center and was used for space shuttle missions.

(Source: Reuters)



The pad is on schedule to be operational in November, SpaceX said. The company had planned to use the pad for the first time later this year for a test flight of its new Falcon Heavy rocket.

NASA spokesman Michael Curie said in an email that the site could be used for commercial and government flights, and SpaceX President Gwynne Shotwell in a May conference said one customer, SES SA of Luxembourg, had expressed interest in flying from the historic launch pad.

Other customers slated for Falcon 9 launches from Florida in 2016 are EchoStar Corp of Englewood, Colorado, South Korea's KT Sat and NASA. In addition, SpaceX has contracts to fly satellites for Iridium Communications Inc, Taiwan's National Space Organization and Seattle-based Spaceflight from its West Coast launch site at Vandenberg Air Force Base in California.

"Our number one priority is to safely and reliably return to flight for our customers," SpaceX said.

The last time a launch pad sustained heavy damage was in October 2014 when an Orbital Antares rocket exploded seconds after liftoff from Wallops Island, Virginia. The explosion sent debris falling back onto the launch site. The pad is due to return to service this month after \$15 million worth of repairs.

NEWS

Vast doughnut-shaped reef found in Australia

Australia's famed Great Barrier Reef may be in trouble -- but it's not all bad news coming out of the region.

Scientists have discovered a large doughnut-shaped coral reef in northern Queensland, sitting behind the iconic Great Barrier Reef.

The discovery of a large field of unusual circular mounds was announced Friday by a group of scientists from James Cook University, University of Sydney and Queensland University of Technology, who worked with laser data from the Australian Royal Navy.

Mardi McNeil from Queensland University of Technology and lead author on the new research paper called the discovery "vast."

"We've now mapped over 6,000 square kilometers (about 2,300 square miles)," McNeil said. "That's three times the previously estimated size, spanning from the Torres Strait to just north of Port Douglas."

The unique-looking structures are created by a green algae Halimeda bioherms, they said. When the algae dies, it forms white coralline-like residue of limestone, eventually building up large rings -- each 200 to 300 meters (655 to 984 feet) across and up to 10 meters (33 feet) deep at the center.

"We've known about these geological structures in the northern Great Barrier Reef since the 1970s and 80s, but never before has the true nature of their shape, size and vast scale been revealed," said Robin Beaman, a professor at James Cook University and part of the team that discovered the reef.

"Just like tree rings -- the rings can tell you the age of when it was formed and the environment it was formed in. So you've got 20 meter-thick piles of sediment that can tell you an awful lot about past oceanographic history," he said.

The discovery comes after the revelation in April that over 90% of the Great Barrier Reef shows signs of bleaching.

(Source: CNN)

Hermine will have the same impacts no matter what you call it

Like any good scientist, meteorologists are sticklers for terminology. If a certain phenomenon doesn't meet the exact criteria required to be called a certain term, it doesn't get that label. We go through this during all sorts of weather events -- blizzards, derechos, heat waves, and so on -- but this inside baseball never really causes any issues until hurricane season.

Tropical Storm Hermine is expected to transition into a "post-tropical cyclone" once it approaches the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast this weekend, but don't let the change in terminology fool you -- Hermine will have the same dangerous impacts no matter what you call it.

Bear with me for two paragraphs of weather geekery and then I'll get to why it matters. There are a couple of different types of low-pressure systems, or cyclones, that we see on a regular basis. You're most familiar with extratropical cyclones, which are the low-pressure systems that have features like cold fronts and bring us the majority of our interesting weather here in the United States. Extratropical cyclones gather their energy from the jet stream. Diverging winds entering and exiting the jet stream create a void of sorts in the upper atmosphere that air from the surface rushes upward to fill -- this rising air creates low pressure at the surface, and the stronger the divergence gets, the stronger the low-pressure system can grow.

Tropical cyclones are low-pressure systems that gather their energy from thunderstorms that feed off of the warm ocean waters beneath them. Under the right conditions, an organized group of thunderstorms can cause enough air to rise from the surface that it creates a center of low pressure. Stronger thunderstorms can suck up more air from the surface, which creates a stronger center of low pressure, and this cycle continues until the thunderstorms that surround the center of circulation eventually die out. (Source: Forbes)

Alien megastructure mystery a step closer to being solved?

The mystery surrounding the star KIC 8462852 may be a step closer to being solved. Scientists have discovered another very young star that exhibits huge dimming in the same way the "alien megastructure" star does -- the reason for which appears to be a massive disk of dust.

A star will get dimmer when something passes in front of it -- a planet the size of Jupiter, for example, would block around 1% of our Sun's light. However, this star was showing dips of up to 20%, meaning something enormous must be blocking its light.

A number of proposals were put forward, the most out-there being that an advanced alien civilization had built a huge structure around it to harness its energy. Scientists are yet to come up with a plausible explanation.

EPIC 204278916 is a young star, between five and 11 million years old, and was discovered with NASA's Kepler spacecraft two years ago. It is about the same size as our Sun, but with half the mass. Like KIC 8462852, scientists discovered unusual dips in its brightness -- only far more pronounced. The light from this star dipped as much as 65% for around 25 days over a 78 day monitoring period. (Source: ibtimes.com)

Bank Shahr Names Eternal Management Figure

ECONOMY Chief Executive of d e s k Bank Shahr Dr. Hossein Mohammad Pourzarandi was appointed as eternal management figure among 10 executive companies and organizations.

Public Relations and Intl. Affairs Department of the bank announced the above statement.

Valuable and outstanding services of the bank in relevant field has been cited as the main reason of selecting the company as "eternal figure".

This prestigious seminar was held at Iran National Library and Islamic Republic of Iran Documents Centers and in the presence of senior managers of large companies and institutes, university professors and lecturers.

With the evaluation made in this re-



gard, the senior official of the bank was introduced as eternal figure by experts and jury members.

In this seminar, top and exemplary managers were awarded with Golden Trophy thanks to their performance, achievements and well-grounded documents submitted to the jury members.

NEWS

Iranian researchers use eggshell to measure environmentally detrimental substance



ENVIRONMENT TEHRAN — A group of Iranian researchers succeeded in extracting mercury (II) using soluble eggshell membrane protein, which can be used to measure the amount of this toxic substance causing environmental pollution, ISNA news agency reported.

Three faculty members of the Azarbaijan Shahid Madani University, namely Habib Razmi, Javad Mousavi, and Rahim Mohammad-Rezaei are of the researchers leading this project.

Mercury is highly toxic and there had been great efforts to measure the amount of this toxic substance causing environmental pollution which were all time-consuming, expensive and require high-tech equipment.

Therefore, researchers have been trying to find methods which is cheap and the same time accurate; what the Iranian scientist achieved is one of these methods.

The article describing how the new finding can contribute to the mercury detection in the environment was published in Microchimica Acta Journal.

More than 300 million at risk due to polluted waters: UN



A recent report by the United Nations revealed that increasingly polluted rivers in Asia, Africa, and Latin America could bring disease to over 300 million people and threaten farming and fisheries in these countries.

It estimated that 164 million people are at risk in Africa, 134 million in Asia and 25 million in Latin America.

The United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) said some 3.4 million people die annually due to diseases contracted from dirty water, such as diarrhea, cholera, and typhoid. Many of these ailments are usually caused by human waste in the water.

The report showed that the rise of dirty water can be blamed on fertilizer and pesticide runoff, factory waste and increase in untreated sewage into bodies of water, such as lakes and rivers.

"The solution is not only to build more sewers but to treat wastewater," the UNEP said in a statement, as per Phys.org.

Many people in these countries still rely on open bodies of water for their drinking water, putting them at grave risk for life-threatening water-borne diseases.

Eco-Business reported that lead author Dietrich Borchardt said the water quality problem and the number of people affected are "much more severe" than they have expected.

In an interview with the Thomas Reuters Foundation, Borchardt said the trend of worsening water conditions was at critical level, with the challenge lying at implementing proper management of these bodies of water.

Ensuring access to water and sanitation for all is one of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals in the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. It aims to achieve access to safe water and sustainable and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all, as well as the improvement of water quality by reducing water pollution.

According to the UN, at least 1.8 billion people in the world use a drinking water source that is contaminated by feces. Water scarcity also affects more than 40 percent of the global population, and 2.4 billion do not have access to basic sanitation services, such as toilets.

(Source: Nature World News)



Without water, everything withers

Asiatic cheetah extinction claim categorically denied

ENVIRONMENT TEHRAN — Morteza Eslami, head of the Iranian Cheetah Society (ICS), categorically refuted a report claiming that Asiatic cheetahs could be extinct as soon as the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 2017).

In recent days there had been a huge fuss over the dwindling numbers of female cheetahs by quoting Eslami as saying that only two female cheetahs have remained in Iran's wild who may or may not survive through winter.

However the head of ICS rejected the claim on Wednesday over a press conference deeming it a journalist's misunderstanding of what he said stating "only two female Asiatic cheetahs are spotted in Iran and in case the current trend continues they may not survive by the end of the current decade (in five years)."

Over the course of the conference, Asiatic Cheetah Conservation Project Manager Houman Jowkar, emphasized the critical situation of the Asiatic cheetah as the population is dropping and that smallest changes can worsen the situation.

Elsewhere in his remarks Jowkar nullified the claim about two remaining female cheetahs on the grounds that it is not easy to decide the exact number of the remaining cheetahs without comprehensive data.

"Since 2002 we have monitored the cheetahs' population using camera traps, but even so we cannot decide the exact number of the cheetahs using cameras," Jowkar said, adding, "as in Semnan province we failed



to capture any pictures of the cheetahs for two months but soon after we collected the cameras someone could take a picture of a cheetah with its three cubs with a

personal camera."

A camera trap, also known as trail camera, is used to capture images of animals in the wild with as little human interference as possible. It is a remotely activated camera that is equipped with a motion sensor or an infrared sensor, or uses a light beam as a trigger.

He further highlighted that as experience suggests female cheetahs are less likely to be captured on camera traps as on average less than 10 percent of the photo captured by the camera traps belong to the female ones.

"Considering the camera traps shortcomings now we chose to use genetic tracking of the animals using their feces for both counting them and collecting valuable data on their population, and age and gender ratio among them," he noted, "we will start sampling the feces by autumn."

Mentioning the 6 cheetahs killed in car accidents in a road linking Semnan to Mashhad he ensured the public that they are taking measures to enhance the road safety for the animals especially for the winter when they move more than usual by constructing underpass and overpasses and fencing the area.

"After doing researches we believe that underpasses are more suitable for carnivores; there are currently 30 underpasses in this area," he explained, adding, "we are also planning on fencing the area; the budget is allocated and soon the project will launch."

Enthusiast birdwatcher gives his painted birds "personal expression"

INTERVIEW

By Farnaz Heidari

Lars Jonsson is widely regarded as one of the greatest bird artists of all time--no other painter of his generation captures the true look and feel of birds in the wild so beautifully. He has also great paintings of birds of Iran.

The decline in bird populations in the past quarter century has been unprecedented and severe. It is estimated that no more than 25% of the avifauna seen in the late 1970s is now found in Iran. Birds of Europe with North Africa and the Middle East is a magnificent ornithology guide book that covers some of the avifauna of Iran. The Tehran Times had an interview with this Swedish ornithological illustrator.

■ What inspired you to paint animals and landscapes?

A: I started to paint birds before I have any memories, at the age of four. I am convinced that it was a neighborhood where I grew up that inspired me to watch birds and wildlife. Also I started to spend the summers on the island of Gotland where I saw a lot of birds.

■ As an excellent painter please tell me why you have strong focus on birds?

A: Birds did inspire me from early childhood, and they still inspire me more than any other group of animals or subjects. For me they are also a very integral part of the landscape, they represent the landscape where they live, as if they are a concentration of the color and the mood of a certain landscape, be it the northern woods, the open sea or the deserts. Birds have always since the early cultures been representing bearer of messages, and still many people when they see a bird close up think that they have a message. I guess that I still seek something, something hidden beyond their outward look that can open my mind to another world.

■ What are major differences among normal paintings and illustrations for field guides? How much time



you need for these pictures?

A: Basically I look upon illustrations and paintings as different branches of the same tree. They are both a part of me. An illustration for a field guide though have very precise purpose, to help people recognize a bird and that comes with strict limitations in the expression. My free paintings, which are usually done in the field, while looking through a spotting scope, show basically an impression of the bird. It makes me much happier to exclude details or use light effects. Still I

always want to have what I call "presence" in both my illustrations and in my paintings. The feeling of being right there, experiencing the living bird outdoors, right now. These days I do very few direct illustrations and concentrate more on my artwork. When you are painting for a field guide, the research is very important and you need to plan the plate very carefully, it takes much more time. I work rather fast when it comes to painting in watercolor outdoor, I may finish a smaller painting in one or two hours.



■ Is it any difference among bird species in painting e.g. which one is more difficult: painting a sparrow or sketching an eagle?

A: They are certainly different. One difference is of course how familiar you are with a specific family. When I go to the tropics, and see totally new genera it may take much more time to get to know the characteristics in the shape and postures of a bird. One of my big challenges is often the feet and the legs of birds. Just like when you paint the human figure the weight and posture, the whole expression of an "animal" starts with the legs.

■ In all your sketches especially in "Birds of Europe with North Africa and the Middle East", birds appeared in different poses; please tell me about subtle differences and characteristics of birds?

A: It is very important for me to have something to tell about the birds, something that I have experienced myself. For me birds are always individuals, although they may be a representative of a species, I want to give them a "personal expression" which usually comes from a slightly different posture, the angle of the head, or small details that give each bird its own specific look. For me the expression of the face is very important. Therefore I basically only paint, when I have seen the bird myself and so I feel comfortably to paint it, when I have looked at the bird and have my own experience, my story is ready to tell. As a birder and painter I know that certain species are more characteristic in certain postures, they express their species more obvious in a certain angle or light. That could be different for each species, or plumage.

■ How much time and work supported the publication of this book which is an important landmark and the best avian reference up until now?

A: I started in 1974 with five field-guides divided into five different habitats. These were published between 1976 and 1980 (1978 to 1981 in English), then I started to revise them between 1985 and 1991 and put them in one volume. Altogether took ten years.

IN FOCUS Tasnim/Mohammad Aqaiepar



A group of journalists and athletes in collaboration with officials tasked to restore Lake Urmia are cleaning the surrounding area.



The United States is committed to bringing the perpetrators of the attempted coup against Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan to justice, President Barack Obama said on Sunday.

Ankara accuses the U.S.-based cleric Fethullah Gulen of being behind the July uprising.

At talks with Erdogan on the sidelines of the G20 summit, Obama said: "We will make sure that those who carried out these activities are brought to justice."

Tensions between the two NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) allies have risen sharply since the failed coup attempt against Erdogan on July 15, with Ankara launching a wide-ranging crackdown and demanding that the U.S. extradite Gulen.

An exiled former Erdogan ally living in the eastern state of Pennsylvania, Gulen strongly denies any involvement with the bid to overthrow Erdogan.

The dispute has soured public perceptions of the United States in Turkey and risks undermining a deep security relationship.

U.S. officials insist they will extradite

U.S. to help bring Turkey coup plotters to justice: Obama



Bahraini courts sentence 18 citizens to years in prison

Bahraini courts have handed down jail terms to 18 people over a range of allegations, among them attacks against police, as the House of Khalifah regime presses ahead with its crackdown on critics.

An appeals court upheld a five-year imprisonment verdict against a Bahraini national on charges of causing an accident with a police vehicle. The court also ordered the defendant to pay 250 Bahraini dinars (some 665 dollars) in fines, the Arabic-language Bahrain Mirror website reported.

In another case, the appeals court sentenced nine people each to five years of imprisonment over allegations of beating a policeman, injuring an Asian national and taking part in a gathering of more than five people.

Bahrain's Supreme Criminal Court also convicted six other citizens of participating in a gathering of more than five people and inciting violence, sentencing them to seven years in prison.

Another Bahraini got a 3-year jail term at the same court and was fined 300 Bahraini dinars (about 797 dollars).

In a separate case, a court increased the jail term handed down to a person

from seven to nine years.

Setting fire to tires during anti-regime gatherings and spreading terror among people were among the other charges brought against the defendants.

The developments come as human rights organizations have cast doubt on the independence of the Bahraini judiciary while all the defendants' confessions seem to have been obtained under torture.

Bahrain, a close ally of the United States in the Persian Gulf region, has seen a wave of anti-regime protests since mid-February 2011.

Scores of people have been killed and hundreds of others wounded or detained amid Manama's ongoing crackdown on dissent and widespread discrimination against the Shia majority.

Several rights groups have frequently censured Bahrain for rampant human rights abuses against opposition activists and anti-regime demonstrators.

Earlier this week, Amnesty International called on the kingdom to suspend its repression of peaceful critics and opposition figures.

(Source: Press TV)

Dozens dead as fuel tanker hits bus in Afghanistan

At least 35 people have been killed in Afghanistan when a fuel tanker collided with a passenger bus, causing a massive explosion, according to local officials.

Sunday's incident happened on a major highway connecting the southern province of Kandahar with the capital city of Kabul.

Bismillah Afghanmal, provincial governor of Zabul province where the accident happened, told the AFP news agency that the passenger bus was on its way from Kandahar to Kabul when it collided with a fuel tanker in the Jildak area in Zabul.

"In the accident, 35 people were killed and more than 20 others were wounded," he said.

Ghulam Jilani Farahi, deputy police chief of Zabul, said authorities could identify only six bodies and the rest were completely burned, adding that the bus was carrying more than 60 people.

The driver of the oil tanker and a passenger died immediately after the truck burst into flames during the early morning hours on Sunday, officials said.

The Kabul-Kandahar highway passes through areas prone to conflict and

Gulen if Turkey can present proof he was actually involved.

The meeting in Hangzhou was the two leaders' first face-to-face encounter since the coup attempt.

Obama said the U.S. was committed to "investigating and bringing the perpetrators of these illegal actions to justice" and assured Erdogan of American cooperation with Turkish authorities.

Since July, Ankara has detained, removed, or arrested tens of thousands of people within the judiciary, military, education system and police force for alleged links to Gulen's movement or the coup itself.

U.S.-Turkey tensions have also been strained by Turkey's bombing of Kurdish positions in northern Syria.

The targets included Kurdish groups that are backed by Washington and seen by it as integral to the fight against the Islamic State group.

Ankara accuses them of being in league with the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK/Partiya Karkerên Kurdistanê), a group which has claimed responsibility for deadly attacks inside Turkey.

(Source: AFP)

many drivers are known to drive at high speed in the hope of avoiding attacks.

Afghanistan has some of the world's most dangerous roads, often in dilapidated condition, and traffic rules are seldom enforced.

Many in the country rely on old and rickety passenger vehicles, meaning that high casualty accidents are common.

In May, at least 73 people were killed when two passenger buses and an oil tanker burst into flames in a head-on collision in eastern Ghazni province, in one of the country's worst road accidents.

The World Bank last November signed off a \$250m grant to upgrade roads crossing Afghanistan's Hindu Kush Mountains, crucial trade links that are often closed in winter by snow.

Insecurity is growing across Afghanistan as the Taliban press on with a 15-year battle against the Western-backed government.

Afghan troops have struggled to stave off nationwide attacks since NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) forces ended their combat mission at the end of 2014.

(Source: agencies)

Rights group urges probe into Israeli police improper conduct

The Israeli human rights group, B'Tselem, has called for an investigation into Tel Aviv's police conduct in the case of a Palestinian man, who was threatened with arrest while reporting death threats against himself.

Back in March, Imad Abushamsiya, a Palestinian volunteer with B'Tselem, recorded the summary execution of an unarmed Palestinian who had already been wounded by Israeli fire in the occupied West Bank city of al-Khalil, aka Hebron, for an alleged stabbing attack.

Abushamsiya's footage showed Israeli soldiers and paramedics bustling around Abdel Fattah al-Sharif as he laid motionless on the ground, before Sergeant Elor Azaria shouted "stand back!" and fatally shot the Palestinian victim in the head at close range.

The video sparked widespread international condemnation. The Israeli soldier is also on trial for manslaughter.

Recently, Abushamsiya told The Independent that he had received death threats from Israeli settlers. He said that posters were distributed calling for his death, adding, "I live only 100 meters from the settlers and I am



scared for me and my family's safety."

Late last month, he decided to lodge a complaint with Israeli police over the threats.

However, after several days of going to the Hebron police station, "When Mr. Abushamsiya tried to explain the matter to him, the officer told him to leave, and even

threatened to arrest him if he did not," B'Tselem said.

Gaby Lasky, the lawyer representing B'Tselem, said the group has sent police a letter on behalf of the Palestinian man demanding that officials launch an investigation into Abushamsiya's complaint and "properly address the death threats he has received."

"There is no need to elaborate on the egregious conduct of the police, which has obstinately refused to fulfill its fundamental duty and admit my client's urgent complaint using a variety of different excuses, and has treated my client with brazen disrespect, seriously violating his dignity," the letter read.

The occupied territories have witnessed new tensions ever since Israeli forces introduced restrictions on the entry of Palestinian worshippers into the al-Aqsa Mosque compound in East al-Quds (Jerusalem) in August 2015.

At least 236 Palestinians have lost their lives at the hands of Israeli forces in the tensions since the beginning of last October. The violence has also killed at least 32 Israelis, two Americans, an Eritrean and a Sudanese.

(Source: agencies)

Gabon opposition chief Jean Ping calls for calm

Gabon's opposition Leader Jean Ping says he has asked his people to "calm down," as post-election violence claimed more lives and the government's crackdown continued.

Ping, however, who had already declared himself the winner of last week's presidential election, insisted that the "truth will finally happen," saying President Ali Bongo rigged the vote.

Ping called for a total recount under supervision of the United Nation and European Union.

Bongo, who has been president

since 2009, was declared victorious on Wednesday by a razor-thin margin of just under 6,000 votes. Violence has since erupted in different parts of Gabon, leaving several people killed and hundreds of others arrested.

On Saturday, two people were killed, including a policeman, the first member of the Gabonese security forces listed as victim in the unrest.

The other was a young man who, according to witnesses was shot dead by security forces.

Interior Minister Pacome Moubey

let-Boubeya deplored the death of the policeman, who he says was shot in Oyem, the main town in the country's north.

Moubeylet-Boubeya said that, despite the ongoing violence, "we are seeing life returning to Libreville," with businesses beginning to reopen their doors.

However, the Gabonese capital has been without internet access since Wednesday.

Across the country, the unrest has paralyzed transportation, with bread and other fresh foods in short supply, the situation further aggravated by widespread

looting.

At a suburbs of Libreville, residents on Saturday were preparing to bury, another young man, Jeffrey Bidzo Bidgong, who was killed on Friday.

The Archbishop of Libreville on Saturday called on both the ruling party and the opposition to avoid an "imminent crisis".

The post-vote violence in this small but oil-rich central African nation has sparked international concern, with top diplomats calling for restraint as rights groups raised alarm over the use of "excessive force".

(Source: agencies)

Hong Kongers are heading to the polls for the first major election since pro-democracy street protests rocked the Chinese territory in 2014.

About 7.12 percent of registered voters had turned out three hours after the opening of the polls on Sunday.

According to government statistics, that's little below the 7.48 percent who turned out in 2012 but more than the 5.66 percent who voted in 2008. The vote for Legislative Council lawmakers in the specially administered Chinese city is seen as the most crucial election since its handover from Britain in 1997. The outcome could pave the way for a fresh round of political confrontations over Beijing's control of the city.

The city's widely unpopular Beijing-backed Leader, Leung Chun-ying, cast his ballot earlier on Sunday and urged the public to turn out and vote.

At stake is the power to keep Leung and his government in check. Pro-democracy lawmakers currently control 27 of 70 seats in the Legislative Council, compared with 43 held by lawmakers friendly to Beijing.

The democrats are fighting to keep control of at least a third of the seats, which gives them veto power to block government attempts to enact unpopular legislation, such as Beijing's controversial election revamp that triggered the 2014 street protests.

The pro-democracy vote, though, risks being split by the emergence of a new generation of radical activists. They compete with moderate mainstream parties to challenge formidable pro-Beijing rivals. The growing calls for independence highlight frustration among residents, especially the young, who are chafing under Beijing's tightening hold.

A spate of incidents, including the disappearance of five Hong Kong booksellers who later resurfaced in mainland Chinese detention, has aroused fears that Beijing is renegeing on its promise of wide autonomy for Hong Kong under a "one country, two systems" framework.

(Source: agencies)

JUMP

Enthusiast birdwatcher gives his painted birds "personal expression"

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■ **Why do you think bird-watching is in all forms positive?**

A: It is something you could basically do anywhere on Earth and at any time. There are birds in the city as well as in remote areas as Antarctica and Arctic. I also think some knowledge of birds, insects and plants helps to understand better the habitat. The landscape and the history can be told by seeing the changes in the flora and fauna. Bird watching is also something that can be done with great pleasure at any stage of knowledge.

■ **Why birds of Middle East drawing your attention?**

A: I always like the colors of dry habitats, the desert and the steppes. At the age of 18 I travelled to North Africa and through Sahara and I was inspired by the tonality and the wonderful effects of light that played over rocks and sand, and also the herbs and trees that can withstand the dry climate. As a young birder I had a dream to travel to Afghanistan, but I just been in Turkey, Kazakhstan and in Oman.

■ **What was the most memorable experience in your journey to Middle East?**

A: It is hard to say, but I guess my travel to Turkey 1978 was great. I remember when I had close encounters with Lammergeier and Caspian Snowcock after a very strenuous hike up to the top.

■ **Please point to some of your records in this region. How much time you considered in this region?**

A: I have had a special interest in Siberian Gull and other forms of Large White-headed Gulls, and I have done several trips to Bahrain and Oman in order to study those on the wintering grounds. I was the first one who figured out the various subspecies of Gulls that wintered in the Persian Gulf.

■ **Do you like to gear your investigations towards birds of Iran?**

A: I would be thrilled to visit Iran, and hope to have an opportunity.

U.S. and its Western allies know Saudi Arabia backs terrorists: Chomsky

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It is the main ideological feature of Takfiri terrorist groups — particularly the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Daesh) — that declare people of other faiths and beliefs as "infidels" and, based on "decrees" from Saudi "clerics," rule that they should be killed.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Chomsky said the U.S. was against the establishment of democracy in Arab dictatorships in the Middle East following a series of revolutions and uprisings in such countries that began in 2011.

He said most people in the region oppose American foreign policy, and dissent in Arab dictatorships with which the U.S. has good ties is quickly suppressed.

He also said that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict will continue as long as the U.S. continues to provide unlimited support for the Tel Aviv regime.

"As long as occupation continues, things will take a turn for the worse, too. As long as the U.S. invariably supports Israel, there will be no kind of pressure to change the policy of occupation," he said.

(Source: Press TV)

Bangladesh executes last prominent Jamaat leader

Bangladesh has executed a wealthy tycoon and top financial backer of its largest opposition party after his family paid him a final visit.

Mir Quasem Ali, a key leader of the Jamaat-e-Islami party, was hanged on Saturday after being convicted by a controversial war crimes tribunal for offences committed during the 1971 independence conflict with Pakistan.

"The execution took place at 10:35 pm (1635GMT)," said Anisul Huq, the country's law and justice minister.

Ali had been imprisoned at the Kashimpur high security jail in Gazipur, some 40 km north of the capital Dhaka.

After the Supreme Court rejected his final appeal against the penalty on Tuesday, Ali declined to seek a presidential pardon, which would require an admission of guilt.

Ali was a key commander of the pro-Pakistan militia in the southern port city of Chittagong during the 1971 war, and later became a shipping and real estate tycoon.

Past convictions and executions of high-profile Jamaat leaders have triggered violence in Bangladesh, which is polarized along political lines.

Russel Sheikh, a senior Gazipur police official, told the AFP news agency that officials took "highest security measures" ahead of the execution for fear of violence by his supporters.

"More than 1,000 police have been deployed in the district," Sheikh said.

The Supreme Court's decision to reject Ali's appeal was a major blow for the Jamaat-e-Islami party, which the 63-year-old tycoon had helped to revive in recent decades.

Five opposition leaders have been executed for war crimes since 2013. Ali was the last prominent leader of Jamaat to face execution.

The war crimes tribunal set up by the government has divided the country, with supporters of Jamaat and the main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) branding it a sham aimed at eliminating their leaders.

Ali was convicted in November 2014 of a series of crimes during Bangladesh's war of separation from Pakistan, including the abduction and murder of a young independence fighter.

His son Mir Ahmed Bin Quasem, who was part of his legal defense team, was allegedly abducted by security forces earlier in August, which critics say was an attempt to sow fear and prevent protests against the execution.

(Source: AFP)

FORMULA 1

Rosberg wins in Italy to cut Hamilton's lead

Germany's Nico Rosberg won the Italian Grand Prix for dominant Mercedes on Sunday to cut team mate Lewis Hamilton's Formula One world championship lead to two points with seven races remaining.

Triple world champion Hamilton, who had been on pole position as favourite to take his 50th career victory and third in a row at Monza, finished second after a slow start gifted Rosberg the race.



Rosberg's first victory at the historic circuit outside Milan was his seventh of the season, one more than Hamilton, and 21st of his career as well as second in a row after Belgium last weekend.

"I'm feeling great, the race is on with Lewis. It is always going to be a great battle and I look forward to what is to come," he said from the podium as an army of Ferrari fans flooded the pit straight.

The German also broke into Italian before attempting to win over the crowd with a rousing sing-along.

Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel, who mistakenly put on the winner's cap before the podium and handed it on to Rosberg, finished third to a much bigger roar from the fans yearning for a first Ferrari victory of the season at their home race.

Finnish team mate Kimi Raikkonen was fourth, with Australian Daniel Ricciardo fifth for Red Bull in a race with little drama on the track but more atmosphere than most of the others combined off it.

Hamilton now has 250 points, Rosberg 248 with Singapore's night race the next destination.

"I don't know really what happened at the start...I did everything normal," said Hamilton.

With the race effectively won and lost in the opening seconds, with Hamilton dropping to sixth place at the end of the first lap and then climbing back with pitstop strategy and just two simple overtakes, Rosberg had an untroubled run to victory.

The German took the chequered flag 15 seconds clear of Hamilton, with both Mercedes drivers on the same one-stop strategy compared to the two made by Ferrari.

"Lewis had too much wheelspin at the start and this cost him the victory," said Mercedes motorsport head Toto Wolff. "From then on, it was basically over."

Ricciardo provided the best move of the race, passing the Williams of Valtteri Bottas with a sensational overtake into the first chicane.

"It was amazing, he came from so far back...his hand gesture afterwards summed it up. He looked pretty pleased with himself," commented Red Bull principal Christian Horner.

Bottas's sixth place still allowed Williams to leapfrog Force India in the constructors' championship and retake fourth place.

Dutch teenager Max Verstappen was seventh for Red Bull, ahead of Mexican Sergio Perez for Force India and Williams' Brazilian Felipe Massa.

German driver Nico Hulkenberg took the final point for Force India in 10th place. (Source: Reuters)

Wales must build on Euro 2016 heroics, says Williams

Wales captain Ashley Williams says he is «desperate» to reach the 2018 World Cup and has vowed they will not dwell on their success at this year's European Championship.

Under manager Chris Coleman, Wales lost to eventual winners Portugal in the semi-finals of Euro 2016 in their first major tournament appearance since 1958.

Ahead of their first World Cup qualifier against Moldova in Cardiff on Monday, Williams says that they will not be resting on their laurels.

«It's important we don't keep going on about it but use the experience from there (Euro 2016) to move into the next campaign, knowing what's required to qualify,» the defender told reporters on Sunday. «I'd use the same word as the manager in being «desperate».

«Having tasted it, we would love to get back there,» he added. «We want that elation that we had this summer. We want that again in our careers.»

Williams, who ended his eight-year stay at Swansea City when he moved to Everton in August, believes that Wales's performances in France will serve them well as they look to qualify for Russia 2018.

«We have had a couple of videos in meetings. The first one we got together and had a video about the Euros just to relive a couple of those memories and relive what it was like,» the 32-year-old said.

«It was important to acknowledge what we did and it was also important to put that to bed a little bit. Use the experience of it and move on.»

Wales and Moldova are joined by Austria, Serbia, Ireland and Georgia in Group D of Europe's World Cup qualifying section, with only the group winners guaranteed a spot in the tournament finals. (Source: Reuters)



Jurgen Klopp: I've fallen in love with Liverpool

Jurgen Klopp is giving a quick tour of the bookshelf in his office. He pulls out one title. Denken Hilft Zwar, Nutzt Aber Nichts.

'Thinking is good, but doesn't help,' he translates. Next to it, in similar vein, Schnelles Denken, Langsames Denken. Quick thinking, slow thinking.

Liverpool's manager is obviously a student of motivational psychology. He pulls a face. 'I like to read, but not this,' he says. 'That's why they're here, not at home with me.'

The shelf, it transpires is the repository for people's misconceptions about him. There is a Metallica CD, too, Master Of Puppets, sent by a fan who took his heavy metal analogy from a while ago seriously. It remains in its cellophane wrapper, unheard.

Klopp had compared Arsene Wenger's style of play to the symphony, his own to hard rock.

'It was a joke,' he said. 'I'm not into heavy metal. And the psychology?' In Germany, they all thought I was a bit mental, very emotional,' he says. 'So they were convinced this is what I am interested in. In Germany, each psychologist will send me a letter, those who coach the mentality of sport, all that stuff. He grimaces again. 'And it's not for me.' Klopp seems far happier with a gift on the wall of his PAs office. Jurgen's Map of Britain. It shows every team in the English league, with colours, and where they play.

Klopp says he thought Bournemouth was a very nice part of the world. And he is genuinely astonished, still, at how many clubs there are in London.

'In England you have stadiums in the middle of the city, he says, slightly awed. 'In London, you'll be walking around and — "Oh, there's the ground". Every area of the city has a Premier League club. They all survive, they all exist with enough money and that's good.

'We don't have that in Germany. If we had a stadium in the city, the people would be telling you, "Hey, it's Monday night — turn the sound down". Here it's tradition.

'But then you have not so much room. We fit the pitch here — the dressing rooms, "Where can we put them?" So you go to the smallest room in the whole stadium to change your clothes. Everybody is used to it. But when you come from outside, you think, "That is the dressing room for all of us?"

'It's kind of nice, but you cannot imagine it before you arrive. Crystal Palace is the smallest dressing room. There is even a pillar in the middle so if you stand at one point you cannot see your players.'

He mimes peering round a column. In that moment, he has a big grin; like Bernie Winters emerging from behind the theatre curtain. Eeee.

It is all in the face, of course, with Klopp. That face and its repertoire of incredible expressions. YouTube has reels devoted to them. The Liverpool Echo ran a photo montage of 26.

The most memorable, the one that probably attracted the attention of all those psychologists, has him gritting and baring his teeth at the same time with a wild look in his eyes; a manic snarl of rage, encouragement or simple abandonment that he says is entirely involuntary.

'That is my face for sport,' he explains, resigned. 'When I was a kid, when I played tennis, that's how I was. I don't like it, but I have to accept it. I cannot change my face in this situation.

People want me to change it. They tell me, "Jurgen, you have to, it's not good."

'I try with everything I have, but it doesn't work. I'm that kind of person, I think. I sleep like that.

'If I see a little baby I make the same face. "Oh come here, how cute you are."

He smiles in a way that is, frankly, terrifying. 'It's not nice, I know.

'It looks emotional, but it looks aggressive too. One moment, "Oh he's so emotional" — the next, "Woah, he looks like a killer!" It was the face he was pulling the night he was sent off during Borussia Dortmund's match with Napoli. September 18, 2013.

'How many mistakes are you allowed?' Klopp asked the fourth official. 'Because if it's 15, you've got one left.'

He recalls: 'By the time I said it, I had already



turned round and was on the way to the stand. They had no sense of humour, they were not on my side.'

Yet while Klopp's manic touchline persona engages with the passion of English football, his real world, he believes, is detachment. The ability to stand back from the hype and hoopla and solve the problems of a football club.

And Liverpool have those. They have not won the title in the modern Premier League era. They are in a transfer arms race with Manchester and, to a lesser extent, London, going against rockets with muskets. Liverpool spent less than any other elite club this summer, including Leicester. Their outlay was slightly more than Watford.

In net terms, Klopp actually showed a profit. That is not the work of a man who is a mess of unpredictability and emotion. He states he is rational, studious, dull even; interested in structure and the long term. If he stays to the end of his new contract at Liverpool, he will have lasted seven years; as he did at Mainz, as he did at Dortmund.

'This is a crazy time where football is, for some people, the most serious thing in the world, but no-one really cares about it,' he says. 'Look at the transfers: all everyone wants to know is what happens. They never want to know what it means behind, for this team, for that team.

'It's just, "Come on — give me the next big signing". To be cool enough to stay out of this colourful world around football, that is what I do. I'm not part of that, I'm not there, I don't enjoy it.

'My car knows only one way — home to here, here to home. There are more exciting lives around. The day I step back, I will never miss any of the world around football. Without being the most confident person in the world, I think I am the right person for Liverpool.

I can't score goals and I can't make saves. I am not saying I am the best manager in the world, either. But I'm quite good and I am one of those managers who is really interested in structure.

I don't sleep too long. Here is a moment when the club needs consistency in this chair — they need the right person and I am the right person, because most of the time I am really serious, but normal.

I am not saying there was no-one else around. The club would have found another manager, and I would have found another job — maybe an easier job. But I liked this club before I came here.

'It wasn't a big decision for me. It was the only club that could have broken up my holiday. I had enough offers, I was saying, "No, no, sorry, not now . . ." and then came Liverpool. And I know how this sounds, and what people will say, but I fell in love.

'I felt responsible really quickly. It's like if you are in my inner circle, my family, my friends. I felt Liverpool was both: family and friends.'

So what did he fall in love with?

'We can start with the colour,' Klopp continues, patting a vividly red sofa cushion. 'Then the stadium, the people in this club. I am not the sort of person who comes in and says, "You — sacked". That is not me, "Don't like his face, don't like his face..."

'I like to give first, second, even third chances. We are human beings. If I was judged on my first mistake, I wouldn't be here.

'So I felt faith, and that is how life should be. 'In football everybody is under such pressure, all they try to do is keep safe. I make this decision, then this decision, and now I am safe for, what, three weeks?

I know about pressure but I don't feel it. I would never make a decision for how it looks outside, to be safe. Now everyone wants an £80million signing, or just the next signing, the latest signing. But I would never buy a player for that — just to do it. We have bought enough, and if I am convinced, I am convinced. It's for the good of the club, not for the good of me.

I'm not that important.

'There are big competitors in this league, but we can't say, "If we had this signing we would beat them, and if not, no chance". What is that? It is not important that one or two clubs have more than us. It is not important who the best player in the world was last year.

'It is important who will be the best next year. As long as we can be in the race, we have a chance. I am not jealous of anybody else. I've never been jealous. I love this game because it is a team game. Trust, faith and togetherness.

'If one minute you're great and the next, "Get out", that's not honest. And honesty is one of the most important things in life.

'We are not all marionettes, we cannot be thrown away each day. If you only change the people, without solving the problems, then the



next person will have the same problems. Work on solutions, work on the future. That's what we do.

'The atmosphere around this club is how football should be. But with so much emotion there will always be impatience. You cannot be emotional and then switch and say, but now I am cool and we can wait two years. It is always — now!

'So the Burnley game was a big hit in our face. I can't control this expectation. People are allowed to dream. All I can say is that if you really love this club then you need to believe in our way, and that way is not always going to be easy, but I think we will do it.'

When he was five, Klopp and his father drove from their home in Stuttgart to Munich to watch the Olympic men's 100 metres final. He can still remember everything about the day, and the race.

Valery Borzov, of the Soviet Union, took gold in a time of 10.14 seconds. Jobst Hirscht, a German, came sixth.

It was the beginning of a lifelong fascination for Klopp, with the Olympics, and athleticism.

In particular, he marvels at the way the best competitors can reach a physical peak whenever it is required, the way they are seemingly born ready; some footballers, too.

'This summer was the first Olympic Games I did not see too much,' he says. 'The timings were just wrong for our pre-season.

'Usually, I watch everything. The slow horse-riding, anything. I have no idea what they are doing, but I like it. I like each kind of sport, every kind of challenge, these people who train so hard for four years and then it all comes down to a matter of seconds. Everything. And it all has to go right; Usain Bolt, every time, it has to be right. That's not just about being quick: three times in a row, 12 years, always right.

'That's not just talent. In my managerial career, I learned some of the best players have a physical ability you cannot train. A better base: they don't fall. It's not that they work 500 per cent harder. They might have a little bit of that, but it's more complex.

'We all saw Paul Pogba. He was here, he was there, selfie, selfie, 9,000 of them, all summer. And then he comes to Manchester United has, what, two training sessions, and plays 90 minutes against Southampton. You think, how?

'They're different. Diego Maradona was different. He never really trained. He would warm up with his shoes undone. I saw him playing in Stuttgart with Napoli when I was 21. Watching him warm up, I could not close my mouth. It was so low intensity. He was walking. And then he went and outplayed the whole stadium. Unbelievable.

'Barcelona are like that. They play all over, they go to so many places they don't know where they are.

'We played them in London. In the tunnel, they were like, this, (he mimes yawning and stretching, looking around, "Oh, this is Wembley, nice") and, yes, we beat them. Yet in that match they could have scored five goals.

'But these physical advantages will only help if you are also strong in mind. I was never that special in my life, so I really respect this — but my job is to help people become successful in other ways. Because, there are other ways, but you need a special mentality to be part of a special story. That is why I am not interested in comparing my club to other clubs. We'll compare when we play because there is always a way to win. The stronger they are, sure, the more unlikely it is, but we may be really good on that day.

'You can beat the best players with a team of less skilled players. That is what I love about football. It is the only game where you can have 80 per cent of the play and lose against Burnley. In no other game, in basketball or whatever, could that happen. It's impossible. I hate it when I am involved, but later I love it.

'That is what makes football so special. Nothing is predictable. So if you are an optimistic guy, there's always a chance.'

'He's no fool, though, Klopp. He knows the unique demands of English football make challenging the super-elite difficult. He knows rivals can cope with the fixture list by fielding two starting XIs. He knows when Christmas comes, Liverpool may be stretched again in a way others are not. He knows what he is up against.

'Look,' he insists, 'I'm not a guy who comes to England and says (adopts smug voice): "In Germany we do it like this..."

'That's not why I'm here. I'm here because I knew everything about Germany, so I wanted to have this different culture and I enjoy it. I'm



not the President of the Winter Breakers. But it's a classic situation, because as human beings we want everything. And England want everything. They are the mother of football, so now we have to play every day. OK, it's like it is. But in the end you have to accept that when the summer comes, if you want to be successful, you need to maybe cut one or two games.

'How many games did the English play before the European Championship? But still we think, "Yes, but they could have played better, they didn't perform well, blah, blah, blah".'

'Now if you want it like this, that's no problem for me — I'm here because of this. Play on December 24, play on December 26, I love my family but for me I prefer to play football. But then we play December 28 and 31, and January 2 and I am thinking: "OK, now we need three teams for this". (Source: DailyMail)

Russia 2018 Asian Qualifiers Final Round: Asia's finest set to go again

Following a dramatic opening round of games, Asia's final twelve teams are set to go again on Tuesday as they look to edge ever closer to a spot at the 2018 FIFA World Cup in Russia.

Upcoming Matches (September 6) ■ China v Iran (Shenyang Olympic Stadium, Shenyang)

Table-topping Iran will travel to Shenyang for what has the potential to be a tricky encounter against a Chinese side who came from three goals down to lose 3-2 to Korea Republic on Matchday One. Iran will, however, no doubt be boosted by their last gasp win over Qatar on the same day - late goals from Reza Ghoochannejhad and Alireza Jahanbakhsh securing a 2-0 win.

■ Syria v Korea Republic (Stadium Tuanku Abdul Rahman, Paroi, Malaysia)

Malaysia is the venue for a Syria versus Korea Republic clash that will see the Taeguk Warriors looking to build on their opening Matchday success against China. The Taeguk Warriors haven't missed a World Cup for over thirty years, and have appeared in eight successive tournaments since 1986. Syria, meanwhile, will be eager to make amends for a 1-0 loss in Uzbekistan as they seek to regain the fine form they displayed during the first qualifying Group Stage.

■ Qatar v Uzbekistan (Jassim Bin Hamad Stadium, Doha)

Rooted as they are to the foot of an embryonic Group A table, Qatar will be deter-



mined to register their first points in the final stage of qualifying for Russia 2018. Having lost 2-0 away in Tehran on Matchday One, Qatar will no doubt be hoping that home advantage can play a part against their opponents from Uzbekistan. The Uzbeks, by way of contrast, arrive in Doha with three points to their name thanks to Alexandr Geynrikh's winner against Syria. The White Wolves narrowly missed out on qualifying for their first ever FIFA World Cup four years ago.

■ Upcoming Matches (September 6)

■ United Arab Emirates v Australia (Mohammed Bin Zayed Stadium, Abu Dhabi)

Having sensationally beaten Japan on Matchday One, the UAE are on the hunt for three more points when they entertain 2015 AFC Asian Cup champions Australia. Reigning AFC Player of the Year Ahmed Khalil looks set to be key again for Mahdi Ali's side after his brace helped secure the win in Saitama. Australia, meanwhile, overcame Iraq 2-0 to seal their first win of the final qualifying round and travel to Abu Dhabi knowing that avoiding defeat against

the UAE would provide a major boost to their hopes of reaching Russia 2018.

■ Iraq v Saudi Arabia (Shah Alam Stadium, Shah Alam, Malaysia)

Malaysia provides the backdrop for an encounter between two teams who enjoyed contrasting fortunes on Matchday One. Goals from Australia's Massimo Luongo and Tomi Juric proved the undoing of Iraq who are out to make amends against their regional rivals. With three points already on the board thanks to a 1-0 win over Thailand, Saudi Arabia could press home their early advantage with a win at the Shah Alam Stadium. Once regular qualifiers for the FIFA World Cup, Saudi Arabia missed out of South Africa 2010 and were eliminated in the first Group Stage of qualifying four years later.

■ Thailand v Japan (Rajamangala Stadium, Bangkok)

After being beaten at home by the UAE, a tricky away trip to Bangkok looks set to test Japanese resolve yet again. The Samurai Blue will be acutely aware that a win in Thailand is almost a must, if they are to retain hopes of qualifying for a sixth successive World Cup. Thailand, on the other hand, approach the fixture buoyed by a superb performance in Riyadh where they garnered plaudits galore despite an eventual 1-0 loss. A passionate Thai crowd could well prove to be the host nation's twelfth man.

(Source: AFC)

Larijani praises Iranian Olympic medalists

S P O R T S Iranian Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani has applauded achievements of honored Iranian athletes at Rio 2016 Olympics in a ceremony on Sunday.

The Iranian official has commended medal winners of Iranian medal winners in the 31st edition of Summer Olympic Games.

Iranian athletes exercised intensive competition with their all capabilities and achieved good suc-

cess in some majors making the hearts of the people happy.

'But, in some other fields, in spite of efforts and endeavors, no success was achieved, so it is necessary to get ready for the next events with appropriate planning and programming.'

The Iranian team ended the Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro ranking 25th in the standings, winning eight medals - three golds, one silver and four bronzes.



Iran downs Singapore at AFC U-16 Women's C'ship



Iran humiliated Singapore 11-0 at the AFC U-16 Women's Championship 2017 in Bangkok, Thailand on Saturday.

Fatemeh Ghasemi (11, 13), Maryam Mohammadi (15), Roghayeh Jalal Nasab (22, 39), Fatemeh Makhdomi (23, 69, 71, 84), Hanieh Khodaparasti (79) and Fatemeh Daeinia (85) scored for the Iranian team in Group C.

Iran is second in the group, three points behind Bangladesh.

The winner from each group (total four teams) will qualify to the finals (eight teams in total).

If Thailand finish top of their group in the qualifiers, the second-placed team from the same group will also qualify to the final competition. (Source: Tasnim)

Iranian women v-ballers beat North Korea 3-1



Iran's women's volleyball squad has beat North Korea's team in the first day of the Asian Women's Club Volleyball Championship.

Iran's Sarmayeh Bank team trounced the North Korea's April 25 team 3-1 in the Pool B match which was held in the Alonte Sports Arena in Biñan, Laguna in the Philippines

on Saturday.

Sarmayeh Bank is set to take on Thailand's Bangkok Glass team on Monday.

The games are being held from September 3 to September 11, during which 12 teams will compete against each other in four pools.

(Source: PressTV)

Carlo Ancelotti says he could never manage Barcelona or Atletico Madrid

Bayern Munich manager Carlo Ancelotti said he couldn't accept a role as manager of either Barcelona or Atletico Madrid after having managed their La Liga rival Real Madrid for two seasons.

Ancelotti, 57, led Real to "La Decima" in 2014, helping the club win their historic 10th Champions League title by beating Atleti in the final.

Now the boss of Bavarian giants Bayern, who have been drawn with Atleti in the Champions League group stage, Ancelotti said the only way he could manage again in Spain would be a return to the Santiago Bernabeu.

Speaking to Marca, Ancelotti said: "No, I will never train [Atleti or Barca]. I respect the history of the rivalry and in the same way, I couldn't train either Lazio or Inter. [Ancelotti played for Lazio's city rivals Roma and both managed and played for AC Milan].

"It's my story and respect is very important. I have a lot of respect for Atletico and Barcelona, but I can't train them because I've coached Real Madrid for two years."

Ancelotti and Bayern travel to the Vicente Calderon on Sept. 28 for the sec-

ond match of their Group D Champions League campaign and the Italian coach he may not get the warmest of receptions from the fans of Real's crosstown rivals.

"The reception will be normal for a rival team and a rival coach," Ancelotti added. "I'll do my job, which is the challenge of winning at the Calderon."

"Things have not gone well for me there before but I want to win with Bayern."

Bayern haven't won the Champions League since 2013, but Ancelotti believes his team have the quality and the temperament to once again be crowned Europe's best club this season.

"They have missed out because of small details in the past and we'll try to reach that turning point in the best possible way."

"It's clear that our goal is to win the Champions League."

"I expect and want to win because I have never managed a victory [at the Calderon] with Chelsea or Real."

"Bayern already know how good Atletico are because they eliminated us last season. We've not forgotten."

(Source: ESPN)

Jordan to host AFC Women's Asian Cup 2018 finals

The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Women's Football Committee met on Sunday in Chonburi, Thailand, coinciding with the qualifying round for the AFC U-16 Women's Championship 2017 taking place in the country.

Key decisions were made relating to the host nations of upcoming AFC women's competitions: Jordan were chosen to host the AFC Women's Asian Cup 2018 finals; the AFC U-19 Women's Championship 2017 finals were awarded to China PR (Nanjing) and Thailand (Bangkok) were announced as the hosts of the AFC U-16 Women's Championship 2017 finals.

The decision to award the hosting of the AFC Women's Asian Cup 2018 Finals to Jordan was reached following the study of bidding files and the report of the inspection visit to Amman in April. The inspection team assessed the venues on a number of themes including hosting of previous AFC competitions, current state of facilities, general infrastructure, transport, security and accommodation.

AFC Women's Football Committee Chairwoman Moya Dodd said: "Jordan have proved they are worthy hosts of the next edition of the AFC Women's Asia Cup Finals and I would like to congratulate the Jordan Football Association

on submitting such a professional and thorough bid. This decision marks a geographical landmark, being the first time a Member Association from the West Zone will have hosted a senior AFC women's tournament. We look forward to seeing them in the spotlight and wish them well later this month, too, as they host the FIFA Women's U-17 World Cup."

Dodd reflected on a busy meeting agenda, adding: "This is an exciting time for women's football in Asia as the AFC has pledged recently, as part of its Vision and Mission statement, to further invest in the women's game in the continent and build on recent progress and success. The information shared and discussed today highlights the great steps that are being made in terms of development, coaching, technical ability and competitiveness, as well as administrative expertise at all levels of the women's game in Asia."

The Committee also discussed the potential for a pilot Asian club championship for elite teams, as well as possible development tournaments for emerging Member Associations, further mirroring the AFC's commitment to providing top level competitions to raise the standard of competition in Asia.

(Source: AFC)

FOOTBALL

Iran defeats South Korea in Asian University Football Championship

Iran's national university football team has gained a deserved win against the hosts at the third edition of Asian University Football Championship in South Korea, and progressed to the semi-final round of the sporting event.



On Friday, the Iranian outfit, which had overcome Malaysia 1-0 in its opening match at the preliminary round of the continental tournament, edged past South Korea B team 3-2 at the end of a match played at the Main Sports Complex in South Korea's northeastern city of Taebaek, National University Sports Federation of the Islamic Republic of Iran website reported.

The South Korean football squad started the match stalwartly, and brought the game under control.

The Iranians, however, did not capitulate and could eventually assert themselves.

Ali Fatemi took advantage of a fine opportunity in the 30th minute, and sailed the ball past South Korea's goalkeeper to score the opener for Iran.

Fatemi scored a brace before the referee blew his whistle and signaled the end of the first half.

After the interval, the hosts bounced back, and managed to slip the ball into the bottom corner of the Iranian team's goal post twice to level the score at 2-2.

Mohammad Osani was on the target in the last minute and made it 3-2 for the Iranian outfit.

The third edition of Asian University Football Championship began in Taebaek, South Korea, on September 1, and will conclude on September 7.

Iran's national university football team was put in Group A of the preliminary stage of the sports event, and joined Malaysia and South Korea B squads.

South Korea A, Hong Kong and South Korea C formed Group B in the tournament.

China was pitted against Myanmar and Oman in Group C. Japan A, Chinese Taipei and Japan B were also drawn in Group D.

(Source: PressTV)

Yaya Toure humiliated by Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola - agent

Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola has humiliated Yaya Toure by dropping him from his Champions League squad, according to the player's agent Dimitri Seluk.

Toure, 33, will not be eligible to play in Manchester City's Champions League group games because Guardiola was forced to drop an overseas players from his squad as UEFA rules permit only 17 players who are not "locally-trained" or "association-trained."



"If he wins the Champions League for City this season then I will travel to England and I will say on television that Pep Guardiola is the best manager in the world," Seluk told the Sunday Mirror.

"But if City don't win the Champions League then I hope that Pep has got the balls to say that he was wrong to humiliate a great player like Yaya."

"This is Pep's decision and we must respect it. Yaya is a professional and so he will do everything he is asked to do."

Toure's future at the club has been called into question, but he did not leave before the end of the summer transfer window so will be staying at the Etihad at least until January.

However, Seluk added that the Ivorian would not even leave in the January window and would be seeing out the season at City whatever happens.

"Perhaps Pep will think he is good enough to play in the final 10 minutes of a League Cup game against a third division team -- and, yes, I am joking," he added.

"But what I can tell you is that Yaya will spend the season at City. He will not be leaving in January. He hopes that he will get the chance to prove himself."

(Source: Soccernet)



Poem of the day

My fire gives forth no smoke-cloud here below,
My stock-in-trade no profit here below,
And you, who call me tavern-haunter, know
There is indeed no tavern here below.

Khayyam

Prayer Times

Noon:13:03 Evening: 7:44 Dawn: 5:14 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:40 (tomorrow)

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NEWS

Tehran meeting spotlights government's cultural achievements

T A R T TEHRAN — A number of officials came together at the National Library and Archives of Iran (NLAI) on Saturday to attend a meeting held to clarify cultural achievements of the administration of Hassan Rouhani.

First Vice President Es'haq Jahangiri, NLAI Director Reza Salehi-Amiri, Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Ali Jannati and Minister of Science, Research and Technology Mohammad Farhadi were among the participating officials.

Speaking at the meeting, Jahangiri said that the Islamic Revolution was a cultural revolution and was carried out to help improve the life of people based on cultural background.

"Our biggest advantage is the rich resources we possess in the country and we need to concentrate on cultural assets. Cultural issues can lead us to stable development," he added.

"In order to make proper usage of cultural power, we need to recognize the cultural potentials and facilities. We should know that educational issues, art and culture, women, the youth and the development of cultural assets are among the first priorities of the government," he remarked.

NLAI Director Salehi-Amiri called the government a cultural government that has strictly adhered to religious values.

"The government believes in following the mottos it used during the presidential election, and this meeting is actually an introduction for bigger steps in the future," he asserted.

In his brief words Jannati also said that one of the mottos of "the government of prudence and hope" was moderation, and naturally, cultural organizations need to move toward promoting moderation such as creating trust among art and cultural figures.

"When I first began my work in this ministry, I met some of the cineastes, musicians and dramatic artists, some of whom claimed that they had not set foot inside the ministry over the past four to eight years.

"But today, the art and cultural figures have reconciled with the government. The writers have begun to write and there has been good progress in cinema," he added.

"We believe that the art and cultural figures must be able to present their works based on the rules. We also believe in cultural justice and think that cultural activities must develop in other cities as well," the minister noted.

The meeting was brought to an end with several other speeches delivered by other officials attending the event.

UNESCO honors legendary vocalist Shahram Nazeri

In his short speech made before the performance, he called Iran "a country full of paradoxes."
"However, despite all these obstacles, I love Iran," he added.

"The love for Iran has convinced me to ignore opportunities to live an easy life abroad and to stay in the country. Apparently, there is no other way; we should pay for the love for our homeland," he stated.

Singer of a dozens of songs of the highest



Shahram Nazeri performs during a ceremony that the UNESCO organized at Tehran's Sadabad Cultural Historical Complex on September 3, 2016 to commemorate the Legendary Iranian vocalist. (ANA/Ramona Miroan)

caliber, Nazeri received the Chevalier de la Légion d'honneur medal, one of the most coveted trophies in the world of art and culture, from the French government in 2007.

Filmmaker Tahmineh Milani tries her hand at photography

T A R T TEHRAN — An exhibition of photos by Tahmineh Milani, the director of "Ceasefire" psychodramas, opened at Tehran's Aryana Gallery on Saturday.

A number of actors and artists attended the opening ceremony, which was concurrent with the 56th birth anniversary of the director, who is also a graduate of architecture, Persian media reported on Sunday.

Milani, who has chosen nature as the main theme of her photos, says that she believes that nature is a strange phenomenon, which changes with the change of light.

"As the impressionists show the effect of light in their paintings, photography can also show the effect of light on our eyes. I believe the role of light in registering every moment is like creating a painting or like composing a poem,"

Milani had said earlier in an interview with Honaronline, a Persian art news website, published on Friday.

"I believe photography is the art of seeing. Experiencing the natural light is a magical journey that reaches a new discovery. In these photos I wanted to register a short moment of the role of light," she added.

She also emphasized that she intends to prove to the younger generation that there is always a way for the artists. If one cannot be active in cinema for some reason, he or she can gain experience in painting, poetry, photography or many other areas.

A selection of 30 photos taken by Milani during her trip to the United States will be on display until Thursday at the gallery located at No.9, Fereshteh St., in the Elahieh neighborhood.



Filmmaker Tahmineh Milani poses in an exhibition of her photography works at Tehran's Aryana Gallery on September 3, 2016. (Honaronline/Sharareh Samei)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Adaptation of "Macbeth" to go on stage in Tehran



T A R T TEHRAN — Yerma, an Iranian theater troupe led by director Neda Hengami, plans to perform a play based on English playwright William Shakespeare's tragedy "Macbeth".

The play titled "Midday of Scotland" will premiere at Tehran's Arghanun Theater on September 15.

"Macbeth" is the story of a Scottish general named Macbeth who is been told by some witches that one day he will become king of Scotland. Consumed by ambition and spurred to action by his wife, he murders King Duncan and takes the Scottish throne for himself.

Negar Berelian, Sheida Dopeikar, Peyman Rezaei and Amir Samiei are the main members of the cast for the play, which will be on stage until October 16.



Collection of films by Puran Derakhshandeh released

T A R T TEHRAN — A collection containing ten acclaimed movies by Iranian director Puran Derakhshandeh has recently been released by the Iranian Visual Media Institute.

"Hush! Girls Don't Scream", "Eternal Children", "Candle in the Wind", "Lost Time" and "A Love without Frontier" are among the films.

The collection also carries "Passing through the Dust", "Little Bird of Happiness", "Endless Dreams", "Mute Contact" and "Wet Dreams".

The collection is scheduled to be unveiled during a ceremony at the Film Museum of Iran in Tehran on September 6.



Iranian films line up for Iraqi festival

T A R T TEHRAN — A lineup of Iranian films will go on screen at the various sections of the 4th edition of the Duhok International Film Festival, which will be held in the Iraqi city from September 9 to 16.

Among the films are "Maryam the Last Season" directed by Tayyebeh Babai, "Zennako" by Mehdi Qorbanpur and "Love, Cinema, Life" by Arviz Rostami.

The lineup also includes "Nahid" by Ida Panahandeh, "Ginkgo: Suspended Narrative" by Turaj Aslani, "The Last Winter" by Salem Salavati and "Building Number 13" by Amir Gholami.

"Autumn Leaves" receives nominations at Brazilian festival

T A R T TEHRAN — Iranian director Saman Hosseinpour's short film "Autumn Leaves" has been nominated in three categories at the FESTICINI International Independent Film Festival, which will be held

in the city of Sumaré, São Paulo from September 16 to 30.

The film is a nominee in the categories of best director, best original music and best photography, the organizers have announced.

Cinematographer Zanyar Lotfi and musician Sirvan Azizi have collaborated in this project.

"Autumn Leaves" simply narrates the story of a schoolgirl on her way to school.

PICTURE OF THE DAY



A maquette of an imaginary city made of clay by Mohsen Raameh is on display in an exhibition at Tehran's Niavaran Cultural Center on September 3, 2016. Photos display various parts of the city titled "The City of Peace" can also be viewed at the showcase.

Artists explore emotional response to 9/11 attacks in new exhibit

NEW YORK (Reuters) — Artist Christopher Saucedo, dressed in black, stood with his hands in his pockets next to his mixed media artwork at the National September 11 Memorial & Museum in Manhattan.

His brother Gregory, a firefighter, died in the line of duty in the collapse of the North Tower of the World Trade Center in the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

Saucedo's work is part of an upcoming exhibit, "Rendering the Unthinkable: Artists Respond to 9/11," in which 13 New York City-based artists explore their reactions to the airplane attacks, in which nearly 3,000

people died.

"We thought, there needs to be another way in to remembering, and we realized that art is another way in," Alice M. Greenwald, director of the 9/11 Memorial Museum, said on Thursday.

"It gives you that immediacy of the emotional truth of that moment, and you see through another person's eyes and through their artistic practice, how they struggled with the very same emotions that all of us felt."

The exhibit stands as a counterpoint to the museum's permanent exhibitions,

which tell the story of the Sept. 11 attacks and commemorate those who died with wrenchingly familiar sights as well as artifacts.

The art ranges broadly in form, from paintings and sculptures to works on paper and video.

Saucedo, for instance, pressed linen pulp on handmade paper to create "World Trade Center as a Cloud," which comprises three panels, each 40 by 60 inches.

American painter, sculptor Eric Fischl, who lost a friend in the attacks, is displaying a bronze sculpture, "Tumbling Woman."

Post-war drama "Frantz" shot in two tongues to add truth, director says

NEW YORK (Reuters) — French director Francois Ozon shot "Frantz" in both his native language and German to make the post-World War I drama screening at the Venice film festival more truthful, he said on Saturday.

The movie tells the story of Anna, a young German played by Paula Beer, who mourns the death of Frantz, her fiancé killed in battle, and meets Frenchman Adrien, starring Pierre Niney, who lays flowers on her fiancé's grave.

"In Hollywood, there is this convention that everyone speaks English but the audience doesn't want to have that any longer because they want to see truth," Ozon told a news conference ahead of the film's premier.

"It was very important to use the real languages because they are part of the cultures of both countries," he said, adding this required Niney having to learn German along the way.

"Frantz" is one of 20 U.S. and international movies competing for the Golden Lion that will be awarded on Sept. 10.

The three founding members of performance art company Blue Man Group made "Exhibit 13," a four-minute video of burnt papers, letters, business forms and personal notes that blew from the World Trade Center into the yard of their rehearsal space in Brooklyn.

Chris Wink, co-founder of the group and original Blue Man, said creating the video was a way of processing the attacks.

"We didn't know how we could go back to our sort of comedic work given what we were feeling and what was going on," Wink told Reuters.

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS



Borna, Mowj news agencies banned

POLITICS TEHRAN — Two Iranian news desk agencies were banned on Sunday, ILNA reported.

The databases of Borna, organ of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, and Mowj websites were removed by orders from the Workgroup on Criminal Content.

Although no official charges have yet been held against the two news agencies, experts believe technical issues related to security lie behind the bans.

Experts say news agencies are required to move their servers into Iran or will be blocked following the launch of the national information network last week.



'Iran has not faced a security threat in three years'

POLITICS TEHRAN — Deputy Interior Minister Hossein Zolfagari said on Saturday that Iran has not faced a serious security crisis over the past three years.

In an interview with the Iran newspaper, Zolfagari praised President Rouhani's government for its policies which has boosted security in the country.

He also applauded security forces for their most recent operation to dismantle two ISIS-affiliated terrorist cells in Kermanshah province, emphasizing that security threats have been reduced over the past several years.



'All people hold equal rights to the environment'

POLITICS TEHRAN — Hamid Mirzadeh, president of the Islamic Azad University (IAU), has said that the environment should be regarded as a common property to which all individuals hold equal rights, according to ISCA.

Mirzadeh signed a memorandum of understanding on Saturday with Masoumeh Ebtekar, head of the Department of Environment, under which the IAU is obligated to help the department to preserve the country's ecosystem.

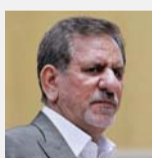
"The Islamic Azad University will be honored to play a positive role in preserving the environment," Mirzadeh said.



'Larijani, Mesbahi Moqaddam, Bahonar to endorse Rouhani'

POLITICS TEHRAN — A member of the central committee of the Servants of Construction Party has said prominent principlist figures such as Ali Larijani, Qolamreza Mesbahi Moqaddam, and Mohammad Reza Bahonar will surely back Hassan Rouhani in the next year's presidential campaigns.

Yadollah Tahernejad told ISNA last Monday that no unified voice is heard from the principlist camp, adding if Rouhani runs for the post, "no principlist would have a chance against him."



Jahangiri: Corruption is like a termite in Iran's body

POLITICS TEHRAN — The Iranian first vice president has likened corruption to a termite that has attacked the country's body.

In the current situation it is everybody's duty to clean the atmosphere because it spoils people's trust in the system, Es'haq Jahangiri said on Saturday, the Etemad newspaper reported.



Minister orders intelligence body to stay away from political disputes

POLITICS TEHRAN — Iran's minister of intelligence has ordered related intelligence organizations to stay away from political rivalries in the country.

"We should act so as to play our own role free of the political disputes," Mahmoud Alavi said on Saturday, the Arman daily reported.



Zarif a good choice for presidency: cleric

POLITICS TEHRAN — Mohsen Gheravian, a moderate political cleric figure, has said Mohammad Javad Zarif, the incumbent foreign minister, is a good choice to run for president next year.

Gheravian, speaking to Fars on Sunday, also commented on Mohammad Reza Aref, saying, "We have no plan for Aref."

Illusion of rivalry should be replaced by constructive cooperation: Zarif

Iran and Oman sign agreement on demarcation of maritime borders

POLITICS TEHRAN — Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said on Sunday that Iran has no restriction to expand ties with Oman, noting that the good relationship is a result of the both countries' will and determination.

"Relations between the two countries can be a role model for other regional countries' ties," Zarif said during a meeting with Omani Interior Minister Sayyid Hamoud bin Faisal al Busaidi in Tehran.

Zarif also highlighted the importance of cooperation among the countries in the Middle East region to establish peace and stability in the region.

"The illusion of rivalry should be replaced by constructive cooperation and mutual understanding so that we be able to pass this stage in history," he added.

Zarif said instability and insecurity in any country pose threats against all countries.

For his part, the Omani interior



Iran's foreign minister called for expansion of relations with Iran.

Zarif and he Omani minister also signed an agreement on demarcation of maritime borders.

Iran and Oman have established good

relationship. Oman is considered the Switzerland of the Middle East. It played an important role in brokering the nuclear deal between Iran and the United States.

However, Saudi Arabia, unexpectedly and surprisingly tried to prevent the signing of the historic deal and since the conclusion of the agreement in July 2015 it has resorted to different ploys to demonize Iran.

Iran-Oman relations are 'deeper than official frames'

Later the day Busaidi met with Iranian Interior Minister Abdolreza Rahmani Fazli to review bilateral, regional issues.

During the meeting Fazli said Iran-Oman relations are "deeper than official frames".

Fazli said common interests and sound judgment necessitate intimate ties between Tehran and Muscat.

Busaidi, for his part, said Iran-Oman ties are "high-quality, deep, old... and unique in the region."

Soft war against Iran more destructive than Iraqi war on Iran in 1980s: Hadad Adel

POLITICS TEHRAN — Gholam-Ali Hadad Adel, a senior principlist figure, said on Sunday that the soft war against Iran is more damaging than the Iraqi war against Iran in the 1980s.

Addressing an annual gathering of pupils union, Hadad Adel said Iran has succeeded in managing affairs despite incessant pressures and threats against the country since the 1979 Islamic revolution.

Hadad Adel, a literary figure who also holds a PhD in philosophy, said since the enemy has faced defeat in military war against Iran it has now turned to soft war against the country.

There are "abundant reasons" that the U.S., Israel, and Britain, as the "sworn enemies" of the Islamic republic, are the leaders of the "strategy of soft war" against Iran in order to undermine the "divine beliefs and morality" of the youth who are considered the main assets of the Islamic Revolution.

"I see the soft war front more extensive than Iraq's war against Iran and this soft war has started with cyber war.."

Concurrent with "destructive cultural activities" the enemy has also been putting great economic pressure on Iran under the pretext of the country's nuclear program, said Hadad Adel, president of the Academy of

Persian Language and Literature.

He went on to say that the enemies are seeking to "cleanse" the despotic Shah regime in a way as if Iran was a "developed and free" society before the Islamic Revolution.

Hadad Adel who served as a lawmaker in the parliament for four consecutive terms from 2000 to 2016, added that one of the plots of the enemies is to set "students and scholars" against the Islamic revolution and then claim that only "illiterate" persons are loyal to the Islamic Revolution.

"This plot must be neutralized."

Velayati: Implementation of FATF is completely wrong

POLITICS TEHRAN — Ali Akbar Velayati, the senior foreign policy advisor to the Leader, said on Sunday that implementation of the Financial Action Task Force (on Money Laundering) is completely wrong.

"We are not obliged to implement unfair decisions of the international financial decisions against our country's officials," he told reporters.

Velayati said that the international financial system seeks to deprive Iran of the international economic and financial facilities.

"This is a kind of imposing sanctions

and depriving the Islamic Republic of Iran and businessmen and we should not follow it," he added.

Velayati said that the Khatam Al-Anbia Construction Headquarters has become target of sanctions due to its support for the countries that fight the Zionist regime of Israel.

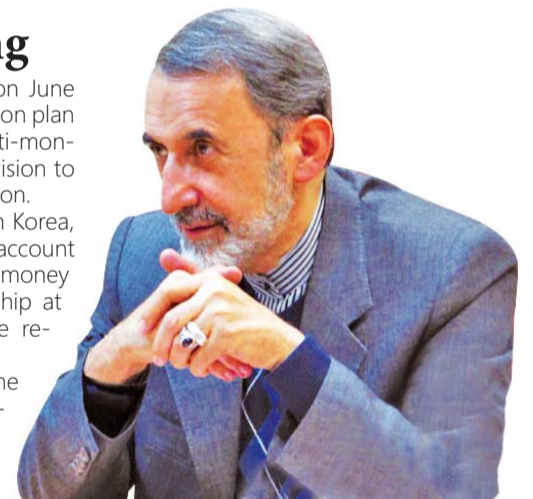
He added such sanctions cannot prevent the Khatam Al-Anbia Construction Headquarters and the Quds Force from doing activities in line with promoting Islam.

Elsewhere, he said, "Resistance is the essence of the Islamic Revolution and the Islamic Republic of Iran's victory will last as long as the resistance continues."

According to Press TV, FATF on June 24 hailed Iran's adoption of an action plan to address shortcomings in its anti-money laundering policies and its decision to seek assistance with implementation.

In its plenary meeting in South Korea, the international body took into account Iran's implementation of an anti-money laundering law and its membership at the Eurasian Group, a FATF-style regional body.

Iran, however, will remain on the FATF blacklist until the full implementation is complete, the body said.



Senior MP calls for expansion of ties with Japan

Japanese official says Tokyo is eager to cooperate with Iran in nuclear and environmental fields

POLITICS TEHRAN — Alaeddin Boroujerdi, chairman of the Majlis National Security and Foreign Policy Committee, said on Saturday the Iranian and Japanese parliaments and governments have good relations which should be expanded.

During a meeting with Japanese State Minister for Foreign Affairs Kentaro Sonoura in Tehran, Boroujerdi said the Iranian people have "positive" view towards relations with Japan and this can serve as a catalyst for expansion of cooperation.

He also said that an "international determination" and "collaborative cooperation" is required to fight terrorism.

"Iran is serious in fighting terrorism. Given the fact that terrorism is not restricted to certain borders fighting



terrorism requires international determination and collaborative cooperation," the senior lawmaker remarked.

Boroujerdi also condemned Saudi Arabia's war on Yemen which been lingering for about 18

months.

For his part, Sonoura said that the international community should make efforts to establish security in the Middle East.

Sonoura also said that the terrorist groups have no place in Japan.

He also said that his trip to Iran was aimed at expanding cooperation.

Japan is interested in expanding cooperation with Iran in scientific, nuclear, environmental and medical fields, he explained.

The Japanese state minister, who was in Tehran for a day-long visit, also held talks with Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi on Saturday.

Iran urges UN to be more active in dealing with humanitarian crises million Afghan refugees 3 UN aid chief praises Iran for hosting

The minister also said he had told O'Brien that Iran, due to its geographical location, is prone to natural disasters such as earthquake and storm. He said dust storms have been added to natural mishaps.

However, he added, Iran has good experiences in dealing with such mishaps.

The minister said Iran and the UN can exchange experiences in training, bilateral and multilateral cooperation in facing natural disasters and sending aid to people in need.

In talks with O'Brien it was agreed that Iran be more actively involved internationally and that Iran and the UN use

each other's capacities and experiences, Rahmani Fazli explained.

The interior minister also said he held discussions with the UN aid chief on the drug trafficking and the "relationship between drug trade and terrorism and evil acts".

He went on to say that all UN bodies acknowledge that Iran has been hosting great number of people displaced by war and that Iran is a pioneer in the campaign against drug trafficking.

"We are obligated" to inform the international community about "all the steps taken by people and (state) bodies," he remarked.

For his part, the UN aid chief praised



Iran for hosting about three million Afghan refugees since the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in 1979.

Iran's "hospitality" in receiving three million Afghan refugees is a great record in the world, O'Brien noted.

Tehran mediating to settle differences among PUK politicians

TEHRAN (FNA) — A delegation from Tehran dispatched to Sulaymaniyah to mediate between rival factions within the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) has asked them to establish a presidency board to manage the party, Kurdish media sources reported on Sunday.

According to Rudaw, the Iranian delegation met on Satur-

day with members of the newly-formed PUK decision-making body, including the two deputies who led the establishment of the body, Barham Salih and Kosrat Rasoul, as well as members of the politburo and leadership committee.

The delegation emphasized the need for unity within the PUK, and asked both factions to work out an agreement.

The Iranians asked Salih and Rasoul to work with Hero Ibrahim Ahmed, leader of the majority faction, and manage the party together until the PUK can hold a congress.

The Iranian delegation is expected to meet with the majority PUK politburo and leadership as well.

Obama starts China talks amid lukewarm welcome

United States President Barack Obama has been delivered a calculated diplomatic snub in Hangzhou, China, where global leaders are convening for the G20 summit.

The problems began as soon as Obama's plane landed in Hangzhou on Saturday.

Unlike Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Russian President Vladimir Putin, South Korean President Park Geun-hye, Brazilian President Michel Temer and British Prime Minister Theresa May, Obama did not have the red carpet to walk on when he stepped off the plane.

The U.S. president was also forced to leave Air Force One through a little-used exit in the plane's belly, only used on high-security trips, after Chinese officials failed to provide the rolling staircase.

In addition, there were heated altercations between Chinese and U.S. officials after reporters were met by a line of bright blue tape held by Chinese security guards, who did not let them watch Obama disembark.

A White House staff member protested to this behavior, but one Chinese official shouted back, "This is our country! This is our airport!"

"The reception that President Obama and his staff got when they arrived here Saturday afternoon was bruising, even by Chinese standards," according to The New York Times.

Reacting to the incident, Obama later said the row between the U.S. and Chi-



nese officials should not be overblown. "I wouldn't overcrank the significance" of the tensions, he said at a news conference on Sunday.

But Mexico's former ambassador to China, Jorge Guajardo, believes the reception was part of a calculated snub.

"These things do not happen by mistake. Not with the Chinese," Guajardo, who hosted presidents Enrique Peña Nieto and Felipe Calderón during his time in Beijing, told The Guardian.

"I've dealt with the Chinese for six years. I've done these visits. I took Xi Jinping to Mexico. I received two Mexican presidents in China. I know exactly how these things get worked out. It's down to

the last detail in everything. It's not a mistake. It's not."

In another instance, when President Xi Jinping took Obama on a leisurely stroll following dinner on Saturday, Chinese security officials cut the number of American journalists who wanted to see the stroll to three from the original six, and then to just one reporter.

"This is our arrangement," a Chinese official explained to his American counterpart.

"Your arrangement keeps changing," the American replied.

■ Obama presses Xi on South China Sea

In his meeting with the Chinese pres-

ident, Obama urged him to uphold China's legal obligations and highlighted Washington's commitments to its regional allies.

"The president reaffirmed that the United States will work with all countries in the region to uphold the principles of international law, unimpeded lawful commerce, and freedom of navigation and over-flight," the White House said on Saturday.

A Hague-based court of arbitration ruled in July that China's claims to sovereignty over the disputed areas or resources in the South China Sea "had no legal basis."

China, however, dismissed the ruling, insisting that the tribunal had no jurisdiction over the issue.

In his talks with Obama, Xi said that China "will persist in peacefully resolving disputes through consultations with parties directly involved."

He called on the U.S. to "play a constructive role" in regional peace and stability.

China claims sovereignty over almost all of the South China Sea, parts of which are claimed by Brunei, Malaysia, Taiwan, Vietnam as well as the Philippines.

The issue has been a source of tension between China, the U.S., and regional countries, which are seeking control of trade routes and mineral deposits there.

(Source: Press TV)

Merkel upbeat on improving ties with Erdogan after meeting



German Chancellor Angela Merkel struck an upbeat tone after meeting Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on the sidelines of the G20 summit, and said she expected progress on two thorny issues that have marred German and European ties with Ankara.

Both Germany and the EU, which depend on Ankara to keep a lid on the movement of migrants to the bloc, are trying to ease tensions with Turkey after criticizing Erdogan's crackdown on opponents following the failed coup in July.

Merkel said she was hopeful that the European Union and Turkey could resolve their differences over visa-free travel for Turks, but an agreement was likely still several weeks away.

"The discussions with the European Commission are very intensive and are continuing," she said.

Merkel also said she expected a resolution in Germany's dispute with Ankara over visits to an air base in Turkey. She and other German officials have insisted that Ankara must end its ban on German lawmaker visits to 250 German soldiers working at Incirlik Air Base as part of the United States-led coalition's air strikes against the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Daesh) terrorist group targets.

"I believe it is possible that we will get positive news on the justified demand in the coming days," the German leader told reporters after meeting with Erdogan in the eastern Chinese city of Hangzhou.

Turkey banned German lawmakers from visiting the base near the Syrian border in June after the parliament passed a resolution declaring the 1915 massacre of Armenians by Ottoman forces a genocide. German lawmakers in turn threatened to end the military mission there.

Turkey accepts many Christian Armenians were killed but contests assertions that up to 1.5 million died, and denies the killings were orchestrated.

(Source: Reuters)

Detroit mayor slams Trump's visit to black church

Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan (D) lambasted Donald Trump's visit to one of the city's black churches on Saturday, calling the Republican presidential nominee "phony."

"I feel like I'm watching the next season of 'The Apprentice,'" Duggan told reporters on Saturday at a press con-

ference organized by Hillary Clinton's campaign, according to the Detroit Free Press.

"The Apprentice' is an American reality game show that judges the business skills of a group of contestants. It is closely associated with Donald Trump. Each

episode typically ended with Trump eliminating one of the contestants with the words, "You're fired."

"This is the most phony major party nominee that I've seen in my lifetime, and that's why we're skeptical."

Trump visited Great Faith Internation-

al Ministries Saturday to do an interview with Bishop Wayne Jackson. He also spoke before the congregation, saying he would continue the legacy of President Abraham Lincoln, and attended a service.

(Source: The Hill)

Turkish tanks enter Syria in new front against ISIL

Turkey has sent more tanks into northern Syria to the west of a border town seized from the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Daesh) terrorist group last week, opening a new front in a cross-border intervention aimed at sweeping its fighters from the area.

Saturday's development came after Turkish forces and allied Syrian rebels seized the strategic border town Jarablus from ISIL on August 25.

Turkey and Syrian rebel forces are now continuing an offensive against ISIL in the area, with rebels capturing several other towns on Saturday close to the border with Turkey.

Britain-based so-called Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a monitoring group that records daily developments in the foreign sponsored militancy in Syria, confirmed that the rebels had taken several villages.

Last week, Turkey launched its first major incursion into Syria since the civil war began more than five years ago. Turkish tanks, fighter jets and Special Forces are backing rebels who are fighting separately against both the ISIL terrorist group and the Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG/Yekîneyên Parastina Gel).

Turkish-backed rebels have been met with little resistance as they captured border villages, Othman said.



Last month's operation was Ankara's most ambitious during the five-and-a-half-year foreign instigated Syria conflict, and has since continued with tanks, fighter jets and Special Forces providing support to rebels.

After crossing the border on August 24, Turkish-backed Syrian rebels recaptured the border town of Jarablus from ISIL in 14 hours.

The strategic town had been controlled by ISIL, for two years. (Source: agencies)

Iraqis stage mass strike against corruption

Thousands of people in Iraq, including government employees, have staged a two-day walkout along with a hunger strike in protest at the Baghdad government's inability to fight state corruption.

The strike was launched on Sunday in different governmental organizations in the Iraqi capital of Baghdad as well as Karbala, Najaf and other major cities, following a statement that had been issued by prominent Iraqi cleric Muqtada al-Sadr two days earlier calling for the protest action.

Sadr has also called on all Iraqi people to go on hunger strike inside mosques, churches and other houses of worship, as well as in cultural and social institutions from September 9 until the morning of September 11.

Over the past few months, hundreds of Iraqis have been gathering at Tahrir (Liberation) Square in the Iraqi capital, Baghdad, and elsewhere in the country every Friday, urging the containment of corruption and also the formation of a technocrat government in the country.

The establishment of such a government has been stalled by persisting

differences among various Iraqi political factions.

Baghdad witnessed uproarious protests in July, when demonstrators, mostly the supporters of Sadr, rallied against what was described as rampant corruption within the country's ruling structure. A large number of people were killed or injured during the rallies.

Earlier in May, Sadr's followers broke into the parliament compound inside the capital's fortified Green Zone, protesting a stalled vote to endorse Abadi's ministerial nominees in the chamber.

Later, however, they stormed Abadi's own office building, also in the Green Zone, apparently in protest at government corruption.

On May 20, Abadi called on the nation to set aside political differences and unite against the Takfiri Daesh terrorist group, which has been ravaging the country since June 2014.

■ 15 dead, 50 wounded in Baghdad

In another event, at least 15 people have been killed and more than four dozen others injured in a series of bomb explosions and a rocket attack

at residential neighborhoods across the Iraqi capital Baghdad.

Security officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said five people lost their lives and 15 others sustained injuries when three rockets landed onto a weapons storage facility in eastern Baghdad.

A bomb struck a shopping street in the capital's western neighborhood of Ghazaliya, killing two civilians and injuring eight others.

Elsewhere in western Baghdad, three civilians were killed and eight others injured when a bomb blast ripped through a commercial district.

Additionally, two bomb attacks on fruit and vegetable markets across Baghdad killed five people and wounded 20 others.

No individual or group has claimed responsibility for the assaults yet, but such incidents are usually blamed on the ISIL (Daesh) terrorist group.

The United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq says a total of 691 Iraqis were killed and another 1,016 wounded in acts of terrorism, violence and armed conflict in August.

(Source: agencies)

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NEWS

Iran's financial long game to beat the nuclear deal

By Greg Everett

Recent diplomatic efforts on the part of Tehran reveal it to be pursuing a two-pronged strategy towards attracting investment and reintegrating with the global economy: (1) seeking foreign capital to rebuild the country's domestic infrastructure, while (2) using Iranian capital to finance the construction of oil refineries throughout the world. With Iran's infrastructure investment needs estimated at \$1 trillion over the next ten years, Tehran will be heavily reliant on project finance arrangements in order to rebuild its infrastructure. Under these arrangements, investors put up large sums of money in exchange for a return based on long-term cash flows—often for up to thirty years.

Iran's heavy reliance on project financing arrangements will have consequences that far outlive the initial terms of the Iranian nuclear agreement, while creating a potentially unique set of incentives for the various parties in the event Iran defaults on its commitments or resorts to old patterns of the expiration of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). As such, Tehran's strategic thinking is clearly calculated well beyond the terms of the JCPOA. In its strategy to reintegrate with the world economy, Iran is playing the long game.

The three main players involved in the sanctions regime were the United States, EU and UN. One of the most significant features of the JCPOA is the provision for the "snapback" of sanctions in the event of "significant non-performance by Iran." In the event of a sanctions "snapback," companies would not be punished directly for having entered into agreements with Iran at the time sanctions were lifted. Moreover, such contracts may also benefit from a grace period for investors to wind down operations in Iran. In the case of basic trade relations, the flow of goods must simply cease before the expiration of any wind-down period. What is less clear, however, is how this provision will be applied in the context of large infrastructure projects, which are often built and financed on the basis of cash flows that will last well beyond the terms of the JCPOA. Indeed, this provision could be applied to allow anywhere from a significant amount of time to wind down investments all the way to a more aggressive application that leads to absolute and immediate loss.

Given the possibility of total loss, European governments are likely to only seek "snapback" in the most egregious of circumstances—for example, an increase in Iran's uranium stockpiles beyond the agreed limits. Of course, after the expiration of the JCPOA (in roughly fifteen years), UN and EU sanctions will completely terminate, making any reimposition of UN sanctions subject to the veto power of the UN Security Council. Any reimposition of EU sanctions will require the unanimous consent of the member states in the Council of the European Union. The United States can always unilaterally reimpose its secondary sanctions (which pre-JCPOA applied extraterritorially to non-U.S. entities that invested in Iran's petroleum sector), but will likely find itself increasingly isolated and alone if it chooses to do so.

Iran's strategy of utilizing long-term financing arrangements with foreign investors will thus give Iran additional leverage against efforts to rigorously enforce the JCPOA before it expires in roughly fifteen years. After the expiration of the JCPOA, however, Iran's leverage will only increase, as any reimposition of UN sanctions will require significant international coordination. Such coordination will likely prove more difficult to come by, as non-U.S. investors will have made significant financial commitments while sanctions were lifted, and therefore have the most to lose.

(Source: The National Interest)

Obama says U.S. and UK will 'continue to strengthen relationship' despite 'turbulence' over Brexit

President Obama held his first meeting with British Prime Minister Theresa May and vowed that the U.S. and UK will 'continue to strengthen the special relationship.'



Obama, who is approaching the end of his eight-year term as May establishes herself in office, said the U.S. 'doesn't have a stronger partner in the world.'

He added that the two countries will keep cooperating closely on cyber security, terrorism and trade despite the 'turbulence' of recent political events.

The President had risked a rift after suggesting that the UK would be 'at the back of the queue' while negotiating a

trade deal if voters chose Brexit.

Obama rowed back those comments slightly on Saturday, saying he never suggested the Britain would be punished, but said the first priority for the UK should be establishing trade with Europe before negotiating with America.

Meanwhile the U.S. will be pushing ahead with a broad trade deal it is negotiating with the European Union, he added.

May, who has committed to leaving the European Union, vowed to 'pursue the opportunities that Brexit presents' saying the two nations will 'make a success of it.'

Earlier in the day she had restated her commitment to the outcome of the referendum, saying there would be 'no second vote' on the issue.

She said the U.K. plans to continue pursuing an aggressive trade relationship with the U.S. despite the decision to leave the EU.

May and Obama met at the G20 summit in China, where the President is conducting a farewell tour before he leaves office in January.

It was the first time the pair have met face-to-face. They shared a 'warm' 15 minute phone call after May took office in July following David Cameron's resignation. (Source: Daily Mail)

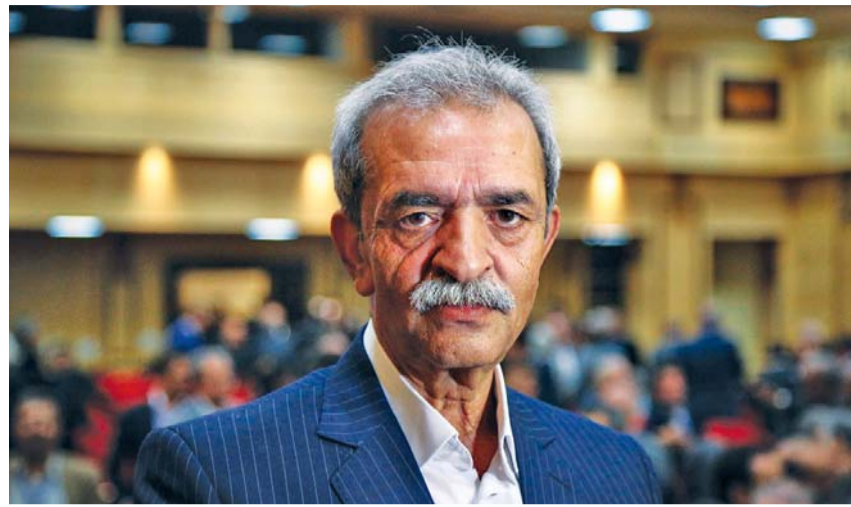
Shafe'i elected new ICCIMA chairman

ECONOMY TEHRAN — Gholam-d e s k Hossein Shafe'i was elected as the new chairman of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) on Sunday, IRIB news reported.

Shafe'i gained the top position in the Iranian Chamber of Commerce by winning 198 votes while his rival Masoud Khansari only needed four more votes to get the position.

Shafe'i replaces Mohsen Jalalpour, whose resignation had been accepted about one month ago.

As he told Mehr news agency on the sidelines of his election ceremony, improving domestic business environment will stand among top priorities of ICCIMA during his tenure, which will last



for the next three years. The ICCIMA chairman called for the administration and Ministry of Economy to assist his organization with reaching this goal.

He, elsewhere, told Tasnim news agency that expansion of ties with neighboring and Muslim countries is the other priority of ICCIMA under his tenure.

"We will also seek developed countries cooperation to transfer knowledge into the country," he added.

Shafe'i addressed the large number of the paid visits by foreign trade delegations to Iran during the past recent months following the removal of sanctions and said that ICCIMA will for sure sign various pacts with applicant countries in the near future.

Iran's shrimp, caviar production anticipated to be doubled by Mar. 2017

ECONOMY TEHRAN — Arsalan d e s k Qasemi, the managing director of Iran's Fisheries Union, announced that the country's shrimp and caviar output is anticipated to rise by 50 percent by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2017), IRIB news reported.

"The country could produce 12,000 tons of shrimp in the preceding year,

while the amount would reach 18,000 tons by the end of this year," he said, "caviar production stood at 1.2 tons last year and the number may hit 1.6 tons in the present year."

The official also announced that 230,000 tons of different types of fishes were produced last year, anticipating that the figure will not change in this year.

Azerbaijan-Iran trade grows 66% in H1

Trade between Azerbaijan and Iran saw a 66 percent growth in the first half of 2016, said Trade Attaché of the Iranian Embassy in Baku Mohammad Ebrahim Naqizadeh.

"In view of dropping oil prices on the world markets, Azerbaijan embarked on economic reforms, and this contributed to the expansion of the country's trade relations."

"These reforms paved the way for

further expansion of economic and trade relations between Iran and Azerbaijan," he said.

Naqizadeh said Iran exported goods worth \$180 million to Azerbaijan in the first four months of the year.

He noted that trade between the two countries in the non-oil sector makes \$500 million, adding there is big possibility that the figure will increase. (Source: Azer Tac)

Iran ready to offer power plant construction, maintenance services to Algeria

ECONOMY TEHRAN — Iran's Energy Minister Hamid Chitchian expressed the country's readiness in offering power plant construction, maintenance and repair services to Algeria, IRNA reported.

According to IRNA, Chitchian made the remarks in a meeting with Algerian Energy Minister Noureddine Bouterfa in Tehran on Saturday.

In the meeting, Chitchian suggested that establishment of a joint engineering-consulting company, manufacturing of electrical equipment or establishing a joint company for construction and maintenance of power plants could be a good start for bilateral cooperation in this field.

The Algerian minister for his part, ex-



Iran's Energy Minister Hamid Chitchian (L) and Algerian Energy Minister Noureddine Bouterfa (R) met in Tehran on Saturday. (Photo: Kamyar Mousayi/Portal of Energy Ministry)

plained his country's energy programs for the upcoming years, saying "Algeria is following a special program in the field of electricity and the program is revised every 10 years."

Mentioning a project for constructing 12,000 megawatts capacity of power plants in Algeria by 2022, Bouterfa stressed that this could be a good opportunity for cooperation between Iran and Algeria.

He also noted that his country is holding a tender for establishing renewable energy power plants and Iranian companies are welcomed to participate.

Algerian energy minister suggested that the two countries establish a joint committee for cooperation in the field of energy.

'Pakistan headed towards another IMF bailout'

Underlining the frailty of Pakistan's economy, a senior economist stated that despite the government's insistence that the economy is progressing well, several startling issues have persisted that may ultimately lead the country back to another International Monetary Fund (IMF) bailout package by 2019.

IMF confident Pakistan can now handle mild economic shocks

Highlighting some of these issues, the economist said that a burgeoning foreign debt, ever rising unemployment, low exports, slowdown in remittances, little spending on social sectors, rising cost of doing business, minimal foreign direct investment and low collection of direct taxes will drag the economy down.

"If things remain unchanged, we will see a financial crisis in the near future and would have to go back to the IMF by fiscal year 2018-19," reiterated leading economist Dr Shahid Hasan Siddiqui while speaking at the 'CEO Club Forum' on Pakistan's current economic challenges.

"The government has raised record high foreign debt and liabilities of \$7.8 billion in 2016," he said, adding that this happened despite the county saving \$6 billion on account of low oil import payments amid collapsed oil prices at world markets.

However, this has not been the only source of funding for the country.

Saudi Arabia's grant of \$1.5 billion and the \$1.6 billion raised from the 3G/4G auction in 2014 and 2016 helped augment the country's foreign exchange reserves to \$23 billion. "Minus these inflows, the current



state of foreign exchange reserves stands at a dismal level."

According to Siddiqui, Pakistan has received \$53 billion in overseas workers' remittances in the last three years. "Surprisingly, we have used the receipts for consumption purposes, how strange," he said.

"Structural changes are needed to fix menaces in the economy. However, no one including the government, opposition, politicians and religious scholars are ready to make such changes under the influence of powerful lobbies," he said.

Pakistan-IMF ties: A chequered history

Dr Ashfaq Hassan Khan, another economist, said foreign debt has swelled unexpectedly to \$73 billion in 2016. "In the 90s and from 2008 to 2016, \$50 billion of foreign debt was accumulated. The commonality between these two different eras was the PML-N government," he said.

NEWS IN BRIEF



Russia, Turkey to form joint investment fund: Russian minister

Russian Economy Minister Alexei Ulyukaev said on Sunday President Vladimir Putin and his Turkish counterpart Tayyip Erdogan had agreed to form a joint investment fund between their two countries.

The two leaders met on the sidelines of the G20 summit in the eastern Chinese city of Hangzhou on Saturday.

"We are concluding work on the formation of a Russian-Turkish investment fund," Ulyukaev said. "At the end of August, Turkey made the necessary legislative changes to create a corresponding partner to our direct investment fund - the Turkish sovereign wealth fund."

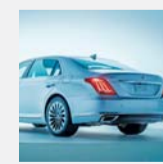


UK economy will suffer after Brexit vote: British PM May

Britain's economy will suffer as a result of the decision to leave the European Union despite signs in recent economic data that the impact has not been as severe as some predicted, Prime Minister Theresa May said on Sunday.

The June decision to leave the 28-country EU sent financial markets into shock in anticipation of a recession as Britain enters a years-long process of tearing itself away from its biggest trading partner and forging a new global economic role.

May predicted that the vote would damage the economy and said the government would continue to monitor economic data in the coming months before setting out its fiscal response to protect the economy later this year.



Priced: 2017 Genesis G90 Starts at \$69,050

Pricing for the new Genesis brand's flagship luxury sedan has been revealed. The 2017 Genesis G90 sedan starts at \$69,050 (including \$950 destination).

The \$69,050 price applies to the rear-drive 2017 Genesis G90 3.3T Premium. Power comes from an all-new twin-turbo 3.3-liter V-8 backed by an eight-speed automatic transmission. An all-wheel-drive G90 3.3T Premium is priced at \$71,550 or \$2,500 more than the rear-drive model. The boosted engine is rated 365 hp and 376 lb-ft of torque. EPA-rated fuel economy is 17/24/20 mpg city/highway/combined.

Cloud era needs better networks

Networks will need to keep pace with increasingly connected societies and the need for deeper insights to improve service delivery and support digital transformation.

With the Internet of Things (IoT) era beckoning, everything soon would be connected and data-driven and customers would no longer look to simply buy a platform or individual parts, said Intel CEO Brian Krzanich, during his keynote at Huawei Connect 2016 held here this week. They would be looking for an experience and no activity would occur in isolation, he said.

Intel describes the phenomenon as a virtuous cycle, in which all things that are connected including wearable devices, autonomous vehicles, and M2M systems will require connectivity to send data through to the cloud to be analysed and push back down the analytics so experiences can be changed.

Supporting this continuous feedback loop also would require collaboration between multiple companies, since no one organisation would be capable of producing all the ingredients needed, Krzanich said.

He further stressed the need for infrastructures that were able to cope with the large volumes of data and network traffic generated today.

The average person currently produced between 600MB and 700MB of personal data a day, he noted, and this was expected to climb to 1.5GB by 2020. By then, autonomous cars were projected to generate as much data as 3,000 people combined.

"That's a lot of data and a huge network load, but also represents huge opportunities to optimise [network performance] and create value," he said. It underscored the importance of 5G networks, which Intel believed would be critical to support this emerging environment.

These networks would need to be flexible and able



to deliver the highest possible throughput, he noted, pointing to the reason the chipmaker was working with Huawei on 5G initiatives. Cloud infrastructure also would need to be flexible so they could adapt to data flow between various workloads, he added.

Krzanich said: "In our increasingly smart and connected world, we need fast, intelligent, and efficient wireless networks, cloud technologies, and analytics capabilities to create amazing new experiences in our everyday lives."

During a media briefing, ZDNet asked about the potential of building more intelligence into device chipsets so smartphones, for instance, would be able to handle data analytics and relieve some workload from the core network.

In response, Huawei's rotating CEO Guo Ping said it was essential to build up computing capabilities not

only in the device, but also in the network and cloud. He added that the Chinese company's main strategy also revolved around these three components, which it believed were critical in supporting intelligent societies.

In his keynote, Guo also highlighted the importance of industry collaboration—a point that was frequently touted by other Huawei executives during the conference.

He said the company believed that, in the cloud era, building a bigger pie was more important than fighting for a bigger piece of a shrinking pie. It also adhered to the philosophy that managing cooperation was more important than managing the competition, he added, noting that the former proved more challenging since it meant all parties involved would need to work together to deliver better services for customers.

In addition, Huawei believed sharing benefits with others would be important to drive the evolution of the cloud ecosystem, he said.

According to the company's president of products and solutions, Ryan Ding, Huawei also had been boosting its support for developers to encourage more to build applications and services on its platforms.

Last year, it announced plans to invest US\$1 billion over five years to galvanise 1 million developers on its platform by 2020. Since then, US\$200 million had gone towards developing an "open enablement platform" and improving developer experience, while US\$100 million was used to create a global marketing platform to help developers tap new business opportunities, Ding said.

There are currently more than 25,000 developers registered to build on Huawei platforms, he said, adding that this community has developed more than 800 applications, to date.

(Source:ZDNET)

Samsung Galaxy Note 7 recall issued: What's your next step?

Last week the reports of exploding batteries prompted a Samsung internal investigation with an unprecedented recall of all Note 7 devices across the globe. While the timely couldn't be worse for Samsung with the upcoming iPhone 7 announcement, it's encouraging to see Samsung step up to the plate and address the issue in the best way possible for consumer protection.

If you are like me and have a Samsung Galaxy Note 7 that you purchased, here are a few likely questions and some answers:

How do I exchange it with Samsung?:

Samsung posted a press release providing guidance to Note 7 owners. You can exchange the Note 7 for a new Note 7 (as earlier as next week in the US) or for a S7 or S7 Edge while receiving a refund of the price difference. Samsung will also provide a \$25 gift card or bill credit from select carrier retail outlets. See the next question for US carrier guidance.

Can I return it to my wireless carrier?:

Yes. If you don't want to exchange your phone with Samsung, the four major US wireless carriers were quick to provide some guidance too. T-Mobile, Sprint, AT&T, and Verizon will each allow you

to return the device and accessories for a full refund with no restocking fee or shipping charges. Sprint is willing to offer you a similar device to use until the Note 7 issue has been resolved.

What about my free T-Mobile Netflix subscription?: T-Mobile stated that customers can keep the free Netflix promotional offer they received with the pre-order purchase.

What do I do with the free Gear Fit 2 or 256GB microSD card I received from Samsung?: Since this came from Samsung, do not return it to your carrier store. T-Mobile directed me to hold



onto it and at this time we haven't been provided information on this offer from Samsung.

(Source: zdnet)

(Source: zdnet)



IKCO

IKCO's Major Concern; Qualitative and Quantitative Growth

Import of cars manufactured by European companies in recent years into Iran's car market heralded this issue to the domestic car manufacturers that streamlining, updating and manufacturing high quality products with competitive price are preconditions for staying and continuing activity at car market.

However, domestic car manufacturers should take effective steps in order to increase quality of their products in order to compete in international level. Inability in diversifying products can play an important role to set aside manufacturer from competition cycle. Broadly speaking, car manufacturers and producers should focus on increasing quality of their products in order to compete at international markets.

Domestic car manufacturers especially Iran Khodro Industrial Group (IKCO) has taken giant strides in recent years to increase quality of its products and for this purpose, it has managed to forge cooperation and collaboration with large car manufacturing companies for development of its current products. With due observance to the said issue, domestic car manufacturers have grasped out that current competitive market and change of customers' taste should be taken into serious consideration, the issue of which can put each production of any economic enterprise to serious challenges.

Benefiting from production capacities and facilities, Iran Khodro Industrial Group (IKCO) has taken giant steps in the field of developing quality of its products and/or manufacturing new products. It is obvious that production of new products in business environment in recent years and promotion of products show steel determination of this car manufacturer in the field of development and globalization.

In line with promoting products qualitatively and quantitatively and observing suitable and competitive price, Iran Khodro Industrial Group (IKCO) follows salient objectives in its value network system.

Of the other important objectives of the company, it should be referred to: promoting production productivity and improving operation costs consecutively, promoting performance of quality systems in operation chain, improving performance of supplying parts and materials, boosting quality of products and increasing production capacity, correcting supply chain structure, improving supply processes and allocating financial resources, improving technology of production process and increasing flexibility of the production lines, etc.

Promoting cost share of research and development (R&D) out of income, correcting structure of the organizations related to the development of product, improvement



of "Ramp Up" time for new products as well as improving development time and changes in products are of the other salient objectives of the company in its widespread value chain network.

This prestigious domestic car manufacturing company has drawn widespread strategies and objectives in the field of supply chain. Hereunder are regarded as salient and pivotal strategies of the company in the field of supply chain: supporting and backing up capacity building, promoting capabilities of parts manufacturing industry of the country based on quality and price criteria, on-time delivery of parts and technology, correction of supply chain structure and implementation of ranking system in suppliers, optimization of logistics structure and increasing productivity level to the world car manufacturing level, attaining optimal domestic manufacturing of products in line with safeguarding quality as well as reducing cost price, etc.

Given the above issue, the company has managed to solve many problems ahead in a way that not only it has managed to get lion's share of its product at consumer market, but also it has thus far generated new employment.

In the past year (ended March 19, 2016), the company tried to improve quality of its products and managed to win numerous achievements in this regard, the report added.

Commissioning pick-up Model U90, supplying DENA at consumer market massively, launching DENA Body Production

Line Model NX7 and supplying new ARISUN pick-up, etc. are a part of salient achievements of this prestigious company obtained in the past Iranian calendar year in 1394 (ended March 19, 2016) in the field of production of products. Updating equipment for emission testing and fuel consumption, promoting G21 automation pressing system, constructing DR (Direct Reduction) line, preparing production lines for manufacturing DENA Model X 409, increasing production capacity of mass production lines in body manufacturing of ARISUN Pickup, etc. are considered as other salient activities of the company in the past year (ended March 19, 2016).

Of the other salient activities conducted by IKCO in the past year in the field of improving production and promoting quality of products, it should be referred to the commissioning 65 projects with fair and reasonable price, mechanizing paint line with advanced robotic systems in Paint Hall 1, commissioning production of Dung Fang product in Body, Paint and Assembly Production halls and also setting up new production system, etc.

Finalizing project for manufacturing DENA Model X409 and supplying it to the consumer market are of the other programs followed up in the current Iranian calendar year in 1395 (started March 20, 2016).

With the coordination made in this regard, IKCO will manufacture products including "RUNNA, SAMAND, SOR-EN, Suzuki Grand VITARA, and TONDAR 90 in new models,

products of which will hit the consumer market."

In addition, IKCO will manufacture Peugeot "207", which is one of most popular cars in world, inside the country completely. Also, Peugeot "208" will also hit the consumer market in cooperation with IKCO and French Peugeot Company as joint venture. With the coordination made in this regard, Peugeot "208" will hit Iranian roads before termination of the current Iranian calendar year in 1395 (to end March 19, 2017).

"FACE LIFT" and redesigning of TONDAR 90 are of the other projects which will be finalized in cooperation with French Renault Company. This vehicle will hit the consumer market in current year with "Renault" brand.

In order to diversify and complete its basket of products, IKCO has focused on supplying turbocharged model "S7" atop agenda which will be put into operation before termination of the current Iranian calendar year in 1395 (to end March 19, 2017).

Moreover, "Dung Fang" Crossover Model H30 and S30 will also hit the consumer market with manual and transmission models.

Of the other projects that will be put into operation by IKCO in current year, it should be referred to the manufacturing of TU5+ engine, AL4 automatic gearbox, development of EF7-TC engine for being used in other products of IKCO, designing new product named X502 which will hit the car market in 2018. Changing application of assembly line for OHV engine for manufacturing TU5 engine, milling EFD cylinder and cylinder head, manufacturing EFD diesel engine cylinder block engine, transferring production line of ARISUN to Iran Khodro Diesel Company and continuation of project to designing and develop new platforms, etc.

In addition to the above products, a number of projects have been approved in current year (started March 20, 2016) which is underway and followed up strictly.

It should be noted that IKCO has faced many ups and downs in recent years in the production and sales sector. With manufacturing more than 2,400 various passenger cars and pick-up trucks, the company managed to get lion's share of products at car market in the last Iranian calendar year in 1394 (ended March 19, 2016).

With promoting quality of its products and stabilizing its current market share, the company intends to safeguard its leadership as the first and top car manufacturing company in the country.

With due observance to the said issue, Iran Khodro Industrial Group (IKCO) has thus far taken giant strides to get lion's share of its products in international markets. Currently, the company is considered as leader car manufacturing company in the Middle East region.

By: A.Saeidi

FEATURE

After Brexit, ask not what this country can do for immigrants, but what immigrants can do for this country

By Julia Hartley-Brewer

When Theresa May announced at the recent Cabinet away day at Chequers that restricting EU immigration will be at the heart of the Brexit negotiations, you could almost hear the sound of 17.4 million people collectively sighing with relief.



They, like me, voted to leave the EU on June 23 and, like me, they have been left on tenterhooks for weeks waiting to find out precisely what our new prime minister actually means when she says things like "Brexit means Brexit".

So, now we know that Mrs. May wants to control the numbers of European immigrants, the question still remains as to how she plans to do it.

We now have the first opportunity in a generation to replace our current mess – to which the British people never consented – with sensible border controls at long last, cutting net immigration from 330,000 a year to something more practical.

While the minutiae have yet to be worked out, any new immigration should undoubtedly be based on one simple principle: it should unashamedly be for the benefit of the British people, and not for the benefit of those who want to come here.

■ Pro-immigration brigade

Cue the anguished cries of horror from the pro-immigration brigade who fervently believe that it is Britain's job to offer a haven to the poor and huddled masses from every country under the sun. Sorry, but it isn't.

We have no duty of care to improve the lot of poor Romanians or Poles or Pakistanis or anyone else who is not a British citizen. While I have nothing but admiration and respect for anyone who wants to travel across a continent to make a new life for themselves and improve their lot, the reality is that British taxpayers don't owe the rest of the world a living.

We can offer trade deals or international aid, by all means, and we should never desert asylum seekers in their time of need, but we don't have a moral responsibility to open our doors to the five billion-odd people on this planet who live in poorer countries than ours.

Instead, to paraphrase the former U.S. president John F. Kennedy, we should instruct would-be immigrants: "Ask not what this country can do for you, ask what you can do for this country."

If you have something to offer Britain, whether it be much-needed qualifications or skills, entrepreneurship, creating jobs, or big wads of taxable cash, then by all means do come in and make yourself at home, I'll put the kettle on.

If, however, you have no qualifications, no professional skills other than a driving license, and can barely speak English, or you have a criminal record, then thanks but no thanks. If that sounds harsh, then tough. While we are each lucky to be born here in a wealthy country where we enjoy the rule of law and freedom, it is not a matter of luck that Britain is the country it is.

Great Britain didn't just happen; the British people created this country through decades and centuries of hard work, fighting for democracy, the welfare state and all the other benefits we currently enjoy.

That is why we have every right to close our doors to economic migrants who will contribute less than they will take out – whether it be in terms of working tax credits, housing and child benefits, or in publicly funded schools, housing, healthcare and public transport.

Britain is a very desirable place to live and, thanks to English being the world's international language, we are ideally placed to pick the brightest and the best to come to live and work here. So why aren't we more choosy?

■ Immigration policy

The only sensible immigration policy is one using skills-based work permits. Yes, that will involve more paperwork than an open-door policy, but most countries manage it.

And indeed, we already operate such a system for non-EU migrants, so it is hardly beyond the wit of man to devise one that operates across the board.

Currently, an EU citizen needs to fill out more paperwork to get a Sainsbury's Nectar card than they do to come to Britain, so a little more red tape won't do anyone any harm.

But there is one other crucial requirement that should also be at the heart of any new immigration policy, and that is the ability of new arrivals to integrate and assimilate into British society.

Admittedly, this is a rather more difficult and subjective criterion than a university diploma, but it is just as vital – and especially after years in which mass immigration has enabled many new arrivals to live and work in entirely separate ethnic, religious or national communities in many of our cities.

If you don't want to learn English and you don't embrace fundamental British values like democracy, women's equality and the freedom to choose who you marry, then Britain is probably not the country for you.

Controlled immigration doesn't require us to close our doors to the rest of the world – far from it. But it does mean us getting to decide who we want to live here and, for the first time in decades, putting the needs of the British people first.

Great Britain didn't just happen; the British people created this country through decades and centuries of hard work, fighting for democracy, the welfare state and all the other benefits we currently enjoy.

(Source: The Telegraph)

By Natalie Nougayrède

Two very different women hold Europe's future in their hands – and neither of them is Theresa May. The battle for Europe's soul is being waged between Angela Merkel and Marine Le Pen. This is a clash of personalities and visions: Germany's chancellor and the leader of France's Front National, the largest far-right party in Europe.

As Britain prepares to leave the EU, the Franco-German dimension of the continent's destiny has arguably never been so important since the end of the cold war.

What is at stake is momentous: whether Europe can survive as a project, and whether fundamental principles such as the rule of law, democracy and tolerance can be salvaged. The battle will play out nationally in 2017, in key elections in France and Germany, but it concerns all Europeans.

It may seem strange to reduce Europe's existential crises to just one personal confrontation. Merkel has been in power since 2005 and is trying to remain there, while Le Pen may dream of being in office but has never approached it (last year her party failed to take control of a single French region in local elections). Some may ask: why would a French opposition figure count more than the man currently sitting in the Elysée Palace? But François Hollande has become so weak – even more so with this week's resignation of

Merkel nurtures the transatlantic link; Le Pen admires Putin's Russia – her party sits at the heart of pro-Kremlin networks in Europe, financial ones among them.

his economics minister, Emmanuel Macron – and terrorism has transformed French politics to such a degree that Le Pen's prospects now stand out as a key defining factor of where France, and Europe for that matter, may be heading.

It is only partly reassuring to say that Le Pen has little chance of becoming president next year (the French electoral system makes that difficult).

The trouble is, in recent months, her brand of anti-Muslim, xenophobic and nationalistic politics has spread across the French mainstream right like wildfire.

Obituary: Uzbekistan President Islam Karimov

With the passing of Islam Karimov, who has died aged 78 after suffering a stroke, Uzbekistan has lost its first and so far only president.

His rule saw the country emerge from the collapsing Soviet Union to become an independent nation.

But his more than two decades in power have been marred by lurid allegations of state violence, elections derided as a sham and a public spat that led to the fall from grace of his own daughter.

Karimov was born in 1938 in Samarkand, one of Central Asia's oldest inhabited cities and a key stopping point along the Silk Road.

He was raised in an orphanage before studying engineering and economics at university.

The years that followed saw him rise up the ranks in Uzbekistan's Communist Party, becoming first secretary in 1989 at a time when the Soviet Union was becoming increasingly fragile.

■ Uzbekistan in profile

■ Population: 29 million
■ Religion: Almost 90% of the population are Muslim, with most of the remainder Eastern Orthodox

■ Ethnicity: More than 80% of the population are Uzbek, 5% are Russian with Tajiks, Kazakhs and Tatars among the rest

■ Economy: GDP of \$66,733m ac-

ording to the World Bank, or 70th in the world

■ Major industries: Cotton, gold, energy, chemicals

In 1991, Karimov declared Uzbekistan independent and went on to win the country's first presidential election by a huge margin, in what Human Rights Watch termed a "seriously marred" vote.

That pattern has repeated itself throughout his presidency. In last year's election, he was re-elected with 90% in a vote observers said fell far short of international standards.

His rivals themselves offered implicit backing for Karimov during the vote, praising the country's "achievements" since independence.

Angela Merkel and Marine Le Pen: One of them will shape Europe's future

The two women have fiercely conflicting visions, and their battle for the continent's soul will be crucial



It's hard to see which French politician or movement can find the authority and strength to push back against her ideas, or counter their appeal among the French suburban middle classes as well as in rural areas.

Nicolas Sarkozy hopes to win primaries in November, but his whole strategy hinges on imitating rather than disputing Le Pen's line of thinking.

■ Powerful opponent

Marine Le Pen's single most powerful opponent is to be found outside France: Angela Merkel.

Le Pen hates Merkel, and Merkel despises Le Pen. They confront each other in a fight of European proportions.

Le Pen has often attacked the chancellor – once describing her as an "empress" imposing "illegal immigration" on the whole of Europe. Merkel sees Le Pen as an acute political threat to Europe, although she has rarely mentioned her in public.

If France embraces the far right, the wider impact will be far more serious



than it was with, say, Hungary's illiberal slide.

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Merkel and Le Pen have never met, nor have they had any reason to. Once, last year, they sat not far from each other in the European Parliament chamber – but Merkel kept her gaze away, out of contempt. That day, Le Pen furiously lashed out at Hollande, describing him as a subdued "vice-chancellor of Germany", after he'd denounced populism in a speech.

These two women have one thing in common and one thing only: the depth of their political conviction. Angela Merkel has been unwavering in her message that welcoming refugees is the right thing to do; Le Pen fumes against "rampant Islamization" of the continent.

Merkel wants to save the European project; Le Pen is fully aligned with forces that want to dismantle it (she recently said

on CNN that France had become an EU "province").

■ Nurturing transatlantic link

Merkel nurtures the transatlantic link; Le Pen admires Putin's Russia – her party sits at the heart of pro-Kremlin networks in Europe, financial ones among them. Le Pen's ideology draws from France's historical far right, the ideas of Charles Maurras and colonial racism; Merkel is the daughter of a Protestant pastor for whom individual freedoms are paramount values.

Le Pen has always made much about being divorced and smoking cigarettes (trying to cast herself in the image of a modern woman); Merkel's personal style is more subdued, which isn't to say her character is less ironclad.

For decades what drove the European project was the so-called "Franco-German engine". It is now all but broken – mainly because of France's economic weaknesses, which have severely unbalanced the relationship.

What now drives European politics is a different kind of Franco-German equation, one in which Merkel, often faulted for her eurozone policies, has on several occasions attempted to give France's socialist government some financial breathing space against Le Pen – including by sparing France the wrath of the EU commission for disrespecting deficit targets.

Merkel's anti-Le Pen strategy has largely been discreet. But in May she made it very plain. Speaking at Berlin's

Le Pen has always made much about being divorced and smoking cigarettes (trying to cast herself in the image of a modern woman); Merkel's personal style is more subdued, which isn't to say her character is less ironclad.

French lycée, she said she would try to make sure "other political forces are stronger than the Front National, if that can be accomplished from abroad".

It was an unusually blunt statement. Le Pen's supporters immediately accused the chancellor of meddling in French politics; but Merkel has long identified the populist dynamics connecting Le Pen's rise with the rise of Germany's far-right AfD, a party that threatens to upend politics in her own country.

(Source: The Guardian)



killed hundreds of demonstrators in the eastern city of Andijan in 2005, an incident the government blamed on Islamist extremism.

Critics accuse Karimov's government of over-exaggerating the Islamist threat to attract foreign aid and crack down on opposition.

Thousands of ordinary Muslims are believed to have been jailed.

While Karimov's human rights' record

has been criticised by international governments, Uzbekistan remains a useful ally, with the US using the country as a base during the Afghan war.

Uzbekistan also controls substantial reserves of oil, gas and gold, and is a major producer of cotton.

Karimov's death raises questions about the stability of a country for so long dominated by one man and who will succeed him.

Power struggles have been going on for years, though, as rivals jockeyed for position to replace the ageing leader.

Karimov's daughter Gulnara was once regarded as a possible successor, but she was reportedly placed under house arrest in 2014 and has not appeared in public since.

His other daughter Lola, Uzbekistan's ambassador to Unesco, officially confirmed her father suffered a stroke on her Instagram page, after a government statement saying only that he was in hospital.

That the Uzbek authorities acknowledged Karimov's illness at all, after persistent rumours about poor health, was a sign his condition was grave.

Among the current contenders to replace him are Prime Minister Shavkat Mirziyoyev and Deputy Prime Minister Rustam Azimov.

(Source: BBC)

When police unions impede justice

Across the country, municipal governments have signed contracts with police unions including provisions that shield officers from punishment for brutal behavior as well as from legitimate complaints by the citizens they are supposed to serve.

That may soon change, as public outrage over police killings of civilians is ratcheting up pressure on elected officials to radically revise police contracts that make it almost impossible to bring officers to justice.

The most striking case in point is Chicago, which has been roiled by a police scandal stemming from a cover-up in the case of a 17-year-old named Laquan McDonald, who was executed by a police officer nearly two years ago.

The Police Department first claimed that Mr. McDonald was brandishing a knife and moving toward officers when he was killed. A video – probably available to the city within hours of the shooting but not made public until last November, more than a year later – showed that Mr. McDonald was moving away from the cops when they shot him 16 times, and that the police were obviously lying.

But it was not until last month that the city's inspector general recommended firing several officers, some of whom have since retired, for making false statements.

That recommendation was passed on to the police superintendent, Eddie Johnson. Mr. Johnson, who lacks the

power to fire the officers outright, has filed administrative charges against five officers with an agency known as the Chicago Police Board, whose members are appointed by the mayor and confirmed by the City Council.

It is incredible that this is the first official disciplinary action taken against the officers, 22 months after the killing. And even if the board votes to dismiss the officers, they will be able to challenge their dismissals in court.

As a task force appointed by Chicago's mayor, Rahm Emanuel, noted in April, The "collective bargaining agreements between the police unions and the city have essentially turned the code of silence into official policy."

(Source: The NYT)

Iran's crude price up \$1 in a week

ECONOMY TEHRAN — Iran's light crude oil price increased by \$1 per barrel in the week ended on August 26, Shana news agency reported on Saturday.

According to Shana, Iran sold light crude oil at \$45.64 per barrel in the mentioned week, while the light crude price stood at \$38.21 on average since the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20).

The country's heavy oil price witnessed a seven-cent fall from its preceding week and was sold at \$44.04 per barrel.

Iran's heavy oil price stood at \$36 on average since the start of this calendar year.

Meanwhile, with one-cent rise from its preceding week, Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)'s basket price reached \$45.53 per barrel in the mentioned week.

Iran has regained about 80 percent of the market share it held before the U.S. and European Union tightened sanctions on its oil industry in 2012, Mohsen Qamsari, National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC)'s director of international affairs, said on July 11, Bloomberg reported.

Sanctions were eased in January, and Iran plans to double crude exports.

"Our exports peak is above 4 million barrels a day, and we have plans for that and are waiting for the right conditions," Qamsari said in an interview in Tehran, without elaborating on the timing for such an increase.

The Persian Gulf nation is seeking more than \$100 billion in investment from international partners to upgrade its oil industry and reclaim its position as the



second-biggest producer in OPEC, after Saudi Arabia. Iran targets 5.8 million barrels a day in combined production of crude and condensates by 2021. It defied

skeptics with a 25 percent surge in production so far in 2016 and aims to reach an eight-year high for daily output of 4 million barrels by the end of the year.

Oil prices surge after Putin calls for a global output freeze

The Russian President shocked commodity traders on Friday calling for a global freeze in oil output to normalize global energy stockpiles with demand in order to bring stability to the economies of oil dependent nations.

On Friday, Russian President Vladimir Putin told Bloomberg at the Eastern Economic Forum in Vladivostok that Moscow supports the idea of a global oil production cap in order to normalize energy commodities prices renewing debate whether agreement can be reached between the Kremlin and

OPEC after a similar production freeze proposal between the two parties collapsed in April.

The statement comes ahead of Putin's meeting with Saudi Deputy Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman at the G20 summit in China fostering hope that the two parties may be able to work out an agreement.

Saudi Arabia has pushed to expand oil production despite a glut of oil inventories due to both expanded supply and diminishing demand in a bid to expand its market share vis-à-vis the

United States, Russia and its regional rival Iran.

Riyadh moved to expand production from an already higher than historical point of 10.5 million barrels of oil per day to 12.5 million with further calls to bring another million or two barrels of oil per day on line within the next year. The glut forced onto the market by Saudi Arabia led to oil prices cascading below the \$30 per barrel mark in February effectively bankrupting the U.S. shale oil industry which is not supported by state subsidies to the same

degree as foreign oil producers.

The situation with Tehran remains, however, with the Iranians categorically refusing to limit production in April vowing instead to increase their output level to 4 million barrels per day – or the pre-sanction output level.

In response to the statement oil prices halted their four-day decline ending nearly 3% higher on Friday with investors optimistic that the Russian President will be able to secure an output freeze in the coming weeks.

(Source: Sputnik)

NEWS

Iran ready to help restore oil market balance after it regains share: official

Iran is ready to support any decision to help restore balance to the oil market after it regains its pre-sanctions market share, the Iranian oil ministry's SHANA news agency reported on Saturday, quoting a minister.

"Deputy Petroleum Minister in International Affairs and Trading Amir Hossein Zamaninia voiced Iran's support for any decision that would help restore balance in the oil market, saying the country can only be cooperative in this field once it regains its pre-sanctions oil market share," SHANA said.

Zamaninia was speaking after a meeting in Tehran between Iranian Oil Minister Bijan Zanganeh and his Algerian counterpart Nouredine Bouterfa. Iran, OPEC's third largest producer, has been sending positive signals that it may support joint action to prop up the oil market, potentially aiding efforts to revive a global deal on freezing production levels.

Members of OPEC will meet on the sidelines of the International Energy Forum (IEF), which groups producers and consumers, in Algeria on Sept. 26-28. Zanganeh has confirmed that he will attend the Algeria meeting. Zamaninia said OPEC countries need to find a way to revive the quota system.

"Naturally, if a country wants to produce at its full capacity, there will not be any balance in the market," Zamaninia said, without naming any country, but in an apparent reference to Saudi Arabia.

(Source: Reuters)

Clean energy investment in 2016 undershoots last year's record

Clean energy investment in the second quarter of 2016 totaled \$61.5 billion, some 12% above the first-quarter figure but 32 percent below a very strong outturn of \$90 billion in the equivalent period of 2015.

Looking at the 2016 trend so far, and taking the Q1 and Q2 2016 figures together, global investment in the first half of this year was \$116.4 billion, some 23 percent lower than in the opening six months of 2015, according to the latest authoritative data from Bloomberg New Energy Finance (BNEF).

Europe's figure for H1 2016 was up 4 percent at \$33.5 billion but all the other regions were down.

Changes in the solar market are among of the main reasons for the lower trajectory for global investment so far this year. Photovoltaic panels and project construction have become cheaper in many countries, and there has also been a shift from small-scale projects to utility-scale projects, which are cheaper in capex terms.

(Source: Bloomberg)



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Benefits of exercise for people with Alzheimer's

Physical exercise has been touted in research as a way to prevent and reduce the risk of developing Alzheimer's disease and other kinds of dementia. However, did you know that even after dementia sets in, physical exercise can benefit the person living with dementia?

There are several ways of treating Alzheimer's disease. Medications, non-drug behavioral and environmental changes, education to families and caregivers, these all have value and can be helpful when responding to dementia.

■ Reduce the risk of depression in dementia

Another way that's being emphasized repeatedly is physical exercise. Approximately 5 to 23 percent of people with dementia experience some level of depression. Depression can increase memory impairment and significantly impact a person's quality of life. Physical activity and exercising releases endorphins that can elevate mood.

■ Reduce restlessness and prevent wandering

Exercise can also help with reducing some of the challenging behaviors of Alzheimer's. Adequate exercise can provide enough physical activity so that

a person is less likely to feel the need to move around and potentially wander out the door. After physical activity, our bodies are more prone to feeling rested and relaxed, which is beneficial for all of us.

■ Preserve physical functioning, strength and ADL abilities

The body's ability to maintain balance and strength, and consequently to prevent falls, is a significant benefit in dementia. As dementia progresses, the physical ability to walk and carry out activities of daily living such as getting dressed and ready for the day declines. Physical exercise and other activities that require mobility can sometimes help maintain a higher level of functioning for a longer time.

■ Improve / maintain cardiac function

Poor cardiovascular health has been associated in research with cognitive decline. Maintaining a healthy heart can prevent other health complications and conditions that could further affect functioning.

■ Improve sleep habits

A lack of exercise can also hinder the ability to sleep well, especially if someone is napping frequently during the day and then restless and awake at night. Physi-



cal activity can be helpful in maintaining a good sleep-wake cycle and in facilitating sound sleep at night.

■ Improve mental alertness and cognitive functioning

Research has shown that physical exercise has actually improved cognition in those with mild cognitive impairment. While it hasn't been shown to restore memory completely, it has improved overall thought processes and cognitive

functioning.

Weight training was shown to be particularly effective, with improvements in selective attention, conflict resolution and memory. Walking has also demonstrated improvements in memory. The results of multiple research studies are very encouraging regarding physical exercise and its benefit prior to, and following, cognitive decline.

(Source: verywell.com)

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- Pain relief
- Gastric ulcers
- Common cold

NEWS

Former head of Iran's Pasteur Institute passes away

MEDICINE TEHRAN — Mansour Shamsa, the head

desk of Pasteur Institute of Iran (PI) in 1979 till 1989 and one of the leading researchers in the field of plagues and smallpox, passed away on Wednesday in Woodland Hills, California, according to legacy.com.

Shamsa had a long career as a medical doctor.

He was the head of IPI from 1979 till 1989 and part of the effort that eradicated smallpox through vaccination.

During his time working at the Pasteur Institute of Iran and the World Health Organization, Dr. Shamsa traveled the world fighting infectious diseases such as plague and malaria.

Mansour Shamsa died of natural causes at 91.

IPI is an Iranian institute that conducts research and provides educational programs in basic and applied medical sciences programs.



Patients may quickly lose beneficial gut bacteria in the ICU

Increased levels of harmful bacteria boost the risk for hospital-acquired infections, researchers say.

Intensive care patients have a significant loss of helpful gut bacteria within days of entering the hospital, a new study finds.

These bacteria help keep people well. Losing them puts patients at risk for hospital-acquired infections that may lead to sepsis, organ failure and even death, according to the researchers.

For the study, the investigators analyzed gut bacteria from 115 intensive care unit (ICU) patients at four hospitals in the United States and Canada. Measurements were taken 48 hours after admission and after either 10 days in the ICU or leaving the hospital.

Compared with healthy people, the ICU patients had lower levels of helpful bacteria and higher levels of potentially harmful bacteria, the findings showed.

The "results were what we feared them to be. We saw



a massive depletion of normal, health-promoting species," study leader Dr. Paul Wischmeyer said in a news release from the American Society for Microbiology. Wischmeyer, an anesthesiologist at the University of Colo-

rado School of Medicine, is moving to Duke University in the fall.

■ ICU patients

The researchers noted that they were surprised by how quickly gut bacteria populations changed in some ICU patients.

"We saw the rapid rise of organisms clearly associated with disease. In some cases, those organisms became 95 percent of the entire gut flora -- all made up of one pathogenic taxa -- within days of admission to the ICU. That was really striking," Wischmeyer said.

Antibiotics and other drugs used in the ICU, along with poor nutrition, can reduce healthy bacteria in the gut, he explained.

Learning more about the effect of these changes could lead to treatments to restore bacterial balance and reduce infection risks, Wischmeyer suggested.

(Source: HealthDay News)

Gene mutations lead to more aggressive colon cancer in African-Americans

Case Comprehensive Cancer Center researchers, a research collaboration which includes University Hospitals Seidman Cancer Center and Case Western Reserve University, who last year identified new gene mutations unique to colon cancers in African Americans, have found that tumors with these mutations are highly aggressive and more likely to recur and metastasize. These findings partly may explain why African Americans have the highest incidence and death rates of any group for this disease.

The study is published online and will be printed in the December 2016 issue of the Journal of the National Cancer Institute (JNCI) by members of a research team that a year ago found 15 genes in African Americans that are rarely or never detected as mutated in colon cancers from Caucasians. The current study investigated the outcomes associated with these mutations in African American colorectal cancer.

The researchers examined 66 patients who had stage I - III colorectal cancer and found those patients positive for the mutations had an almost three times higher rate of metastatic disease, and stage III patients positive with mutations were nearly three times more likely to relapse compared to patients without the mutations.

"This study is significant because it



helps shed further light on why colorectal cancers are more aggressive in African Americans compared to other groups," said the study's senior author Joseph E. Willis, MD, Chief of Pathology at University Hospitals Case Medical Center and Professor of Pathology at Case Western Reserve School of Medicine. "While mortality rates for Caucasian men with colorectal cancer have decreased by up to 30 percent, they have increased by 28 percent for African American men since 1960," said Dr. Willis, who is also director of tissue management in the Case Comprehensive Cancer Center.

■ Technological advances

These findings and the earlier study only became possible because of technological advances in gene sequencing and computational analysis. These studies ultimately involved review of 1.5 billion bits of data.

"This study builds on our previous genetic research on colorectal cancer," said Sanford Markowitz, MD, PhD, a co-author and principal investigator of the \$11.3 million federal gastrointestinal cancers research program (GI SPORE) that includes this project. "It illustrates the extraordinary impact that dedicated, collaborative teams can make when they combine scientific experience and ingenuity with significant investment."

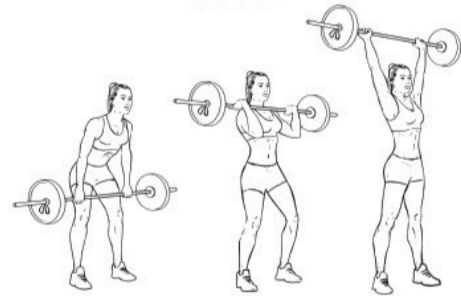
Announced in 2011, this GI SPORE program is one of just five in the country. Dr. Markowitz, Ingalls Professor of Cancer Genetics at Case Western Reserve School of Medicine and a medical oncologist at UH Seidman Cancer Center, included studies of the disease's behavior in minority patients as part of his team's original grant application. The disparity between colorectal cancer rates in African Americans and other groups has long existed; the most recent federal statistics, for example, put age-adjusted incidence at 46.8 cases for every 100,000 African Americans, and 38.1 cases for every 100,000 Caucasian Americans.

(Source: EurekAlert)

To build strong and fabulous arms and shoulders, consider doing the following workouts.

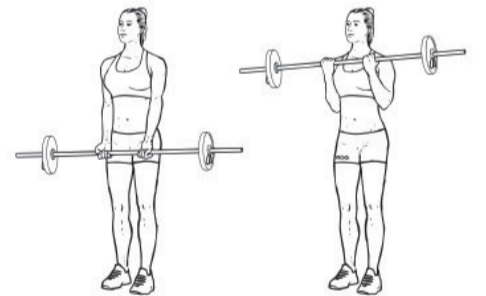
Arms & Shoulders Gym Workout

Barbell Clean and Press / Overhead Press



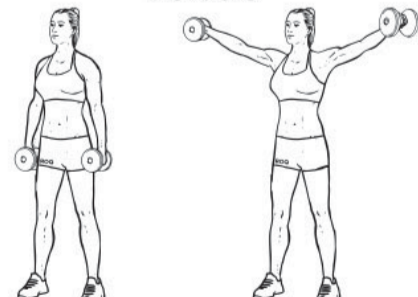
3 sets 12 reps

Barbell Curl / Standing Biceps Curl



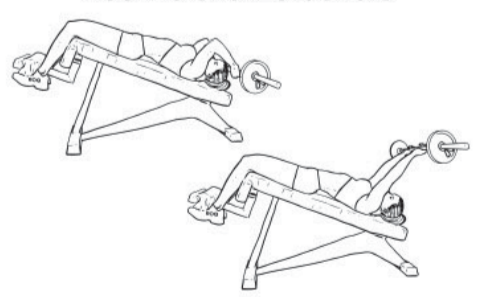
3 sets 15 reps

Dumbbell Lateral Raise / Power Partial



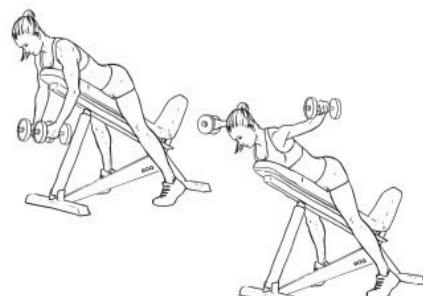
2 sets 15 reps

Decline Lying Triceps Extension / Decline Skull Crushers



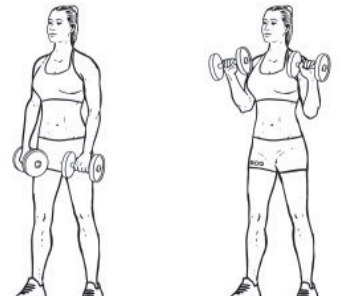
2 sets 15 reps

Reverse Flyes



2 sets 15 reps

Reverse Curl



2 sets 15 reps

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Researchers have discovered new gene mutations, unique to colon cancers in African Americans. Tumors with these mutations are highly aggressive and more likely to recur and metastasize.